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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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29 September 2020

Dear Sir George

Thank you for your email of 14 September 2020 with enclosures to the Home Secretary on behalf of [REDACTED] and other constituents, about refugee resettlement in the UK. I am replying as the Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts.

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions and pressures, both overseas and in the UK, it is not currently possible to undertake any refugee resettlement activity.

We are evaluating how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume resettlement when it is safe to do so.

Refugees already resettled in the UK continue to receive support, however the scope of that support is limited by social distancing requirements. We are asking local authorities and community sponsors to use other channels such as telephone, email and Skype to keep in contact with and provide support to resettled refugee families.

In June 2019, the Government reaffirmed the UK's commitment to refugee resettlement by announcing a new, global UK Resettlement Scheme, which we had anticipated – prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 – would have begun in the second quarter of 2020. This announcement was a clear statement of intent and the department is working to secure longer-term funding for future years through the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

The UK is proud to hold a global leadership role in resettlement and we will resume the delivery of our humanitarian commitments as soon as circumstances allow.

**Chris Philp MP**  
**Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts**