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Dear Friend

Birmingham is a wonderful diverse city and we are proud to offer a warm welcome to all who want to make their home here, including our friends from across the European Union.

There are around 94,000 EU citizens living in Birmingham. They play an important part in city life, helping to deliver our public services, enriching our culture and running and supporting businesses.

Brexit has not changed this; we are still the same welcoming city and we want our EU citizens to stay.

That is why I'm asking for help in spreading an important message, whether you are an EU citizen yourself or you know or work with someone who is:

If you are an EU, EEA (European Economic Area) or Swiss citizen you need to apply for settlement status in order to remain in Birmingham with the same rights you currently have. It is vital that you do this as soon as possible.

Here is a link to the official government website for EU Settlement Status: <u>https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families</u>

We are working with a number of voluntary organisations that can provide help and support and contact details can be found here: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50227/city\_of\_sanctuary/2011/city\_of\_sanctuary/4

We believe there are more than 50,000 people who have yet to claim their status, so it is really important to continue to get the message out. This letter will not reach everyone it needs to, and many still don't know they need to apply, can't apply without support or are fearful of the process. Please help by talking about the scheme with those around you.

I know as Birmingham residents you will do all you can to help. Thank you.

Best wishes

Councillor Brigid Jones Deputy Leader Birmingham City Council