Template letter to email your local councillor(s):

Dear Cllr <XXXXXXX>,

I am writing to you as my local ward councillor to ask that you take action to resist the new hostile anti-refugee laws and policies proposed by the Government that will harm our friends, colleagues, neighbours and communities.

These proposals, by the Government's own admission, represent the most radical overhaul of refugee protection rights since the Second World War. Not only will they undermine the fundamental right to seek safety, they will also place serious strain on local authorities.

For example, the plans to revoke the statutory duty to provide financial support and accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and homeless will have serious implications for local councils, including:

- *Pushing large numbers of families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and banned from working into destitution, homelessness and child protection crises*
- *Creating new pressures under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, shifting responsibility and cost from central government to local authorities*
- *Causing legal and operational uncertainty for already stretched local NRPF, homelessness, social care and safeguarding teams*
- *Increasing tensions that undermine community cohesion and local integration work*

The government's proposed move from a duty to a power to support destitute asylum seekers will drive families into crisis, shift costs onto local authorities, and undermine safeguarding duties. The wider package of measures will also be deeply harmful to our communities and Councils have a unique opportunity and responsibility to speak out now.

As you may be aware, the new anti-refugee laws and policies announced also include enforcing decades of terrifying limbo for refugees, 'fast track deportations' and restricted appeals, enforced removals of families with children, the removal of 'high value items' from sanctuary seekers, a two-tier welfare system, curbing family reunion, targeting vital human rights laws and warehousing people in camps and barracks. More information on these can be found here and here.

Therefore I am asking XXXXXXX Council and you as my local councillor(s) to join the many local authorities across the country who are committed to fighting the anti-refugee laws. To do this, it would be wonderful if you could:

- ***Table a supportive council motion**: for which you can find a new template motion that has been passed by many local councils across the UK here, and a follow-up template motion for councils who have already backed the campaign to recommit to the fight for asylum rights here*
- ***Sign the Fight for Asylum Rights pledge**: which has been signed by many councillors across the UK and you can read here and sign here*

More information can be found at www.fightforasylumrights.org. You can also contact info@asylummatters.org with any questions you may have.

Kind regards,

<YOUR NAME & POSTCODE>