



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Direct Communications Unit
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: ALMG
2nd June 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: UK Resettlement Scheme

I am writing to you regarding the future of the new UK Global resettlement scheme that you announced in a statement on 18th March this year.

According to Government data the UK resettled 5612 people in 2019, and only 823 in 2020. In the first quarter of 2019, 1459 people were resettled as opposed to only 345 in the first quarter this year. Whilst I understand that the pandemic has had wide ranging implications for the Government, such as the resettlement programmes being suspended between March and November 2020, these reports are staggering.

The pandemic has not stopped the need for these programmes and given the gap in provision there is more need than before. It leads me to question whether your Government is committed to providing safe routes to people who are fleeing persecution and war.

Will the Government commit to a target number of people and a time frame for how long the scheme will last? Targets are necessary to run refugee resettlement programmes. Organisations such as 'Forth Valley Welcome' in my constituency builds up specialist expertise in the needs of these individuals. It also takes long term planning from local authorities to ensure that there are appropriate resettlement services for vulnerable refugee families.

Please could you provide greater clarity about the new scheme? Could you tell me what barriers there are for the new scheme to perform at least as well as the previous one? Refugee resettlement is a vital lifeline for so many people and families. Is the Government committed to continuing to support those in need?

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alyn Smith MP

