



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th October 2024

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP

Home Office
2 Marsham St
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you regarding the Government's policy on migrant domestic workers and to ask how you plan to address concerns around their vulnerability to exploitation.

Earlier this year, you committed to reviewing the exploitation of migrants in the health and social care sectors, as reported by the Guardian in June. Now that you are in a position to uphold your commitment, I seek clarification on the Government's approach to safeguarding migrant domestic workers more broadly – especially in light of growing concerns that abuse has proliferated, following changes made to their visa conditions in 2012.

In 2015, an independent review of the Overseas Domestic Worker visa provided a comprehensive evaluation of the issues faced by migrant domestic workers. Kalayaan, an organisation that has long advocated for the rights of migrant workers, has suggested that further reviews are unnecessary. Their report, *12 Years of Modern Slavery*, highlights a significant increase in reported abuse since the 2012 visa changes and argues that the evidence for reform is already clear.

Given the compelling evidence from Kalayaan, I would be grateful if you could provide details on the Government's current policy position regarding migrant domestic workers, and outline any steps being taken to ensure their safety and strengthen their protection. In particular, are there any plans to revisit the visa conditions introduced in 2012, which have contributed to the increase in exploitation and abuse?

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Martin MP
Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells