ADD DATE

Your MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear xxx,

I am writing to you in advance of the Parliamentary meeting on Wednesday 18 August regarding the situation in Afghanistan. The scenes unfolding over the last few days and weeks have been extremely distressing. **James Kariuki,** the UK’s deputy permanent representative to the UN, says in [the Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-un-uk-human-rights-b1903404.html?r=36746) that there is already evidence of Taliban human rights abuses: *“Given the fragile security situation, Afghanistan is now facing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.”*

Conservative colleagues agreed today that Britain bears collective responsibility for what is happening:

*“The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is Britain's biggest foreign policy disaster since the Suez crisis of 1956… [the UK has] abandoned the Afghan people*.”
**Tom Tugendhat**, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee ([BBC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58220730))

“The West has done what it’s done… [it is the right thing to do to bring back] all those people we have an obligation to.”
**Ben Watson**, Defence Secretary ([LBC](https://www.lbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/nick-ferrari/ben-wallace-breaks-down-afghanistan/))

It is vitally important that we do everything in our power to support those who have been plunged into an unstable, fragile and extremely dangerous situation. It is clear that this is a disaster, one which we need to respond appropriately to, in order to ensure that as few lives as possible are lost on our account.

Recently the Home Office dropped its targets for refugee resettlement in order to “ensure resettlement programmes are responsive to emerging international crises”. Despite this, the government has repeatedly refused to answer questions on how many Afghan refugees Britain might take in due to this situation or outlined any programme by which they might come to the UK.

**I therefore call for:**

* **a commitment to resettle 20,000 Afghan refugees** (David Cameron’s programme to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees has worked extremely well) –not just those associated with Western military and diplomatic missions, but women and ethnic minorities who have already been targeted by the Taliban. Refugees make up just 0.2% of the UK population – per capita, Sweden has 12 times as many, Austria has 8 times, Germany 7 times and France 4 times as many. We can open our doors a little wider.
* **The immediate suspension of the involuntarily return of any Afghans** who may have had their asylum claims rejected here. It is completely inappropriate to consider repatriation at this time.

Let us continue with our long history of welcoming refugees and mediate some of the horrific loss of life and human rights abuses taking place before our very eyes, before it is too late.

Your sincerely

NAME

ADDRESS & POSTCODE