

Motion 9 - SOLIDARITY WITH EU27 CITIZENS

Proposed by: Councillor Andy Corkhill

Seconded by: Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that we currently have a significant number of EU27 citizens who are awaiting confirmation that they may remain in the country, and homes, in which they have chosen to live.

Council also notes that there are a vast number of EU27 citizens who, having lived in Wirral for a significant amount of time contributing socially, culturally and economically to the Borough, now feel unwanted because some of those who voted in the 2016 Referendum have challenged their right to remain. Across the country, incidents of crimes against foreigners have risen since this vote and have spiked since 31 January 2020.

The Wirral, as a forward-thinking, progressive Borough, should do all it can to support its EU27 citizens, standing up for their rights as valued members of our communities and denounce in the strongest terms any persecution aimed at them purely because they were not born in Great Britain.

Council should seek to counter the hostile environment enacted by successive governments and show the thousands of EU27 citizens still in Wirral that they belong and are welcome here. Despite the promises from Boris Johnson that the rights of the EU citizens to remain in the UK be guaranteed, there has been resistance and delay from government in producing physical documentation and evidence - as voted for in the House of Lords - leaving EU citizens under a cloud of uncertainty and risking a new Windrush-style scandal.

A formal statement of support from the policy-makers of the Borough should not be underestimated in allaying any fears that EU27 citizens' rights are in anyway subservient to that of British citizens.