



Wednesday 13 September 2017

Mass lobby of Parliament for rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU

Place: We are meeting for the mass lobby at the [Emmanuel Centre](#) at 9-23 Marsham Street, Westminster SW1P 3DW. Directions for the Emmanuel Centre are [here](#).

In Parliament, Committee Rooms 8 and 9 are booked from 2pm to 6pm to provide a place for people meet their MP. We are also holding a rally on Trafalgar Square from 6pm to 7.30pm to support and celebrate EU/UK citizens and make ourselves heard. You are welcome at both events.

Programme:

12 noon	Emmanuel Centre opens to lobbyists
1pm-2pm	Emmanuel Centre – statements of support from a cross-section of MPs
2pm-6pm	Parliament Committee Rooms 8 and 9 - lobbyists meet with their MP
5.30pm	Rally starts to gather at Trafalgar Square
6pm	Trafalgar Square - rally starts
7.30pm (ca.)	Trafalgar Square rally ends

About the mass lobby

British in Europe and the3million are organising a mass lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 13 September asking MPs to fully protect our rights after Brexit, so we can stay in the countries we love. The mass lobby is a day where EU citizens and their British family and friends, along with British citizens living in other EU countries, will arrange to meet with their MP in Parliament to raise their concerns and tell their own story.

British in Europe is a coalition of 10 core groups and the largest group of British citizens in the EU campaigning for the protection of their rights post Brexit. the3million is the largest grassroots organisation of EU citizens living in the UK and campaigns for all EU citizens to be able to continue to live normally after Brexit. We are working together with our partners for this event: Another Europe is Possible, European Alternatives, Migrants Rights Network and UNISON.

Preparing for the day:

1. Contact your MP via www.homeishere.org.uk if you haven't already - **ask them to meet you in Committee Rooms 8 and 9 on 13 September between 2pm and 6pm.**
2. Ask your MP to sign one or both online pledges to support the guarantee of citizens' rights:
For EU citizens in the UK: at www.homeishere.org.uk
For British citizens in the EU: at <https://britishineurope.org/pledge/>
3. Volunteer to speak with your MP on behalf of British citizens living in the EU27 countries who can't be at the lobby – get in touch on Lobby@the3million.org.uk.
4. Support our social media campaign on @CitizensLobby2017 and #CitizensLobby17.

What happens on the day:

12 – 4.30pm: The Emmanuel Centre opens for lobbyists at 12 and stays open all afternoon. We have booked the Upper Hall and Lower Hall, and you are welcome to drop in any time to listen to speakers, talk with activists from the3million, British in Europe, UNISON and our other partner organisations, meet with other lobbyists or use the facilities including the snacks bar.

1pm-2pm: Welcome session with MPs at the Emmanuel Centre. We will hear statements of support for the campaign from a cross-party group of MPs, and British in Europe and the3million and partners will talk about our campaign and the importance of guaranteeing citizens' rights.

The following MPs will be speaking at the Emmanuel Centre:

- Dominic Grieve MP (Chair, Conservative Group for Europe)
- Paul Blomfield MP (Labour - Shadow Minister for Exiting the European Union)
- Joanna Cherry MP (SNP - Shadow Spokesperson for Justice and Home Affairs)
- Ed Davey MP (Liberal Democrat - Shadow Home Secretary)

We will also have statements from the3million, British in Europe and our partner organisations.

2pm-6pm: Mass lobby in Parliament. Lobbyists head over to Parliament in groups to meet with their MP - we have booked Committee Rooms 8 and 9 in Parliament for these meetings. The lobby event starts to wind down around 5.30 so people can attend the rally.

6pm-7.30pm (approx): Rally in Trafalgar Square. We are holding an event in support of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU – to make ourselves heard and celebrate our contribution to the country we live in. You can find out more about the citizens' rally on <https://www.the3million.org.uk/rally> or register on <https://citizensrally2017.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Our campaign to guarantee citizens' rights after Brexit

About our campaign and what we are asking for:

This is the last opportunity to contact MPs and ask them to press the UK government on citizens' rights before the critical rounds of the EU/UK negotiations in September and October, where the key issues of disagreement will be discussed and which will decide whether an early agreement on this issue is possible.

British in Europe and the3million have developed a list of the commitments that will guarantee our rights and enable us to claim those rights. We are lobbying UK parliamentarians, Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission to come to an agreement that enables us to continue our lives as normal after the UK leaves the EU. We hope you will take these issues up with

your MP – if you want to know more about the background for these policies, more information is at www.the3million.org.uk and at www.britishineurope.org.

Things you can discuss with your MP:

A very important part of the mass lobby is for people to raise their concerns about their own specific situation with their MP, or that of family and friends in other countries, and remind them that people's lives have been changed by last year's EU referendum. You can remind them that EU/UK citizens' lives have been on hold for more than a year, and we need an agreement now between the UK and the EU to guarantee our rights so we can continue our lives as before.

Commitments we are asking for from the UK and EU:

- Keep the rights we currently have as EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU, so that we can continue to live our lives as before the Brexit vote
- Guarantee these rights for life subject to international law and the Court of Justice of the European Union, so we have certainty that rules will not change in the future
- Support ring-fencing an agreement on citizens' rights from the rest of the UK/EU negotiations - so people are not used as a bargaining chip, and are protected regardless of the outcome
- Introduce a free, easy to use registration process for EU citizens in the UK, so we can effectively claim our rights
- British citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK must keep in full the rights to freedom of movement and residence as before
- British citizens in the EU must keep the right to study in the UK paying the same fees and with access to the same loans as someone living in Britain.

What is wrong with the offer the UK has already made on citizens' rights?

The UK Government's proposal does not respond to the offer the EU made in May to safeguard and maintain citizens' rights post-Brexit, but is an entirely different offer about the future immigration status of EU citizens in the UK.

This proposal suggests substituting acquired rights of EU citizenship under EU law with a lesser 'settled status' under UK immigration law, which EU citizens would be required to apply for. EU citizens in the UK would no longer benefit from the same family reunification rights, the right to leave the UK and return after two years, or the overarching principle of equal treatment. Moreover, they might be subject to systematic criminal checks and have vastly reduced rights of appeal. The recent 100 erroneous deportation letters from the Home Office show how critical it is for EU citizens to retain EU rights.

There is almost no detail in the UK offer on safeguarding the rights of British citizens in the EU, while the starting point of the EU offer was to guarantee the majority of rights that EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU currently have - with the important exception of free movement rights to live and work across the EU for British citizens in the EU, and linked cross-border rights for both groups.

Why is it important to retain the right to bring family to the UK or to return after two years?

Just as UK citizens move between parts of the UK, EU citizens have taken advantage of the EU's freedom of movement to come to the UK, often leaving behind their family in other EU countries. EU

citizens now face losing both the right to bring a parent over in the future, and the right to return to the UK if they move back to their home for several years to look after their parent there, or take up an employment contract. We believe we should not have to choose between caring for relatives and continuing our lives in the UK.

MPs may be quick to respond that EU citizens cannot have better rights than UK citizens. Here are some counter-arguments:

- EU citizens have moved to the UK under freedom of movement rules, much as British citizens can move from one part of the UK to another. Having moved from Berlin to Bath, we are only asking for same right to care for an elderly parent as a UK citizen who has moved from Glasgow to Guildford.
- UK citizens in the EU have exactly the same family reunification right, and losing it would mean that e.g. a UK citizen in Germany could not bring her elderly parent from the UK to Germany. If she chooses instead to move back to the UK, unless she keeps her current rights she would not be able to bring her German husband unless she first got a job in the UK earning over £18,600, nor would she be able to bring her German parent-in-law.
- Theresa May stated on the 26th June 2016 "No families will be split up" by Brexit – removing this family reunification right could do exactly that.
- Boris Johnson, Michael Gove, Gisela Stuart and Priti Patel said on the 1st June 2016 "EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK ... will be treated no less favourably than they are at present".
- The House of Lords European Union Committee stated in their December 2016 report "It is our strong recommendation, therefore, that the full scope of EU citizenship rights be fully safeguarded in the withdrawal agreement".

What are the concerns about the application process for a Permanent Residence certificate?

- Many EU citizens have applied for a Permanent Residence (PR) certificate through the Home Office as a way to claim their rights after living five years in the UK, but the current registration system is not fit for purpose.
- [Recent research](#) from "the3million" shows 80% of applicants find the PR application process stressful, and according to the Government's own statistics many applications are rejected (29% in the second quarter of 2016).
- There are a large number of EU citizens who cannot get a Permanent Residence certificate due to not having Comprehensive Sickness Insurance (CSI). Although many MPs and voices in the media insist that this is an EU requirement, this is not the case. The EU has stated very clearly that the UK is in breach of EU law and should treat access to the NHS as fulfilling the CSI requirement, since the NHS is taxation based rather than insurance based. The government should accept this now, and remove the requirement for CSI now, to enable those people wishing to apply for citizenship (and who therefore need PR) to do so.
- There are also many people who cannot get a Permanent Residence certificate as they cannot demonstrate that they are exercising treaty rights. This includes carers, disabled people and many vulnerable groups. The UK government has treated these people as living de facto lawfully in the UK, evidenced by having access to the NHS, to benefits, being asked to do Jury service, being able to vote in local elections etc. As a result they now have a legitimate expectation that their right to continue to live in the UK as EU citizens will not be disputed.

Further points to take up with your MP:

- There are at least three million EU citizens living in the UK and at least 1.2 million UK citizens living in the EU. For more than a year since the EU referendum last June, both groups have been living with uncertainty about their future.
- During the 2017 election campaign, all parties with MPs elected to the current Parliament committed to securing the rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens living in the EU.
- Many British business organisations and trade unions have come out in support of guaranteeing citizens' rights: trade unions UNISON and UCU (University and College Union) fully support our campaign, while the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has said "urgent guarantees are needed" for EU citizens already in the UK
- EU citizens are an important part of the workforce in health and social care: there are almost 60,000 EU citizens working in the health service - around 5 percent of NHS staff – and over 90,000 in social care. The number of EU nurses registering to work in the NHS is down by 90 percent since Britain voted to leave the European Union, according to the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- There are at least 1.2 million British people living in the EU – which means that UK citizens will be the largest national group of people who will be impacted by the citizens' rights agreement. They all make similar contributions to the economies and communities in the countries where they live, like EU citizens in the UK
- The large majority of British citizens in the EU are working people and are worried about their rights to work and run their businesses going forward. Many British people in the EU27 work cross-border and have serious concerns about their ability to live and work in the way they do now without free movement
- There is also a large minority of retired people concerned about how they will manage in the countries they call home if their pensions and healthcare are not guaranteed in future.
- There are already examples of EU citizens [facing discrimination from businesses](#) when looking for work and as workers, or receiving invoices for healthcare services provided by local hospital trusts. We are concerned that this will only get worse if the current uncertainty continues, and it shows that guarantees of our existing rights must be provided soon.

Actions to support our campaign

Questions to ask your MP on social media or in person:

- Will you sign our pledges to protect citizens' rights after Brexit?
- Will you support legislation that guarantees the current rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU?
- Will you ask questions in Parliament about how the Government is going to guarantee our rights?
- Will you raise our concerns with Prime Minister Theresa May, Home Secretary Amber Rudd and Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis?
- Can I make an appointment at your Friday surgery to follow up on any concerns or ask for your help on any problems I have?

About the "Home is here" pledge

As part of our campaign we are inviting MPs to sign up to a simple pledge on www.homeishere.org.uk, to support the right of EU citizens living in the UK to remain in the UK after Brexit with the same rights to live and work there that they have now. You can use the website to write to your local MP, arrange to meet with them and get them to sign up to the pledge.

About the “British in Europe” pledge

We are also inviting MPs to sign a matching pledge to support the right of British citizens living in the EU to remain in their countries of residence after Brexit, with the same rights to live and work as they have now, as well as to support a matching guarantee for EU citizens in the EU. You can ask your MP to sign up to the pledge here: <https://britishineurope.org/pledge> .

How to support the e-lobby before and during the mass lobby:

- Follow @CitizensLobby2017, retweet us and post tweets using the hashtag #CitizensLobby17 – on the day we will be tweeting from the event.
- Send a tweet to your MP about the campaign and ask them to support us and sign our pledges on www.homeishere.org.uk and <https://britishineurope.org/pledge> .
- We will be streaming speeches from the Emmanuel Centre to our Facebook page on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Forum4EUcitizens/> .

What you need to know about visiting Parliament:

Getting in: All lobbyists will have to go through “airport style” security to gain access to Parliament – at busy times this may take up to an hour, so allow plenty of time to get in. We recommend you arrive at least 45 minutes before your appointment. Those with later appointments will need to allow more time to get in. Please try to bring only small bags to speed things up with security.

Go to the visitors’ entrance at Cromwell Green opposite Westminster Abbey – more information is [here](#) . Stewards in orange UNISON tabards will be there to help you enter the queue, and will do their best to prioritise people who have a specific time confirmed to meet their MP.

Inside Parliament: Banners, posters and (openly visible) t-shirts with slogans are not allowed in the Houses of Parliament.

What you need to know about meeting with your MP:

If you already have an appointment with your MP, bring the letter or printed email from your MP with you confirming your appointment. UNISON stewards will direct you to the rooms we have booked (Committee Rooms 8 and 9) and there will be people there to help you from the3million, British in Europe and UNISON. You can also go to the reception in the Central Lobby and ask for help.

To get to Committee Rooms 8 and 9, enter Westminster Hall and continue on to the Central Lobby. Through Central Lobby on the right there are stairs leading to the committee rooms.

If you don’t have an appointment with your MP, UNISON stewards will direct you to the Green Card information desk, and you can ask to see your MP using the Green Card system:

1. Once you are through security, go to the Central Lobby reception desk and ask for a green card.
2. Enter your details, your MP and the purpose of your visit – which is to “talk about protecting the rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU after Brexit”. Add that if your MP can’t meet with you today you would like to arrange a meeting in their constituency.
3. Wait for your MP in the Central Lobby while the card is sent to the MP’s office. If they are coming to meet with you, your name will be called in the Central Lobby.
4. When your MP comes to meet with you, suggest going to Committee Rooms 8 and 9 for your chat – you don’t have to book a time there, and there will be space for you to chat. Your MP may suggest having the meeting somewhere else.

5. Your MP may send a staff member on their behalf if they are caught up in other meetings. If your MP does not appear within half an hour or so, they are unlikely to be able to meet you.
6. If you apply for a meeting through the Green Card system, your MP has a duty to respond to you. Follow up on getting a meeting in their constituency instead – they will have a surgery on Fridays when Parliament is not in session.

Practical details about the mass lobby

What will be going on at the Emmanuel Centre?

the3million, British in Europe, UNISON and other partners will have stalls at the Emmanuel Centre and volunteers there to talk about our work. There will also be a welcome session from 1pm-2pm, where we have invited MPs from across all the main parties to make a statement of support for citizens' rights.

How do I get to the Emmanuel Centre?

The centre is at 9-23 Marsham Street within walking distance of St. James's Park and Westminster tube stations, several key bus routes and main line Victoria station. There's plenty of parking nearby for cars and coaches.

Can I buy food and drink at the Emmanuel Centre?

There is a café in the lower ground floor at the Emmanuel Centre with drinks, snacks and sandwiches that will be open on the day.

I need disabled access at both venues

Before you visit Parliament, contact the Serjeant-at-Arms office at the House of Commons on 0207 219 3000 and ask about procedures for entering the building.

There is disabled access at the Emmanuel Centre to the Upper Hall on the ground floor, but not the Lower Hall downstairs – speeches will take place in the Upper Hall. The Centre has a separate entrance for disabled people. There will also be tables and seats in both halls. Toilets are downstairs, but if you ask the staff they will be able to direct you to a toilet with disabled access elsewhere in the building.

Can I get in to Parliament if I don't have an appointment with my MP?

You can, but your MP may not be able to meet with you if you don't have an appointment. Instead, you can come to Committee Rooms 8 and 9 to talk with volunteers from British in Europe and the3million about our campaign, but please bear in mind the rooms may be crowded and people with appointments should have priority. You are also very welcome to come to the Emmanuel Centre in Marsham Street, listen to speakers from 1-2pm, speak to activists and meet other lobbyists.

How can I support people who can't be at the mass lobby?

Email Lobby@the3million.org.uk and volunteer to speak with British voters who live in EU27 countries beforehand, and offer to take their concerns to your MP. If you share an MP with any British voters in the EU27, we will connect you.

What happens after the lobby?

We will use the mailing list from our Eventbrite registration page to keep you updated on our campaign and you can sign up to the3million's mailing list on www.the3million.org.uk or join our Facebook group on www.facebook.com/groups/Forum4EUcitizens . You can also contact British in Europe on www.britishineurope.org .

I'm a UNISON member and would like to attend the mass lobby with my local group?

UNISON is organising for some local activist groups to travel to the mass lobby by coach – if you are attending as a UNISON member, please contact Katia Widlak at k.widlak@unison.co.uk for more information.

About our organisations:

British in Europe is a coalition of 10 core groups and the largest group of British citizens in the EU campaigning for the protection of their rights post Brexit. More information is on www.britishineurope.org .

the3million is the largest grassroots organisation of EU citizens living in the UK and campaigns for all EU citizens to be able to continue to live normally after Brexit. More information is on www.the3million.org.uk .

Partner organisations supporting us in our campaign:

Another Europe is Possible was established to campaign for a radical 'in' vote in the EU referendum and continues campaigning to defend the six progressive elements of EU membership: workers' rights, environmental sustainability, the free movement of people, human rights, science and research funding and transnational innovation.

European Alternatives organises a wealth of activities, campaigns, and projects empowering individuals, civil society and social movements to act in a coordinated way throughout and beyond Europe.

IMiX is a communications agency acting as a two-way link between organisations working on migration, integration and refugee issues in the UK and the media.

Migrants Rights Network is a network for people working for the rights of migrants and a rights-based approach to migration, with migrants as full partners in the development and implementation of policies which affect them.

UNISON is one of the UK's largest trade unions with 1.3 million members, representing staff who provide public services in the public and private sector.