The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

4th August 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing as people with lived experience of the UK's asylum system from Conversation Over Borders' Action Group, alongside the organisations and people who support us. We ask that, as your Government develops its approach to housing and homelessness, you ensure that people seeking asylum are not left behind.

On becoming Prime Minister, your commitment to ending homelessness has given hope to many people across the country. We welcome your recognition that everyone deserves a safe place to call home, and your ambition to build a housing system that offers dignity rather than crisis.

However, too often, discussions about asylum accommodation focus on buildings rather than people. Where someone lives shapes every part of their ability to rebuild their life here in the UK: whether they can learn English, access healthcare, make friends, volunteer, find work when permitted, and feel safe in their neighbourhood.

Over the past two years, people with lived experience of the asylum system came together to develop the **Safe Accommodation Checklist**: a practical set of recommendations based not on theory, but on our own experiences of what helps people recover from displacement and what keeps them trapped in isolation. The Checklist was devised from our **2025 Safe Homes Report**, created with people who have lived in asylum accommodation in the UK.

The Checklist calls for accommodation that is:

- safe and dignified;
- embedded within local communities;
- designed around wellbeing, autonomy and connection;
- shaped by the people who live there.

This is not an abstract proposal. It has already received support from thousands of members of the public, been shared by constituents with 643 Members of Parliament, and formed the basis of an **Early Day Motion** in November of last year calling for its adoption as the minimum standard for asylum accommodation. This Early Day Motion was backed by 15 Members of Parliament, the majority of whom are from your party.

Labour's homelessness strategy acknowledges that people leaving the asylum system are among the groups most at risk of homelessness and that early integration is essential if people are to rebuild their lives.

We believe these ambitions are connected. If we want to end homelessness, we must also prevent it. That means ensuring people seeking asylum are housed in ways that enable them to become part of their communities from day one, rather than isolated from them.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss a community-based approach to asylum accommodation that reflects your commitment to ending homelessness and creates safer, more connected communities for everyone.

We look forward to working with you.

Signed,

2,178 members of the public and senior representatives of 28 organisations working at the forefront of asylum support in the UK, including:

Conversation Over Borders
Refugee Action
Ben & Jerry's UK
Asylum Matters
West London Welcome
Sanctuary on Sea
Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees
Haringey Welcome
Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Migrant Action
Conversations from Calais
Give Your Best
Drag Down the Borders
Ukraine Appeal
Leicester City of Sanctuary
The Mental Health Youth Worker
The Greater Manchester Asylum Hotels Group
Skipton Refugee Support Group
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
SOMOS