

5 June 2019

Open letter to all candidates for the Conservative Party leadership

Dear candidate,

Healing a divided country will be uppermost in your mind as you think about your first, key decisions if you become Prime Minister. There is one easy decision that you could make to build a positive future for Britain: to honour the promises that citizens' rights would be protected in a fair and meaningful way.

British in Europe and the3million represent over five million people who still have no guarantee that their futures are secure after nearly three years. By acting swiftly, you can finally give them certainty and moral support. You can make sure that there will never be a Windrush-style scandal for EU citizens by supporting our "registration, not application" proposal for a new immigration status after Brexit. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it would also send a strong signal to EU27 countries as they consider the systems they put in place for UK citizens in their countries.

You can protect a core set of rights that we otherwise stand to lose by enshrining them in law. We look forward to dialogue with you on the detail¹ of these critical issues, which are entirely within the UK Government's gift to resolve and do not require any negotiation.

A no deal exit would be devastating for citizens. We will look to the future Prime Minister to continue the positive work already done on citizens' rights in the UK Parliament and elsewhere. This includes reinvigorating the dialogue with the EU as advocated by the "Costa Amendment" in order to protect the rights already negotiated in an international treaty, whatever the outcome of Brexit. Parliament voted unanimously in favour of this amendment - a clear signal that acting to protect citizens' rights commands overwhelming cross-party support, as well as being uncontroversial.

Moreover, it is only fair that citizens of EU27 countries living in the UK and British residents in the EU27 countries have the same protection as the EEA/EFTA states and Switzerland - countries with which the UK Government has already reached mutual agreement to protect rights that cannot be guaranteed unilaterally, such as social security coordination and coordination on professional qualifications.

We are the five million ambassadors for an outward-looking Britain who have made our lives on both sides of the channel. We count on you to make protecting these lives a priority and to place this at the heart of your leadership campaign.

Nicolas Hatton

Jane Golding

the3million

British in Europe

¹ https://bit.ly/t3m_BiE_FuturePM