

**Council: 4 April 2017**

**Agenda item 15.4 – Opposition amendment in the name of Councillor Alon Orbach**

Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings: Standing up for the right of Barnet's EU citizens to stay in the UK

Delete all and replace with (additions in bold):

Barnet has around 40,000 EU citizens who have made their home in the borough and now face an uncertain future in the UK following the vote to trigger Article 50 and begin negotiations with the EU towards Brexit.

Many of these EU citizens have lived in Barnet for most of their lives. They contribute to the local economy and the local community, and help make our borough the diverse place it is. They would be a significant loss to Barnet if forced to leave.

We believe that the Government should guarantee their right to stay in the UK, and are alarmed that a motion to this effect that was passed with a huge majority by the House of Commons, and an amendment passed by the House of Lords to the Brexit Bill have been ignored and overturned.

We agree with the sentiments of the petition started by Ruth Lyons that: "There is much fear and uncertainty in a post-Brexit world, especially for E.U citizens who are currently living in the U.K. They have built our country, contributed to our economy, taken care of our elderly, taught us, healed us, loved us, started families with us, become our friends and colleagues. They have given so much to us, now we must do the same for them. The only difference between U.K. citizens living here and E.U. citizens living here is a passport, therefore their rights should be protected with absolutely no change."

We ask all councillors to sign this petition in support of our residents who are EU citizens: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/guarantee-no-change-in-the-statusof-e-u-citizens-currently-living-in-the-u-k>

**There are also around 900,000 British citizens living in the EU, many of whom will be from Barnet. Whilst the European Parliament's proposals of associate citizenship may eventually address this, this is not a satisfactory assurance of their status following Britain's exit from the EU.**

**Council believes that British citizens living in the EU should also have their rights guaranteed by the EU and European heads of government, and that neither British citizens living in the EU nor EU citizens living in the UK should be used as bargaining chips in the Brexit negotiations.**

**Council therefore believes the UK Government should take the moral high ground in the Brexit negotiations and immediately provide assurances on the**

**rights of EU citizens living in the UK to remain here in order to secure an early agreement for British citizens living in the EU.**

We ask the Council to issue a statement of support for the rights of EU citizens in Barnet to stay in the UK.

We also ask the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write to the Prime Minister setting out Barnet Council's support for the right of EU Citizens in Barnet to stay in the UK.