



To all Members of the House of Commons Re amendment on EU citizens' rights

Dear MP,

Following the vote by the House of Lords of the amendment on EU citizens' rights, the [Britain in Europe think tank](#) calls upon all members of the House of Commons to support the amendments giving recognition to EU citizens' residence rights after Brexit.

EU citizens living in the UK should in no way be adversely affected by exit negotiations with the EU once article 50 has been triggered, and should continue to plan their future in this country exactly as before. To continue to treat EU citizens as potential bargaining chips in the negotiations process is unacceptable – legally, politically and ethically – and makes no sense from a pragmatic point of view; these citizens have acquired the right to reside in the UK in accordance, inter alia, with international human rights law. They could have their rights enforced in national courts and at the European Court of Human Rights.

The amendments give effect to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which could be violated if EU nationals lawfully residing in the country were deprived of the right to enjoy private and family life in the UK post-Brexit. They also draw on evidence received by the Joint Committee on Human Rights that overwhelmingly supports giving immediate recognition to EU citizens' rights, including evidence highlighting the risk that residence claims could potentially overwhelm the courts and tribunals system in the event that the Government sought to deport EU nationals.

The House of Commons now has the historic opportunity to offer reassurance to the millions of EU citizens who are an integral part of the UK population and highly contribute to the economic well-being of the country. Such reassurance will also make it virtually impossible for EU member states to deny residence rights to UK citizens there. By committing to the rights of EU citizens in the UK, the Commons will be in reality also safeguarding the rights of UK citizens in EU member states.

Britain in Europe invites MPs to give immediate recognition to EU citizens' rights, and the Government to prioritise investing appropriate resources to ensure effective implementation in practice. The Home Office should also quickly proceed to making reasonable adjustments to the existing cumbersome process for the recognition of EU residence rights.

The Britain in Europe think tank has fully investigated these issues in a [roundtable event at the British Academy](#) on February 23, with Joshua Rozenberg QC, Prof Sionaidh Douglas-Scott and other eminent academic commentators and legal practitioners, concluding that extra vigilance is required in protecting the rights of EU citizens.

The think tank has also received communications from several members of the Hellenic Academics' Association of Great Britain, who have expressed great concern about EU residence rights after Brexit, and provided personal stories demonstrating a continuing anxiety with this matter.

We trust the House of Commons will take seriously into consideration the above evidence, and will recognise the right of the three million EU citizens in the UK to continue to reside and exercise full rights here.

Yours faithfully,

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Prof Abimbola Olowofoyeku (Brunel University London)
Prof Justin Fisher (Brunel University London)
Prof Andrew Choo (City University of London)
Prof Paul Roberts (The University of Nottingham)
Mr Scott Crosby (European Criminal Bar Association)
Prof Iyiola Solanke (Leeds University)
Prof Ashley Braganza (Brunel University London)
Josie Welland (Lloyds Solicitors)
David Rosen (Darlington's Solicitors)
Prof Arad Reisberg (Brunel University London)
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