



**Day of action on Monday 5 November 2018 (10am-4pm)
Support guaranteeing EU/UK citizens' rights**

We are nearing the end of the negotiations on the UK leaving the EU, with no clarity in sight on whether there will be a finalised agreement that guarantees post-Brexit rights for EU citizens in the UK, and British citizens in the EU27 countries. Enough is enough - the UK government and the EU must do the right thing for these five million citizens and make sure that they honour political promises made to us at the start of the negotiations, no matter what.

Monday 5 November is a day for EU citizens and their British family and friends, with British citizens living in EU27 countries, to arrange to meet with their MP in Parliament, raise their concerns and tell their own story. Before the event in Parliament, we go together to Downing St to tell Theresa May she must act now.

What's happening on the day in London?

10:00	Gather on Parliament Square to form a "human chain" to 10 Downing Street
11:00	Hand over our letter to Theresa May at 10 Downing Street
11:15-12:15	Short rally on Parliament Square before going to Parliament
13:00-16.00	Citizens meet their MP in Parliament - Committee Rooms 10 & 12
13.30-14:30	Statements by MPs and supporters of our campaign
16.00	Lobby in Parliament ends

What can you do to support the campaign?

1. [Sign up](#) to come to Westminster on 5 November or support the social media e-lobby.
2. Contact your MP on www.the3million.org.uk/thelastmile and **ask them to meet you in Committee Rooms 10 & 12 in Parliament on 5 November between 1pm-4pm.**
3. **Ask your MP to sign the online pledge** at <http://lastmile.the3million.org.uk> to support a joint EU/UK guarantee of what's been agreed on citizens' rights – no matter the outcome on Brexit.
4. Support our campaign #thelastmile - follow us on @The3Million/@BritishInEurope/@unisontweets
5. [Become a supporter](#) of the3million or [donate to British in Europe](#) so we can keep campaigning.

Our campaign on citizens' rights #thelastmile

After all the effort to negotiate a solution in the draft withdrawal agreement for both EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in Europe, we will still be back to square one if there is no deal and we face a cliff-edge Brexit in March 2019. Unilateral guarantees are not enough - we need the UK government and the EU to honour the political promises made to this group of 5 million citizens at the start of the negotiations. The 3 million and British in Europe are campaigning with UNISON for the UK and the EU to commit now to implementing the citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement under Article 50 - no matter what the outcome on Brexit.

We hope you will take these issues up with your MP – if you want to know more, please go to www.the3million.org.uk/thelastmile and <https://britishineurope.org/e-lobbytemplate/>

Things you can discuss with your MP:

An important part of this event is for people to raise their concerns about their own specific situation with their MP, or that of family and friends in other countries.

After two years of uncertainty for EU citizens and intense negotiations, we are still unable to plan for the future and are very concerned about whether our rights will be safeguarded. This is now urgent because of the risk of a no deal scenario - even if agreement is reached between the EU and UK, there is still a risk that the agreement will be voted down when it comes back to the UK Parliament. This would leave this group of people in a very precarious legal position, and lack any arrangements that need UK-EU co-operation.

Some examples of what could happen in case of no deal:

- **British citizens in Europe** could become illegal residents of their host state in case of no deal, with no legal status, and would be dependent on national solutions in 27 different countries.
- **Existing agreements on social security and pensions will no longer apply.** People who have accumulated pension pots from several EU countries can no longer be sure that their contributions will be recognised in the same way.
- **The UK and EU would no longer automatically mutually recognise some professional qualifications** earned abroad - this could affect doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists and vets.
- **Family reunification rights will be seriously compromised.** Under the withdrawal agreement, EU citizens can bring dependants (children or aging parents) to the UK to care for them. Under “no deal” we might have to move back to our own countries to look after aging parents – putting our own residency rights in the UK at risk. The same thing might happen to British citizens in EU27 countries if no measures are taken by EU27 countries.

[Read more](#) about the consequences for EU citizens' rights in the case of no deal.

Questions to ask your MP on social media or in person:

- Will you sign a pledge to protect citizens' rights after Brexit at lastmile.the3million.org.uk ?
- Will you raise our concerns with Prime Minister Theresa May, Home Secretary Sajid Javid and Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab?
- Can I make an appointment at your Friday surgery to follow up on any concerns or ask for your help on any problems I have?
- Will you ask questions in Parliament about how the UK government is going to guarantee our rights?

What we are asking the UK and EU to do:

- Honour the agreement that has already been reached on citizens' rights under Article 50, as a minimum – no matter what happens on Brexit.
- Go further than the withdrawal agreement by guaranteeing lifelong right to return to the UK for EU citizens already living here, and onward free movement to third countries for British citizens already living in the EU.
- Guarantee that these 5 million citizens will keep their right to vote and stand in local elections in the country where they live.
- Make sure that laws governing the new “settled status” for EU citizens are set out in an EU/UK agreement and passed in the UK Parliament – not introduced through Home Office immigration rules, where they can be easily changed.

For more detail on what we are asking for, please see our [joint letter](#) from the3million and British in Europe to Dominic Raab and Michel Barnier. See <https://www.the3million.org.uk/lastmilebriefing> for further information about our campaign.

What you need to know:

What will happen to citizens' legal status in case of no deal?

EU citizens will not immediately fall into a legal limbo, because the UK government passed the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. This Act ensures that EU laws in place until exit day will continue to apply after exit, including the rights enjoyed by EU citizens. However, without any legal guarantees and oversight arrangements between the EU and the UK, these rights are very vulnerable to future changes – especially with a government aim to bring down immigration figures.

British citizens in the EU are in an even worse situation – without a withdrawal agreement, their legal situation would be at best a messy combination of EU Third Country National status and domestic immigration law in their country of residence, resulting in severely reduced rights. Finally, in the event of “no deal” the priority will be to keep goods and services flowing. Citizens' rights will take a back seat – that is why we need guarantees now. For further information [read our briefing](#) on what a “no deal” scenario will mean for EU citizens.

Why aren't unilateral guarantees enough?

On 21 September 2018, Theresa May finally reached out to EU citizens living in the UK with a unilateral promise: “Even in the event of no deal, your rights will be protected... we want you to stay.” Isn't this promise from the UK government enough to reassure people that their future is secure?

Not quite: a unilateral UK guarantee for EU citizens does nothing to address the situation of British citizens in the EU27 countries, as this [letter from British in Europe](#) to the Prime Minister makes clear. Mutual agreement is also needed for recognition of qualifications and pension entitlements from several EU countries for people who have lived their lives relying on freedom of movement.

And here is Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab [refusing to confirm](#) in an LBC interview that the criteria for EU citizens to apply for a new “settled status” under UK immigration law would stay the same (39 minutes in).

What does guaranteeing under the withdrawal agreement mean, and how does it work?

the3million and British in Europe have been asking to “ringfence” the citizens' rights part of the withdrawal agreement since March 2017, and know it can be done if there is the political will to protect us. We are urgently calling for the EU and the UK to jointly agree to commit to implement the citizens' rights part of the draft withdrawal agreement in all circumstances, even if it is the only aspect to be agreed.

This will confirm the rights agreed in principle for both groups of citizens, and the processes required between the EU and the UK to ensure that, for example, a retired British citizen living in Italy is able to continue to aggregate their UK pension with those they have built up in other EU countries.

Why are you worried about the settled status scheme – the application process seems easy?

The UK has never before required any registration of EU citizens, which means we are in a unique situation where EU citizens will be required to apply for a new status and the Home Office will be registering 3.6 million people at the same time as the UK is leaving the EU.

The UK government has made a series of political promises on what the conditions for achieving the new settled status will be – no requirements for private health insurance or “genuine and effective work” - and must be held to those promises. the3million has put forward a proposal for a [Citizens’ Rights Protocol](#) to be annexed to the withdrawal agreement, which would be set out in a legally binding text at the international level and passed through primary legislation in Parliament. If the UK government implements the new settlement scheme only through Home Office immigration rules, the constant changes to this set of rules (58 times since 2012) could have unintended negative consequences even for long term UK residents, as the Windrush scandal has shown.

Hasn’t the UK government already committed to keeping voting rights in local elections?

On 24 January 2018, the then Secretary of State David Davis described the issue as a “sticking point” in the negotiations, with the UK wanting a deal and the Commission stating that it was a matter for the UK and individual member states. Voting rights were not included in the headline deal, and since December the UK government has been very quiet on this issue although the decision will be up to the Cabinet Office. We are asking the UK Government to retain voting rights for EU27 citizens in local elections in the UK, and to push for reciprocal rights for UK citizens in the EU27. Moreover, the Government should deliver on the promise of votes for life for all British citizens.

Actions to support our campaign

As part of our campaign we are inviting MPs to sign up to a simple pledge to protect citizens’ rights on www.the3million.org.uk/lastmilebriefing. You can write to your local MP, arrange to meet with them and get them to sign up to the pledge.

How to support the e-lobby before and during the mass lobby:

- Follow @The3Million and @BritishInEurope, retweet us and post tweets using the hashtag #thelastmile – on the day we will be tweeting from the event.
- Send a tweet to your MP about the campaign and ask them to support us and sign our pledge via www.the3million.org.uk/lastmilebriefing .

Visiting Parliament - what you need to know

Meeting with your MP: If you already have an appointment with your MP, bring the letter or printed email from your MP with you confirming your appointment. Stewards will direct you to the rooms we have booked (Committee Rooms 10 and 12) and there will be people there to help you from the3million, British in Europe and UNISON. You can also go to the reception in the Central Lobby and ask for help.

Getting in: Everyone visiting Parliament will have to go through “airport style” security to gain access to the building – at busy times this may take up to an hour, so allow plenty of time to get in. We recommend you arrive at least 45 minutes before your appointment. Those with later appointments will need to allow more time to get in. Please try to bring only small bags to speed things up with security.

Go to the visitors’ entrance at Cromwell Green opposite Westminster Abbey – more information is [here](#) . Stewards in high-vis UNISON tabards will be there to help you enter the queue, and will do their best to prioritise people who have a specific time confirmed to meet their MP.

Inside Parliament: Banners, posters and (openly visible) t-shirts with slogans are not allowed in the Houses of Parliament. Try to keep badges and flags in your bag as you pass through security.

To get to Committee Rooms 10 and 12, enter Westminster Hall after you pass through security and continue on to the Central Lobby to the left. Past Central Lobby to the right there are stairs leading to the committee rooms. There will be stewards there from the3million and UNISON to guide you.

If you don't have an appointment with your MP, UNISON and the3million stewards will direct you to the Green Card information desk in the Central Lobby. After 2.30pm (during sitting hours) you can ask to see your MP using the Green Card system:

1. Once you are through security, go to the Central Lobby reception desk and ask for a green card.
2. Enter your details, your MP and the purpose of your visit – which is to “talk about protecting the rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU after Brexit”. Add that if your MP can't meet with you today you would like to arrange a meeting in their constituency.
3. Wait for your MP in the Central Lobby while the card is sent to the MP's office. If they are coming to meet with you, your name will be called in the Central Lobby.
4. When your MP comes to meet with you, suggest going to Committee Rooms 10 and 12 for your chat – you don't have to book a time there, and there will be space for you to chat. Your MP may suggest having the meeting somewhere else.
5. Your MP may send a staff member on their behalf if they are caught up in other meetings. If your MP does not appear within half an hour or so, they are unlikely to be able to meet you.
6. If you apply for a meeting through the Green Card system, your MP has a duty to respond to you. Follow up on getting a meeting in their constituency instead – they will have a surgery on Fridays when Parliament is not in session.

Practical details about the event

I need disabled access

There are guides to assist you when you enter Westminster Hall. If you have any questions, contact the Serjeant-at-Arms office at the House of Commons on 0207 219 3030 and ask about procedures.

Can I get in to Parliament if I don't have an appointment with my MP?

Yes, but your MP may not be able to meet with you if you don't have an appointment.

Instead, you can come to Committee Rooms 10 and 12 to talk with volunteers from British in Europe and the3million about our campaign.

What happens after the lobby?

We will use the mailing list from our Eventbrite registration page to keep you updated on our campaign and you can sign up to our mailing lists on www.the3million.org.uk or www.britishineurope.org.

I'm a UNISON member and would like to attend the event in Parliament?

UNISON branches have been informed about the lobbying event. If you need any support with your travelling costs, please contact your local branch. We would like to know who is coming as a UNISON member - please contact Katia Widlak at k.widlak@unison.co.uk.

About us: the3million is the largest grassroots organisation of EU citizens living in the UK, and campaigns for all EU citizens to be able to continue to live life as usual after Brexit. British in Europe is a coalition of 10 core groups and the largest group of British citizens in the EU campaigning for the protection of their rights post Brexit. We are partnering with UNISON, the UK's largest trade union with 1.3 million members, representing staff who provide public services in the public and private sector.