

20 July 2026

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister.

We write as organisations concerned about the current pause in EU/UK relations and the impact which this has on the rights of EU citizens in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU. the3million and British in Europe were set up in the wake of the Brexit referendum to represent the millions of EU and British citizens who had exercised their free movement rights, and started a life across the channel. We were present throughout the Brexit negotiations, and we are invited to attend each meeting of the EU-UK Specialised Committee on citizens' rights, to share the experiences and challenges of those we represent.

As your Government begins a new chapter in the UK's relationship with the European Union, we welcome your commitment to even closer relations with our European neighbours. A meaningful reset, however, cannot be achieved through diplomacy alone. It must also be reflected in how the UK treats the millions of people whose lives are protected by the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement. For the last decade, many of the promises of rights guaranteed under the Withdrawal Agreement have not been kept in the UK or some EU Member States. How can a meaningful future partnership between the EU and UK be ensured if both sides are failing to live up to their commitments.

The pause in the UK-EU Summit provides an opportunity not simply to reconsider future cooperation, but to reaffirm a fundamental principle: that international agreements must be implemented fully, consistently and in good faith. The Withdrawal Agreement was designed to provide certainty, stability and security to those who built their lives in the UK before Brexit. Those commitments remain as important today as when they were signed.

For too many people, however, that certainty has not materialised. Despite years of advocacy, many EU citizens continue to face unnecessary barriers in accessing the rights guaranteed to them. Digital-only immigration status continues to exclude those who lack digital access or digital skills. Home Office database errors have caused massive impact for many. We hope that scrapping the proposals for National ID will lead directly to resources being focused on fixing and improving the eVisa system, as advocated by the3million and several recent Select Committees inquiries.

Delays, administrative complexity and evidential burdens continue to create insecurity for individuals and families. Many remain unable to exercise their rights with confidence because the systems intended to protect them too often fail in practice. Withdrawal Agreement commitments are showing signs of fraying, as we are seeing alarming cases of the Home Office going back on its original promises to allow people and their

families to settle in the UK. British Withdrawal Agreement beneficiaries and their families also face separation and deportation in some EU countries.

These challenges do not affect everyone equally. People from Black, Roma and other minority ethnic communities, older people, disabled people, victims of domestic abuse, people with insecure housing, those experiencing poverty, and those who are digitally excluded are disproportionately affected by barriers within the immigration system. Existing inequalities are too often compounded by systems that assume everyone can navigate complex digital processes, retain extensive documentary evidence or advocate for themselves without support.

A fair immigration system must work for everyone, not only for those with the greatest resources.

As organisations working directly with affected communities, we know that these are not isolated cases. They represent structural problems that require serious solutions, which cut across a range of areas, beyond immigration policies.

Our deep concerns around the fair and good faith implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement sit within the wider context of a Labour Government's increasingly restrictive and hostile proposals towards UK migrants. You will have received letters from other organisations that we have put our signature to in solidarity. Even if many of those proposals do not directly impact those protected by the Withdrawal Agreement, they move the UK further away from the principles of fairness, equality and respect that should underpin our immigration system. Protecting migrants' rights protects society as a whole. A system that values people only for what the state can extract from them undermines not only individual dignity, but also social cohesion, economic resilience and trust in public institutions.

Furthermore, the new immigration proposals will adversely impact British citizens living overseas with non-British or Irish family members. In some EU states, up to 50% of UK citizens living there with partners fall into this category. The combination of minimum income requirement increases, visa fees and now the great uncertainty about future pathways to indefinite leave to remain will effectively prevent thousands of British citizens from ever returning home to live in the UK.

We therefore urge your Government to ensure that the UK's reset with the European Union includes a renewed commitment to the faithful implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and to the protection of the rights it guarantees. This means addressing the continuing barriers faced by EU citizens and their family members, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left behind, improving access to justice and public services, and building an immigration system based on fairness, legal certainty and equal treatment.

A successful UK-EU relationship cannot be measured solely by new agreements on trade or security. It will also be measured by whether the people whose rights were promised protection can finally live with the certainty and dignity they were guaranteed.

We stand ready to work constructively with your Government to make that ambition a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Hawkins, Head of Policy and Advocacy and Acting CEO, the3million
Fiona Godfrey, Director, British in Europe