



Labour MPs: Please Speak Up for Citizens Rights

We are almost 60 days away from the date we are due to leave the European Union. Despite promises from the Prime Minister and the Vote Leave campaign during the 2016 referendum that the day-to-day lives of citizens would be unaffected, in the increasingly likely event of a no deal British citizens living in the EU27 may become illegal residents across the EU27 and lose a host of other rights afforded to them by EU citizenship.

EU27 member states are only just coming to the realisation that a no deal Brexit may occur, and the guarantees given to British citizens resident in these states differ wildly. Some states have taken the Citizens Rights section of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement negotiated in late 2017 and propose to enshrine these rights in their national parliaments. Other states have announced that British citizens will lose existing rights and be treated as third country nationals. Transition periods, before permits would be required, are currently confirmed in a few member states but with varying lengths, affording some citizens 15 months to sort the affairs of themselves and their families and 3 months for others, leaving many British citizens panicking if they or a family member do not fulfill requirements.

Among the rights that will be lost in the event of a no deal are entitlements to social security benefits, invalidation of British driving licenses, and mutual recognition of qualifications. There are also likely to be difficulties in accessing private pensions, and the invalidation of insurances as the legal basis for providing these under the EU's framework will cease. Health cover relating to country of origin, and aggregated pension contributions are also areas where unilateral agreements cannot be made. This could gravely impact the health and financial security of British migrants in the EU27.

Both the Conservatives and Labour have attacked the principle of freedom of movement within the European Union. The loss of free movement is an attack on British workers rights in the European Union affecting the approximately 80% of Labour International members that are of working age.

Particularly for cross-border workers, this will weaken their ability to work and their employability - making migrant workers more vulnerable to exploitation. Also please be aware that any attack by members of the UK Parliament on freedom of movement and/or on migrant labour from the EU27 in the UK is heard by EU27 member states and the European Commission while deciding how to treat British citizens in the event of a no deal.

It's at this juncture we also wish to recognise and show solidarity with the ongoing struggle for EU27 citizens living in the UK, who in the event of a no deal Brexit will lose their guaranteed residency in the UK. We note the Department for Exiting the European Union's December 2018 Paper that strips appeal rights for a failed settled status application that are present in the Withdrawal Agreement, and the legal challenge of 'the3million' against the Home Office's barring of access to collected personal data by individuals that they could use to deport EU27 citizens.

In accordance with the policy of Labour International, the CLP for Labour Party members living and working outside the UK, we ask that you **"vote against any proposals for an agreement on the terms of Brexit which do not fully respect the rights of British citizens in the EU27 and EU citizens in the UK which they currently hold"**.

We would also ask that you do everything possible to **drive the Government towards ring fencing the current section on Citizens Rights within the Withdrawal Agreement**, providing security for EU27 citizens living in the UK which may lead to reciprocal efforts in the European Union as being discussed by the Parliament's Brexit Steering Committee.

In solidarity

Labour International

signed Colin O'Driscoll, Co-Chair for Labour International

Labour Campaign for Free Movement

signed Ana Oppenheim, Organiser

Another Europe Is Possible

signed Marina Prentoulis, Spokesperson

Richard Corbett MEP

Labour Group Leader in the European Parliament, Labour MEP for Yorkshire and Humber

Jude Kirton-Darling MEP

Labour MEP for North East England

Paul Brannen MEP

Labour MEP for North East England

Seb Dance MEP

Labour MEP for London

Clare Moody MEP

Labour MEP for South West England