**[Insert Date]**

[Insert name of the Member]

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives /
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear [Insert name of the Member],

[Insert name of the Member], I am a voter in the electorate of [Insert your Federal Electorate]. I am writing to thank you for bringing to the attention of Parliament issues impacting Australia. I am writing to ask that you continue to do this and bring to the attention of the Parliament an issue that is being ignored by our Minister for Immigration, Mr Peter Dutton.

You may be aware of the swell of public support across the country regarding a family within our electorate. A young family of our Biloela community, Nadesalingam and Priya and their two Australian born daughters just 2yrs and 9 months old. A family who were abruptly taken from their home and community by Minister Dutton’s Border Protection officials on the 5th March 2018.

[Insert name of the Member], Mr. Dutton talks about wanting people that want to come here, abide by our laws, integrate into our society and work hard and then at the same time sends his officials to remove them. Nades and Priya want to be here, they have abided by our laws, have become a part of the fabric in our rural community for the past several years, and are hardworking citizens of our electorate. In fact, Nades was getting ready to go to work at our local abattoir and Priya was caring for their two young Australian daughters when at 5am they were taken from their home in Queensland and placed in detention in Victoria.

[Insert name of the Member], some facts on the case for you

* Nadesalingam and Priya had been living in Biloela for four years and have raised their two Australian born daughters here. Nadesalingam works at the local abattoir and is a valued team member.
* Nadesalingam and Priya married in 2014, having arrived separately in Australia by boat seeking asylum in 2012 and 2013, in the aftermath of Sri Lanka’s civil war. They have two daughters born in Australia, nine-month-old Dharuniga and two-year-old Kopiga.

* Australian Border Force officials, accompanied by police and Serco guards, arrived at the family’s home at 5am on Monday 5th March 2018. Priya’s bridging visa had expired the previous day, however she was in contact with the Department to process the extension.
* The family said they were given 10 minutes to pack before being flown to Melbourne.
* There, they said, they were told to sign documents assenting to “voluntary removal” and told that, if they did not sign them, they would be denied access to a phone and forcibly deported separately.
* On Tuesday the 6th March they signed the papers but said it was under unfair duress.
* Senator, Priya and her family fled Sri Lanka in 2000 and Priya came to Australia five years ago. She has not been in the country for 18 years and her family is no longer there.
* Like many northern Tamils Nades had links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which was militarily defeated by the Sri Lankan armed forces in 2009, and this makes him almost certain to face persecution if returned.
* The UN has reported that Tamils, particularly those with links to the now-defeated separatist army, face systematic persecution and torture and Amnesty International has reported that the Human Rights Commission of [Sri Lanka](https://www.theguardian.com/world/srilanka) continues to document widespread incidents of violence against detainees.
* On Tuesday 13th March, Border Force flew Priya, Nades and their daughters to Perth and put them on a plane to Sri Lanka, a country that their two beautiful, Australian-born babies have never been to. A country where people like Priya and Nades face terrible danger and abuse, simply for being part of the Tamil minority.
* Just before take-off, last minute legal action saw Priya and her family taken off the plane and they were returned to detention in Perth where they were advised that an appeal was set for May.
* At the time of writing to you over 85,000 people have signed a petition requesting this family be returned to Biloela and provided protection.

[Insert name of the Member], I am sure you will agree we need to bring attention to the contradiction of Mr Dutton’s statements and actions and work to help protect the families in our electorate. Families like Nades and Priya.

The community of Biloela asks that as our representative in the Senate, you bring to the attention of Parliament the case of Nadesalingam and Priya and ask Mr Dutton the three questions below that we as a community want answers to:

1. Do you believe it is right to imprison people who have not committed any offence, including Australian Children?
2. Do your comments about wanting people that want to come here, abide by our laws, integrate into our society and work hard apply to all people?
3. If you want these people, as you say you do, when will you grant protection to Nadesalingam and Priya and return them to their home in Biloela with their children?

I look forward to your support in bringing this issue impacting our electorate to the attention of Parliament and would greatly appreciate if you could advise of your intentions.

Yours Faithfully,

[Insert Name]

[Insert address] I [Insert email]