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Syria

Thank you for contacting me about a solution to the crisis in Syria and the role of the UK Government.

We need a solution to the crisis in Syria which will provide a government that can protect the rights of all Syrians, unite the country and end the conflict to protect all minority groups. I am assured that the UK Government will continue to use all its diplomatic levers to advocate for this.

The UK's goals in Syria are defeating the terrorists of the so-called 'Islamic State' group, and achieving a political settlement that ends the war and suffering, provides stability for all Syrians and the wider region, and enables refugees to return safely. While an extensive humanitarian response can help alleviate the suffering in the region, the only way to establish lasting peace in Syria is through a credible political transition to a new, inclusive, non-sectarian government that can protect the rights of all Syrians and unite the country.

The UK will continue to use diplomatic tools to work for a political solution to this terrible conflict, playing a leading role in the UN Security Council and in the International Syria Support Group to push for the protection of civilians from harm, and for unfettered access to aid. The UK supports the UN-led Geneva process between the Syrian parties as this is the forum for reaching a lasting solution to the conflict.

On the humanitarian front, the Government is working hard to alleviate the suffering in Syria and is at the forefront of the humanitarian response to this crisis, committing £2.46 billion since 2012 – our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. This is helping to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable people in Syria and refugees in the region.

UK aid is making a real difference, providing life-saving and life-changing support to the people of Syria, and those who have fled to neighbouring countries. Since 2012, across Syria and the region, UK aid has delivered over 26 million food rations that feed a person for a month, 10.3 million medical consultations, 9.8 million relief packages, and over 8 million vaccines. In 2016/17 alone, UK aid reached over 5 million people with clean water.

The Department for International Development's work on the Syrian crisis gives people in the region hope for a better future. Without British aid, hundreds of thousands of Syrians may feel they had no alternative but to risk their lives seeking to get to Europe.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP