

Rt Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP
Home Secretary

By email

14 November 2022

Dear Suella,

Congratulations on your re-appointment as Home Secretary.

We are delighted that the Istanbul Convention has now come into force and look forward to the Government's continued work on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

In July we wrote to the then Home Secretary regarding the Government's proposed reservations to the Istanbul Convention. Given that the Convention has now entered into force, we are writing to you to reiterate our concerns about the Government's reservations to the treaty. This country should lead the world in preventing violence against women and girls, and entering reservations, particularly against Article 59, risks creating a two-tier system for women.

In her letter to us, the former Home Secretary said that the Government would be making a decision as soon as practicable on the reservation on Article 59 under Article 78(4) of the Convention, on whether it is appropriate to maintain it.

Given the ministerial changes that have taken place, we would be grateful if you could:

- Confirm whether you remain committed to making a decision, as soon as practicable, regarding the reservation on Article 59 under Article 78(4) of the Convention, on whether it is appropriate to maintain it;
- Confirm whether the evaluation of the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme has been completed and whether you intend to publish it; and
- Share the evaluation of the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme with us upon its completion, and subsequently write to our Committees every six months outlining the steps the Government is taking in revisiting the reservation, should this review take longer than six months.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to tackle violence against all women and girls.

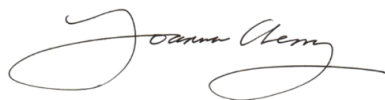
Yours ever,



Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee



Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair, Home Affairs Committee



Joanna Cherry KC MP
**Acting Chair, Joint Committee on Human
Rights**