

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th February 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: SYRIAN REFUGEE UPDATE

Thank you for contacting me about Syrian refugees.

I appreciate your concern with this ongoing issue. We continue to be at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, including as the second biggest bilateral donor of humanitarian aid, having already pledged £2.3 billion. Some £105 million of the funding will help Syrians who are still in Syria.

The UK almost uniquely among advanced major economies spends money equivalent to 0.7 per cent of our total annual output every year on aid. This enables Britain to be the second biggest bilateral donor in the world to Syrian refugee camps assisting millions on the ground, many of whom want to return as soon as possible to their homes and communities.

Since the crisis began we have granted asylum to nearly 5,000 Syrians and their dependents through normal procedures. Britain is in addition committed to resettling up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years. These refugees will come from the region to discourage people from taking the perilous journey across the Mediterranean (from which many have been rescued by the Royal Navy, among other participants). It is important to remember that the vast majority of refugees are displaced in the region, which is why it is crucial we focus our efforts on supporting those who are displaced there.

To support our local communities the foreign aid budget will be used to finance these refugees for the first year and help local councils with things such as housing. In the longer term, our additional aid spending will be directed to these failed states and to the refugee crisis.

Simply taking people will not solve this crisis. We need a comprehensive solution that deals with the people most responsible for the terrible scenes we see: President Assad in Syria, the butchers of Daesh and the criminal gangs that are running this terrible trade in people. We have to be as tough on them at the same time.

The Government continues to work with local authorities and international partners to deliver the commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this Parliament, and as I understand it is on track to do so. The number resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the availability of suitable accommodation and support in the UK. Progress on resettlement is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.