



Craig Whittaker MP

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European Refugee Crisis

The Government has always been clear that in order to provide the best help to the greatest number of those in need, it needs to support the majority of refugees to stay safely in their home region. This is why the UK's aid for the Syrian crisis was doubled to £2.3 billion, the UK's largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. This support has reached hundreds of thousands of people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt.

Commitments raised at "Supporting Syria and the Region" conference in London will create an estimated 1.1 million jobs for refugees and host country citizens by 2018, and by the end of the 2016/17 school year, 1.7 million refugee and vulnerable children will be in quality education with equal access for girls and boys.

More needs to be done to shut down the illegal migration routes to Europe, exploited by human traffickers who encourage people to risk their lives to make perilous journeys. The success of the EU-Turkey migration agreement is a vital opportunity to end the misery and lethal risk that smugglers and organised criminals are causing on a daily basis.

I welcome the announcement that the UK will be offering 75 expert personnel to help with processing and administration of migrants in reception centres, act as interpreters, provide medical support and bolster our existing team assisting the Commission to ensure effective and efficient co-ordination. This in addition to the UK maritime contribution, with three Border Force vessels assisting the Hellenic Coastguard to conduct search and rescue missions, and a Royal Navy vessel as part of the NATO mission in the Aegean.

Additional resources have also been seconded into the European Asylum Support Office totalling over 1000 days of expert support to Italy and Greece to implement and streamline the Dublin process.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP