

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**  
Green Party

for the South East of England

Charles Clarke  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

26 September 2005

RE: Deportation of spouses of British women

Dear Mr Clarke,

I would like to bring to your attention the issue of British women married to foreign nationals who are under threat from deportation by the Home Office. It would seem that there is a gross injustice in this practice, bearing in mind that these women are British and under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 it states that there is a "right to family." In addition, their spouses are to be returned to countries which the Foreign Office warn the British not to travel to due to human rights abuses. Yet, the Home Office has informed the women that it is appropriate to accompany their spouses to these countries.

In one case, a British Occupational Therapist, who is married to an Afghani, has been told that her husband will not be granted the right to stay in Britain. However, she is free to follow him to Afghanistan if she wishes. I am sure you can see the absurdity of such an offer, knowing that it is a country which the Foreign Office advises British nationals to avoid. This case is not unusual, there are many other British women in similar situations, some of whom are required to convert to the state religion of their spouse's country of origin if they return.

The situation I have described above not only contravenes Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, it also appears to go against EU regulations which state that, when a national of a member state of EU pays tax in another member state for not less than six months, the host member state is obliged to issue a visa for his or her spouse regardless of their nationality.

I am sure you will agree that the Government's role is to protect its citizens and I hope that you will look into this issue further and propose a thorough review of this practice.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.