



CATHERINE WEST MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey and Wood Green

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Friday 17th November 2017

Re: International students in net migration target

Dear Ms May,

We are writing to call on the Home Office to take international students out of the net migration target.

The Government has repeatedly stated that there is no limit to the number of international students who can come to the UK. Therefore, it is illogical to include international students in the net migration target.

International students add billions to our economy each year, contribute culturally and, on the whole, remain temporarily in the UK. As the All Party Parliamentary Group has shown through their work, international students add both to the labour market and UK economy. Businesses, trade unions and citizens alike believe that international students should no longer be included in the net migration target for this reason.

Data from the Home Office revealed that student overstaying is at worst three per cent, while Oxford Economics research for Universities UK found international students generate £25.8 billion a year for the economy, and furthermore international students are responsible for £10.8 billion of UK export earnings.

Some 78 per cent of undergraduate students believe that studying alongside international peers prepares them for working in a global environment, while 73 per cent of the British public would like to see the same number or more international students coming to study in the UK.

Despite the weight of evidence, the Government's inclination appears to be to make it even harder for international students to come to the UK. This approach puts at risk the UK's world-renowned universities and academia. Meanwhile, countries such as India have already said that any post-Brexit trade deal will in part depend on allowing more Indian students to study in the UK.



Higher education remains a success story for the UK as an industry and an export; the UK is a global leader and its position significantly contributes to the UK's high "soft-power" ranking; indeed, 58 current heads of state and heads of government (over 25 per cent of the world's countries and more than any other nation) benefitted from an education in the UK. To retain this position, along with the economic and social benefits, it is vital for our universities to recruit international students.

Instead, including international students in the net migration target, combined with the fact the Government continues to commit to restricting net migration to under 100,000, is deterring young people from coming to Britain to study, thereby putting the UK's position at risk and damaging the country's reputation.

Given that most international students return home following their studies and that the UK's higher education sector is a big selling point, it is becoming ever more logical not only to take international students out of the net migration target, but to put additional policies in place to attract international students and to show the world that the UK is open for business, and welcoming of talent, wherever it comes from.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine West MP

Member of Parliament for Hornsey & Wood Green

Cc: Home Secretary Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP

Cc: Secretary of State for Education Rt Hon Justine Greening MP

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP

Rushanara Ali MP

Heidi Allen MP

Mike Amesbury MP

Tonia Antoniazzi MP

Adrian Bailey MP

Clive Betts MP

Mhairi Black MP

Kirsty Blackman MP

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP

Rt Hon Tom Brake MP

Karen Buck MP

Richard Burden MP

Rt Hon Vince Cable MP

Ruth Cadbury MP

Sarah Champion MP

Bambos Charalambous MP

Rt Hon Ann Clwyd MP

Vernon Coaker MP



Rosie Cooper MP	Helen Hayes MP
David Crausby MP	Rt Hon Dame Margaret Hodge MP
Alex Cunningham MP	Kate Hollern MP
Nic Dakin MP	Stewart Hosie MP
Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP	Christine Jardine MP
Martyn Day MP	Diana Johnson MP
Thangam Debbonaire MP	Darren Jones MP
Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP	Gerald Jones MP
Anneliese Dodds MP	Susan Elan Jones MP
Dr David Drew MP	Mike Kane MP
Rosie Duffield MP	Peter Kyle MP
Julie Elliott MP	Ben Lake MP
Paul Farrelly MP	Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Tim Farron MP	Rt Hon David Lammy MP
James Frith MP	Jeremy Lefroy MP
Hugh Gaffney MP	Clive Lewis MP
Mike Gapes MP	Stephen Lloyd MP
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Patrick Grady MP	Rachael Maskell MP
Peter Grant MP	Chris Matheson MP
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Emma Hardy MP	Alison McGovern MP
Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP	Liz McInnes MP



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Virendra Sharma MP

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Andy Slaughter MP

Angela Smith MP

Cat Smith MP

Eleanor Smith MP

Jeff Smith MP

Alex Sobel MP

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Thelma Walker MP

Matt Western MP

Dr Alan Whitehead MP

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Dr Paul Williams MP

Sammy Wilson MP

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP

Mohammad Yasin MP

Daniel Zeichner MP