Dear Prime Minister,

As civil society organisations working with citizens and communities across the UK, we are writing to express our grave concerns about the risk of leaving the EU without an agreement as the 31st October is rapidly approaching.

A growing body of evidence shows that a no-deal Brexit would be detrimental to civil society and the communities that we work with. The uncertainty, the predicted economic shock, the prospect of legal uncertainty as well as the regression in rights and standards present a profound risk to the values civil society stands for.

Leaving the EU without a deal will see a return to a ‘hard’ border on the island of Ireland. This will have significant detrimental effects on trade, the economy, and on the ability of citizens to move easily between the two jurisdictions for work, study and family reasons.

A no-deal Brexit will be a direct threat to the peace process, the safeguards in the Good Friday Agreement. This would be at odds with the last UK Government's stated commitment to guarantee both of these vital protections.

Business, civil society and communities across the UK are not ready for a no-deal exit.

There is not enough time to replace EU agencies that monitor and ensure compliance with the law, potentially resulting in food standards, environmental and animal welfare regulations not being sufficiently enforced.

Legislation to accommodate a no-deal scenario will be rushed through Parliament with little to no scrutiny from MPs and civil society. Neither will X days be enough time to put in place the necessary common frameworks to guarantee that devolution is respected.

Civil society faces the same Brexit related impacts and uncertainties as business, and yet we have not had adequate support, resources and engagement from the government. We urge you to better engage with civil society, including across the devolved nations, throughout the next stages of the Brexit process.

Leaving the EU without an agreement will have drastic and wide-ranging implications for citizens and communities, who deserve to be heard.

Yours sincerely,

NAMES OF ORGS