

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Dear

Thanks for contacting me on this issue.

This matter is of great concern to me personally. Whilst at University I wrote my final year dissertation researching the effects of the UK asylum system on the health of asylum seekers in Scotland and gained direct experience of people's difficulties.

I have also contributed to the movement of charitable groups in Cambridge aiming to help alleviate the suffering of refugees in Europe, though I can take no credit for their excellent work.

I am happy to say I have signed the 'Refugees Welcome' pledge and if elected would do all I can to welcome refugees to this country and support them properly.

In particular I would focus on three key priorities;

1. Ensuring that UK Foreign Policy promotes peace and cooperation and seeks to resolve the conflicts and problems that are contributing to the great refugee crisis. We should not fuel conflict by selling arms to nations involved in bitter conflicts, such as the Saudi Arabian regime, and we should be ensuring developed countries give sufficient aid to mitigate the impact of climate change. Climate change is increasingly a driver of migration and we bear a significant responsibility for that as one of the world's first industrial nations.
2. Cooperating better with our European neighbours to help resettle the tens of thousands of refugees who have already journeyed to Europe. It is not fair that because of our geographical isolation we are avoiding contributing properly to helping these people. Countries such as Greece and Italy are under severe pressure. In particular there are thousands of lone child refugees on the European continent and it is disgraceful that the Government didn't accept many more child refugees following its acceptance of the 'Dubs' amendment
3. Reforming the UK asylum system. For too long, under Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, our asylum system has been completely unfit for purpose and has forced refugees to endure poverty. In particular, claims are processed too slowly, the level of financial support is humiliatingly low, there are too many mistakes in administration and the devastating 28 day time period to find employment and housing after leaving the system leaves many destitute. We would end indefinite immigration detention, give asylum seekers the right to work and improve the level of financial support to the level of UK citizen's welfare.

There are many other concerns tied in with this issue but for the sake of clarity I will limit my reply to the three priorities above. Rest assured this issue is something I would actively campaign on if elected. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours Sincerely,



Stuart Tuckwood
Parliamentary candidate for Cambridge