6th August 2025 [date]

Dear Mr Streeting,

We are writing from [name of organisation], [brief information about the organisation and its work in the community].

We are writing to express our deep concern about the impact of widespread racist and Islamophobic violence on our communities, particularly how this violence and unrest restrict access to safe, equitable maternity care for the people we support.

Last year, during the racist and Islamophobic riots, our community experienced [insert description of direct impacts, e.g., fear, distress, heightened anxiety]. We witnessed [concrete impacts, some examples can be, “community members not feeling safe leaving their homes to give birth in local hospitals or birth centres,” “disruptions to essential community-based care like postnatal home visits”]. These events had [insert description of psychological impacts, e.g., “a lasting emotional toll,” “increased mistrust in public services,” “feelings of isolation and abandonment”].

Since then, our concerns have only grown. In an increasingly challenging political climate with ongoing attacks on the European Convention on Human Rights and the rise in racist rhetoric and action against asylum seekers, migrants and refugees, we remain deeply worried about the impact of fear, racism, and violence on access to maternity care.

The starting point, even in crisis, must always be to uphold the human rights of women and birthing people. This includes our right to decide where we give birth, how we give birth, and who is with us when we give birth, our rights to make informed decisions about our bodies and our care, our rights to be treated with dignity and respect, and fundamentally our right to life. These should be built into resilience and emergency planning protocols.

In light of these ongoing risks, we are seeking **clarity on what action has been taken** since last year to ensure NHS Trusts are working with hospitals and community services to maintain **safe access to care** **during times of crisis**.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to:

* Hear more about your current and planned actions to address the gaps exposed by the events of the past year.
* Explore how we can work collaboratively to urge NHS Trusts in our area to embed fundamental human rights into all emergency protocols, including proactively communicating with women and birthing people about any changes to their care during crises, ensuring maternity teams can reach those who need support at home, and making certain that everyone can access hospitals and birth centres without fear, discrimination, or harm.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

[*Your name*]