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Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
11 Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AJ

Dear Mr Brown,

**RE: Bill before Parliament to Amend Mental Health Act**

Please see enclosed letter to Tony Blair, the current Prime Minister, following his offer to me of an OBE 'for services to Black and Minority Ethnic Healthcare' – an offer I feel I cannot accept in the context of the current Bill before Parliament to amend the Mental Health Act. I am convinced that a re-thinking on the Bill before Parliament is urgently required. As a life-long Labour supporter, I can assure you that a shift in Government attitude on this matter - towards rights and protection of the public from unjust 'sectioning' - would be greatly appreciated and a plus for Labour, especially among BME communities.

Yours sincerely,

Suman Fernando