

PARLIAMENTARY ROUND UP 15 September 2018 – 21 September 2018

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Parliament was in recess from 13 September 2018 – 9 October 2018

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CHILDREN / DUBS

[HL10142](#)

Lord Dubs (Lab) asks Her Majesty's Government how many children in total have been transferred to the UK to date under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; and of the remaining places, how many children in total have been allocated a place but have not yet been transferred to the UK.

Baroness Williams of Trafford (Minister of State, Home Office), 17.9.18: We remain fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and are working very closely with participating States, to deliver the scheme in line with their national laws.

Over 220 children are already in the UK. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details once all children are in the UK.

COUNTRY SITUATIONS

BURMA MYANMAR / BANGLADESH / ROHINGYA / WOMEN

[HL10210](#)

Lord Judd (Lab) asks HMG what (1) action they are taking, and (2) funding they are designating, to protect Rohingya women in refugee camps with specific reference to (a) improving lighting for safety, (b) toilets and washrooms that provide privacy, and (c) special assistance for the most vulnerable.

Lord Bates 18.9.18: DFID is supporting a range of organisations providing specialised help to women amongst Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh. A third of our latest £70m allocation will be spent on protection services including services for women and girls, and sexual and reproductive health. This includes funding for women's centres, emergency nutrition and midwifery care to pregnant women, and support for survivors of gender based violence. Our funding is improving lighting for safety in the camps. We are supporting provision of women friendly spaces that include toilets and washrooms with privacy. We are also providing psychosocial first aid to vulnerable adults and adolescents to ease trauma, and child friendly spaces.

BURMA MYANMAR / BANGLADESH / ROHINGYA / WOMEN

[HL10211](#)

Lord Judd (Lab) asks HMG what action they are taking to ensure the participation and leadership of Rohingya people of all ages and genders in programmes intended to safeguard women in the refugee community in Cox's Bazar.

Lord Bates (Minister of State, Department for International Development), 18.9.18: The UK recognises that Rohingya communities need empowerment, leadership and influence within camps in Cox's Bazar. The UK ensures that our partners work alongside the refugee community when implementing programmes and has funded coordination work between partners on communicating with refugees, including ensuring that the voices of girls and women are included.

BURMA MYANMAR / BANGLADESH / ROHINGYA / WOMEN

[HL10212](#)

Lord Judd (Lab) asks HMG what action they are taking to assist local organisations with expertise on gender issues in their contribution to the safety and well-being of Rohingya women refugees.

Lord Bates, 18.9.18: The UK is leading the way in supporting a range of organisations providing specialised help to women and survivors of sexual violence in Bangladesh. DFID funds the UNFPA and UNHCR who have local implementing partners, such as Brac and Mukti, who provide access to sexual and reproductive health care and support for survivors of gender-based violence for over 200,000 refugees. DFID works with UN agencies to incorporate refugee feedback and voice in the humanitarian response. The UK recognises the importance of including Rohingya leadership, especially women, in the humanitarian response and discussions on the future of the Rohingya people.

BURMA MYANMAR / ROHINGYA

[HL10260](#)

Lord Judd (Lab) asks HMG what representations they are making, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to the government of Myanmar to address the issues and policies which have led to the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office), 19.9.18: The Government has consistently urged the Government of Burma to address the underlying issues in Rakhine, including discrimination against the Rohingya community. The UK supported the Rakhine Advisory Commission (RAC) and continues to push for full implementation of the RAC's recommendations as the best opportunity for a long-term and sustainable settlement in Rakhine State. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific discussed the situation in Rakhine during a telephone conversation with Minister for International Co-operation Kyaw Tin on 17 August whilst in the region. The UK has consistently raised the crisis in multilateral settings; most recently I chaired a session at the UN Security Council on 28 August under the UK's Presidency, and also raised the issue of the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Community during my address to the Human Rights Council on 17 September.

LIBYA

[HL9974](#)

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) asks HMG what international action they are participating in to prevent exploitations, abuse and maltreatment of migrants and refugees in Libya (1) in detention camps, and (2) in the local economy.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, 17.9.18: The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to support Libya's political stability and reform. As part of the Department for International Development's £75 million migration programme working along the Central Mediterranean route, up to £5 million will be allocated to humanitarian assistance and protection for migrants and refugees in Libya. Alongside this, we continue to help fund the European Union Trust Fund, which works in a number of countries, including Libya, where it focuses on improving conditions for migrants in detention centres. Alongside this the UK has also committed to increase efforts to tackle smuggling and trafficking by building the capacity of Libyan law enforcement agencies, and taking steps to hold those responsible to account. In June 2018, the UK co-designated UN sanctions against six Libyan and Eritrean traffickers along with France, US, Germany and the Netherlands.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES / UNRWA

[HL10230](#)

Baroness Tonge (non-affiliated) asks HMG what action, if any, they plan to take to support hospitals situated in East Jerusalem following recent reductions by the United States in financial aid.

Lord Bates, (Minister of State, Department for International Development) 18.9.18: The UK is working closely with our international partners to ensure a coordinated response to ensure the effective delivery of medical services across the OPTs. UK financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority helps to enable around 185,000 medical consultations annually.

The UK is also a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which provides basic services, including basic healthcare, to over 800,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem. We have recently provided two financial uplifts to UNRWA, totalling £17 million to the Programme Budget, which will help to alleviate pressures on health services for Palestinian refugees.

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES / UNRWA

[HL10217](#)

The Marquess of Lothian (Con) asks HMG when the UK will deliver its next round of aid to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA); what action they are taking to ensure the continued sustainable delivery of UNRWA's services, further to the United States State Department's announcement on 31 August that the United States will no longer commit to further funding for UNRWA; and what representations they have made to the government of the United States about the State Department's characterisation of UNRWA as "irredeemably flawed".

Lord Bates, 18.9.18: The UK has so far provided £45.5 million to the Programme Budget of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), including two recent uplifts totalling £17

million the past four months; an increase of 60% to our planned Programme Budget contribution of £28.5 million.

We continue to work with international partners to help unlock further funding for UNRWA and are considering further financial support. When the US announced their intention to withhold a planned disbursement to UNRWA in January, we were sympathetic about the need for a broader donor base, but made clear our concerns about the impact on UNRWA's activities that any unexpected reductions or delays in predicted donor disbursements might have, and our widely shared concerns about risks to regional stability. We continue to engage with the US on this at official and Ministerial levels.

SUDAN / CHAD / DARFUR

[HL10296](#)

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) asks HMG how many internally displaced people they estimate to be living in Darfur; how many Darfuri refugees they estimate to be living in Chad; whether they consider it safe for displaced people and refugees to return to their homes; what are their estimates of food shortages and the potential for famine in the region; whether they consider it would be safe for the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur to withdraw their peacekeepers from Darfur by 2020; and if so, on what grounds they reached that conclusion.

Lord Bates, 21.9.18: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that 1.6 million Internally Displaced People are living in Darfur. Over 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in Chad. The UN estimated in July that the number of people requiring urgent food assistance (in phases 3 and 4 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification system) is expected to rise to 6.2 million. The UK is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

A voluntary programme for the safe and dignified repatriation of Darfuri refugees from Chad, administered by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Governments of Sudan and Chad, is ongoing. Since the programme began in April, around 350 refugees have returned to their places of residence in Darfur.

The security situation has evolved in much of Darfur, and therefore it makes sense that the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) should also change. The UN Security Council resolution adopted in July this year provides the Mission with a mandate that fits the evolving situation. Nevertheless, while there have been improvements, we recognise that the security situation remains fragile. We therefore continue to support a gradual, conditions-based withdrawal of UNAMID, contingent upon a fully benchmarked exit strategy, to ensure that improvements in the security situation are sustained.

SYRIA / TURKEY

[HL10262](#)

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Con) asks HMG what discussions they have had with the government of Turkey to identify the level of support that is needed to deal with any expected influx of refugees to Turkey from Idlib province; and what support they intend to provide as a result of such discussions.

Lord Bates, 19.9.18: The UK maintains a regular dialogue – at all levels – with the Turkish authorities on a range of humanitarian issues, including contingency planning for large scale movements of people from Idlib and surrounding areas, as well as support for those currently located in the Northwest Syria.

The UK is supporting refugees and host communities in Turkey through EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT). The FRIT is supporting refugees and host communities by building schools, providing health services and social welfare payments for the most vulnerable refugees, to alleviate pressure on Turkish communities hosting refugees. The UK committed €328 million to the FRIT in 2016, as well as an additional €155 million in 2018.

The UK is already supporting those living in Northwest Syria, and has boosted this support in preparation for a regime offensive in the region. On 13 September, DFID announced additional aid funding of up to £42 million for Northern Syria. This money will help to provide Syrians affected by a regime military offensive with shelter, clean water and sanitation, mental health services, and support of health workers and facilities.