



Home Office

Chris Philp MP Parliamentary Under-  
Secretary of State

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Vale of White Horse District Council  
Mark Stone Chief Executive  
Emily Smith Council Leader

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19 March 2021

Dear Mr Stone and Councillor Smith

Global Britain has a proud record of helping those fleeing persecution, oppression or tyranny from around the world. In addition to providing £10 billion each year to support people in need through overseas aid, the UK is a global leader in refugee resettlement. Between 2016 and 2019 we resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any EU member state.

Through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), the Government committed in 2015 to help 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees (including those requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk) who have fled the brutal conflict in Syria to find safety and rebuild their lives in the UK, making it the largest resettlement scheme in Europe.

I am delighted to be able to write to you today to confirm that we have now resettled 20,080 vulnerable refugees through the VPRS since the 20,000 commitment was made in 2015, delivering on this ambitious commitment and providing safety to thousands of vulnerable refugees.

This remarkable achievement is something we should all be extremely proud of and has been made possible because of the outstanding commitment of local authorities, the devolved administrations, NGOs, our international partners, community and faith groups, and individual members of the public. I would like to extend my personal thanks to you for the vital contribution that your local authority has made towards this success.

Resettlement is vital to safely and legally provide a path to settlement for vulnerable people fleeing persecution and it is right that we continue to offer safe pathways for those in need of protection. The launch of our new global UK Resettlement Scheme will now build on the success of previous schemes and we will continue our proud record of resettling refugees who need our help from around the world.

This Government continues to step forward to provide help to those facing persecution, oppression or tyranny. This year we have also introduced a new pathway to citizenship for British National (Overseas) status holders and their family members who are facing draconian new security laws in Hong Kong which may see an estimated 320,000 people come to the UK over the next 5 years.

This is in addition to over 29,000 close relatives of refugees who have been able to join them in the UK through refugee family reunion in the last five years.

Looking ahead, as we reform the asylum system, Global Britain will continue its proud tradition of providing safe haven to those in need through safe and legal routes and I look forward to continuing to work with your local authority to achieve this.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Philp', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Chris Philp MP**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Immigration Compliance and Justice**