



September 2022

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about asylum seekers and refugee resettlement.

I am aware of the campaign regarding the Nationality and Borders Act and its provisions for refugees and asylum seekers. It is, however, the case that the United Kingdom has a proud history of supporting those in need of protection; our resettlement programmes have provided safe and legal routes to better futures for hundreds of thousands of people from across the globe. This includes individuals from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

Since 2015, the UK has resettled over 27,000 refugees through safe and legal routes directly from areas of conflict and instability. Furthermore, the Government remains committed to its family reunion policy and has issued over 39,500 family reunion visas from the same year. The family reunion policy allows a spouse or partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

There are also separate provisions in the Immigration Rules to allow extended family to sponsor children to come here where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

There is discretion to grant leave outside of the Immigration Rules which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations. Adult dependent relatives living overseas are covered by certain arrangements where, due to age, illness, or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK.

I have always believed that resettlement is vital as a safe and legal pathway to protection for vulnerable refugees fleeing persecution. It is right, and I will continue to ensure, that the Government continues to offer safe pathways for those in need. The launch of a new global UK Resettlement Scheme will build on the success of previous schemes and continue our proud record of resettling refugees who need our help from around the world.

The Nationality and Borders Act allows the UK to continue to resettle genuine refugees directly from places of danger and to offer refugee family reunions. It improves support for refugees to help them build their life in the UK, integrate and become self-sufficient members of society. The legislation also introduces a new temporary protection status for those who do not come directly to the UK or claim asylum without delay once here, but who have, in any event, been recognised as requiring protection.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

Website: www.heatonharris.com