

## **Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens**

As you will be aware, Brexit is causing uncertainty and concern to many EU citizens living in the UK. Both clergy and laity alike share this uncertainty and concern. Apart from those who are uncertain about their future, others are inevitably in a state of ignorance and unaware that Brexit will affect their immigration status.

In March 2019, the Government is due to launch a Settlement Scheme. All EU citizens living in the UK will be required to make an application if they wish to remain here after Brexit. However, Irish citizens will not be required to apply as their rights are separately protected.

Many parishioners, priests and religious in our Dioceses will be affected. We urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here, with particular concern at present for all our European brothers and sisters.

Please encourage anyone you know whom Brexit will affect, towards the official information on the Settlement Scheme at:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>.