Dear [name of your MP],

On the 15th of April, the Domestic Abuse Bill returns to the House of Commons after its passage through the House of Lords. As your constituent, I am writing to you to ask for your support for the amendments led by the Latin American Women’s Rights Service, Southall Black Sisters and the End of Violence Against Coalition to ensure the Domestic Abuse Bill guarantees safety and support for migrant women without discrimination. With cross-party support, the House of Lords recently voted for:

* The establishment of safe reporting mechanisms, so victims can report domestic abuse safely without the fear of immigration control **(40)**;
* The extension of eligibility for already existing provisions to protect migrant women, through the Domestic Violence Rule (DV Rule) and the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) **(41)**;
* Ensuring effective protection and support to all victims of domestic abuse by incorporating a non-discrimination clause in line with Article 4(3) of the Istanbul Convention **(43)**.

As you may be aware, domestic abuse disproportionately affects migrant women as they face multiple, structural and overlapping barriers to protection and justice. Migrant women currently find it virtually impossible to access protection when experiencing domestic abuse. Barred from accessing public funds and therefore refuges, fearful of reporting to the police and other services due to fear of facing detention or deportation, migrant women often face an impossible decision: to become destitute and homeless or to remain with an abusive partner. I invite you to [read these powerful testimonies of migrant survivors](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yzn2DsBcIBysB4W9zBn4d3IEAlY-YZUd/view).

To date, the Government has responded to growing demands to protect migrant women in legislation by proposing a pilot scheme. However, as specialist organisations have argued, [this pilot project is inadequate and does not resolve the urgent need for protection for migrant women](https://southallblacksisters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SBS-briefing-Pilot-Project-1.pdf), particularly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. It would also mean further delay to ratifying the Istanbul Convention. This is considered to be the international “gold standard” for responding to all forms of violence against women and girls but nine years after signing it, the UK still cannot ratify it, with a lack of protection and support for migrant women being the biggest hurdle. However, by voting in favour of these amendments, you have the opportunity to make the Domestic Abuse Bill truly transformational and to enshrine protection for all survivors, regardless of their immigration status. In this vein, **I urge you to support amendments number 40, 41 and 43.**

Please meet with [organisations supporting migrant women](https://stepupmigrantwomen.org/contact/) at the earliest opportunity for more information.

Sincerely,

[Your name]