

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to call for action to tackle the systemic creation of poverty in a more holistic way. There is a saying that each time we lower our standards, there is a price to pay.

This applies to everything we can do to make UK society better.

When I first arrived in the UK, I could not work, study or better my life because of my immigration status, until after wasting 10 years of my life. Even though I had a certificate in marketing, I could not gain employment with it here. I decided to train as a nurse. However, I could not – or rather, I was not eligible for funding or access to a loan to do so. I found charities to go through to access my course in college.

This impacted my mental health. I struggled to take care of my child and take care of other needs. I proceeded to my university nursing training, but again I was told I could not access funding or a loan, even though I had to do many hours of placement in several wards of the hospital, during Covid-19 and after.

Prime Minister, I want you to look into the Immigration Act of 1971. This Act has now become a thing of the past in Scotland, following a campaign and court verdict that sees the Act as discrimination. Here is the thing Prime Minister: if Scotland can do it, why can't you? The price to pay is an uneducated, unskilled workforce, poverty and reliance on benefits, to mention just a few of the impacts.

As you know, migrants are not allowed to work whilst they await their immigration status. After waiting 10 years, I was given a 10 year parent route. We have to pay so much money to renew this every two and a half years. It causes me great anxiety as I have to decide between eating well, taking care of the costs of living and saving for my next renewal. If this is difficult for just a family of two, what happens for a family of five or more? Two and a half years is such a short period of time to save for the next renewal. Prime Minister, every year, the UK Government spends so much money bringing skilled workers from overseas to the UK, when in fact, this money could educate migrants that are already here, leading to their contribution to society.

Prime Minister, for me, these are the root causes of poverty. I am asking you to look into the policies that have made it impossible for people to thrive, be relevant, contribute and better their lives. I think that people should not have to be here for 20 years, be born here or married to a British person before they can become who they want to be.

**Yours sincerely,
Glory, Scotland**