Stop the Forcible Removal of Jeevitha and Neeraja Joseph and their Mother!

Jeevitha and Neeraja, aged 15 and 14 respectively and their mother arrived in the UK in July 2008. The family have fled from Sri Lanka having been caught up in the civil war that has beset the country for over 20 years and that has escalated in the last eighteen months. The conflict has been at its fiercest in the north of Sri Lanka which is where the Joseph family are from.

Their uncle, the brother of Mrs Joseph, has been killed in the civil war ; their family home was raided by the army; the family were detained for three weeks; during this time they were all questioned and ill-treated; Mr Joseph, their father, was abducted on the street when he went out to buy food. The family have no knowledge of whether he is alive or dead and fear the worst. Najeenus, their 17 year-old brother was left behind in Sri-Lanka and the family have no knowledge of his whereabouts or safety. The girls and their mother fear that if they are sent back to Sri Lanka, they will be killed.

Since moving to Hartlepool the girls and their mother have become very much part of the parish community of St Joseph's. They are very committed to their faith and attend the parish church on a regular basis.

Jeevitha and Neeraja joined The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College in October 2008 and have settled in very happily. They are model students. They are exceptionally hard-working, always smartly dressed, keen to learn, have forged good relationships with their peers, are popular with staff and have a bright academic future ahead of them.

To deport the family now, taking the girls away from English Martyrs, and insist on their removal would be cruel. They have suffered enough and should be allowed to stay.

We the undersigned, call upon the Secretary of State to reconsider Mrs Joseph's case and grant the family permission to remain in the UK

Name	Address	Signature

Please return completed petition sheets to The Joseph Family Must Stay Campaign, c/o The English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, Catcote Road, Hartlepool TS25 4HA