**DRAFT LETTER OF INVITATION FROM PRABHU GUPTARA TO DAVID LAMMY MP**

[Pippa Rann/Salt Desert letterhead]

The Rt Hon David Lammy MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA [Date]

[Handwritten: Dear David, – if you know well him enough for first name, otherwise Dear Mr Lammy,]

I am writing on behalf of Ram Gidoomal CBE, whom you know, to invite you to participate in a high-profile debate on migration and integration, which we are provisionally calling “Migration: Benefits, Mistakes and Solutions”. This will take place on the evening of Tuesday 24th January in the auditorium of the Oasis Academy South Bank, in Waterloo. The writer and Christian minister Steve Chalke will chair. We anticipate an audience of ~150 and good media coverage. Your office would be welcome to do a Press briefing.

The debate coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of 28,200 Ugandan Asians in Britain following their expulsion by Idi Amin, and is being run in partnership with ‘British Ugandan Asians at 50’ (BUA50, https://bua50.org), a programme of registered charity the India Overseas Trust. With grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, BUA50 has conducted over 40 filmed interviews with people involved in that extraordinary historical episode, either as expellees or as volunteers who helped to make the Asians welcome. BUA50’s touring exhibition and a selection of the videos will be on display at the event; and copies of *My Silk Road*, Ram’s recently published account of his family’s own expulsion from Kenya and life in Britain, will be on sale.

This debate is very timely and relevant, but our intention is that it should not be confrontational, but rather about achieving consensus across party-political divides. There will be an acknowledgement of the challenges created by migration, but also a celebration of its positive social and economic impacts. The event will explore the mistakes made in 1972 and subsequently, and highlight the lessons which are there to be learnt by present-day policy makers. As well as yourself, we are inviting former Conservative Minister Baroness Verma, and Lord Hunt of the Wirral, who as a student activist played a critical role in challenging Enoch Powell’s rhetoric and swinging the mood of the 1972 Conservative Party conference in favour of accepting the Ugandan expellees. Tony Sewell is another option if any of these is unavailable. Ram himself will complete the panel.

We very much hope that you can take part in the debate, since I know you would bring real passion to discussion of this topic. Please confirm your acceptance by emailing Warwick Hawkins at warwick@faithinsociety.org.uk, copying in myself (prabhusguptara@gmail.com) and Ram Gidoomal (ramgidoomal@gmail.com).

[Handwritten: With best wishes and thanks,]

[Signature]

PROF. PRABHU GUPTARA