**RE: HOME OFFICE CHARTER FLIGHT TO NIGERIA DEPARTING FROM THE UK 22.20HRS TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER, ARRIVING NIGERIA WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2013**

To Nick Clegg

Deputy Prime Minister

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

I writing to express my concerns about a charter flight to Nigeria due to leave the UK on Tuesday 17th December at 22.20 hours.

The flight contains a number of men and women who have tried to fight for permission to stay in the UK. The flight includes a woman married to a British citizen, a man who has been told he may die without kidney dialysis (which is only available privately in Nigeria); several men who are gay and who may face extreme persecution due to their sexuality. Also on the flight is several men who have been on hunger strike are also due to be removed on this flight.

Many of the men and women have fallen foul of the asylum Fast Track detention system where people are detained from the minute they claim asylum and access to legal representation and legal aid is extremely limited.

In 2011 the Chief Inspector of Prisons highlighted concerns that on charter flights they examined

-  in some cases, staff were not properly coordinated during potential and actual incidents, which raised tensions;

-  force and restraints were sometimes used for longer than was necessary;

-  there is currently no accredited training to guide and support staff who have to use force in confined spaces, such as on an aircraft;

-  some staff used highly offensive and sometimes racist language between themselves;

-  swearing freely, telling offensive jokes and indulging in sweeping generalisations about national characteristics.

-  staff numbers seemed excessive at times;

Similarly earlier this year Keith Vaz, chairman of the home affairs select committee, criticised the Home Office’s practice of using reserves on charter flights as being inhumane.

The practice of using charter flights to forcibly remove men and women who have been through the Fast Track system is A policy which denies basic human rights.

Pleas Euse your influence to stop this flight.

Yours

Name

Address