

Dear xxxx

As you might be aware, Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ), a major UK charity, is under threat of closure because of late payment by the Legal Service Commission for work it has undertaken.

I am emailing you to ask if you would be willing to support Early Day Motion 191 (EDM 191), tabled by Caroline Lucas MP (Green, Brighton Pavilion), which has cross party support.

Refugee and Migrant Justice is the UK's largest specialist provider of advice and legal representation to asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants and have clients across the UK. Since April 2009 it has provided support to many thousands of people through its 13 offices and many outreach surgeries. Most of our clients are asylum seekers, but it undertakes other immigration work, with survivors of trafficking and people who need family reunion, for example.

RMJ's problems have been caused by bureaucratic changes made to legal aid payments. RMJ used to be paid legal aid by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) as costs were incurred. However, RMJ is facing a cash crisis because a growing proportion of its legal aid work is now only paid when decisions are made by the UK Border Agency or by Independent Asylum Tribunals, and this can take many months or even years. No charity can survive without regular payments for work it has undertaken. RMJ is not asking for more money, only prompt payment for the work it has done.

RMJ's closure would have significant impact on individuals. It would also cause chaos and costly delays in the asylum system, as cases would have to be suspended. It would be very difficult and expensive to re-allocate RMJ's clients to other solicitors.

**Please insert you own comments here, as appropriate**

I would be very grateful if you could support EDM 191, as well as bring up this case with ministers at the Ministry of Justice and Home Office.

You can find EDM 19 online, by following this link:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41114&SESSION=905>

Yours sincerely