Dear {NAME OF MP}

**Support Amendment NC27 to the Border Security, Asylum & Immigration Bill**

As a social worker in {NAME OF CONSTITUENCY/LOCAL COUNCIL AREA} I’m contacting you about the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill. I’m also a member of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), the UK’s largest professional association for social workers.

Social workers have a critical role in carrying out age assessments of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. We bring a holistic approach to the process, gathering information from a range of sources, multi-disciplinary expertise and other techniques that require specialist knowledge and training.

The last government passed the Nationality and Borders Act, allowing for use of scientific methods of age assessment and establishing the National Age Assessment Board (NAAB).

Since the NAAB is part of the Home Office, there is a risk that age assessments could be influenced by political priorities, such as reducing immigration, as opposed to child welfare. As a result, children could be wrongly assessed as adults. For these reasons, BASW has openly discouraged its members from taking up roles within the NAAB and called for it to be scrapped altogether.

There are also significant problems with using scientific methods, including X-rays and MRIs. They offer no real advantage in assessing age and violate long-standing rights in relation to informed medical consent. Age assessments are a complex, specialist piece of work, which needs to be done holistically, ethically and objectively by a social worker, not a machine.

The current government has an opportunity to use its Border Security Bill to abolish the NAAB and use of scientific age assessment methods, ensuring our age assessment processes are fairer and more humane. Amendment NC27 tabled by Dr Lisa Smart MP [to repeal sections of the Nationality and Borders Act](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3929/stages/19774/amendments/10020262) would do just that.

**As my MP, I would ask that you support amendment NC27 to the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill at report stage.**

BASW would also be willing to meet with you to discuss these issues further. You can contact their Political and Public Affairs Lead on jonny.adamson@basw.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

{INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS SO YOUR MP KNOWS YOU ARE THEIR CONSTITUENT}