

A SAMPLE LETTER TO:

**THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
MR. BRIAN LENIHAN, TD**

[The Date]

Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D.
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
94 St. Stephens Green
Dublin 2

Dear Minister Lenihan,

I am writing to urge you to introduce a temporary six-month permission to remain or Bridging Visa for non-EU migrant workers who have entered Ireland legally but have become undocumented through exploitation, deception or sudden redundancy.

It is highly unjust that migrant workers who find themselves in these situations beyond their control are not offered an official mechanism to quickly remedy their situations. While undocumented these individuals are being subjected to tremendous stress and fear. They quickly become isolated and cut off from visiting their families back home. They are not permitted to secure work to support themselves and are denied access to social benefits or services even when they have paid taxes and made personal contributions (PRSI). Workers without a legal status also become much more vulnerable to exploitation and mistreatment. Many choose to stay in exploitive situations for fear of the risks associated with coming forward.

There should be a humanitarian mechanism such as the Bridging Visa available to these individuals that would provide a pathway to come out of the shadows and back on course to living and contributing to Irish society. There is no reason why the Government should not extend the same level of understanding and effort to resolve the situation of the undocumented here in Ireland as it has for the Irish undocumented in the United States.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]

[Your address]

[*A similar letter can also be written to your local public representative (T.D.) You can also try to meet with them directly to express your views. Their addresses can be found at <http://www.oireachtas.ie>. Contact MRCI if you would like us to email you the letter above.]