



Home Office

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration

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Council Leaders
Local Authorities in England

Sent via email



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith

17 June 2019

Dear Leader,

We are writing to inform you that the Government has today reaffirmed our commitment to the resettlement of refugees in anticipation of the conclusion of our three largest resettlement schemes in 2020. We hope this is welcome news to you and your communities. The success of resettlement in the UK to date has been achieved by working in partnership with over 300 local authorities. Many of you are participating in delivering the current schemes and your work to support and integrate these vulnerable refugees is greatly appreciated.

In the statement the Home Secretary has made to Parliament, he set out the Government's ongoing commitment to resettlement. We will consolidate our biggest schemes into a new global resettlement scheme. Our priority will be to continue to resettle the most vulnerable refugees, identified and referred by UNHCR. Under the global resettlement scheme, we will broaden our geographical focus beyond the Middle East and North Africa region and will also be better placed to swiftly respond to international crises in coordination with global partners.

In the first year of operation, the UK will aim to resettle in the region of 5,000 of the world's most vulnerable refugees. Ensuring local authorities can provide resettled refugees with the help and support they need to successfully integrate in their new communities remains central to our approach. Hence, we are happy to confirm we have retained current funding rates for those arriving in the first year of the scheme, meaning a local authority will continue to receive the five-year tariff of £20,520 for each refugee with a top-up (for year 1) for children aged 3-18 years.

A new process for emergency resettlement will also be developed, allowing the UK to respond quickly to instances of heightened protection need, providing a faster route to protection where lives are at risk. We will work closely with local authorities, regional Strategic Migration Partnerships and other partners over the coming months as we develop the new arrangements.

The Community Sponsorship scheme, which enables community groups to directly welcome and support refugees in the UK, will continue. Building on the experience of delivering the current schemes and the significant contribution of our community sponsors, a key part of our resettlement offer will be that those resettled through our community sponsorship and Mandate routes will be in addition to our yearly, global commitment.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution that many of you have made in delivering the current commitments. We hope you will continue to support refugees under the new scheme. In addition, we would welcome pledges of support from authorities yet to engage in resettlement. Our officials will be in touch soon to provide more detailed information on how you can support us. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Over the last few years, we have together made significant progress in our contribution to global resettlement efforts. We recognise the positive difference that local authorities, regional Strategic Migration Partnerships, communities, and community sponsors have made to the lives of refugees resettled in the UK. It is right that we today reaffirm our ongoing commitment to supporting refugees, and to working with partners to find a longer-term approach to refugee protection – an approach that restores dignity and offers refugees a viable future.

We are copying this letter to regional Strategic Migration Partnerships.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yours ever Caroline".

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration
Home Office

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yours ever Lord Bourne".

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith
Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government