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BH23 5DQ

Mr Christopher Chope MP

House of Commons,

London,

SW1A 0AA

13th September 2015

Dear Mr Chope

I am writing to you because I want to show our Prime Minister that people across the UK, like me, want to welcome more refugees. This is especially needed now that the Prime Minister has begun to show by his statement to the House last week a willingness to listen. His commitment to resettle thousands more Syrians could be an important first step to achieving a truly comprehensive and effective response to a global refugee crisis.

Britain has a moral responsibility to offer safe haven to people fleeing war and persecution. A responsibility that should be shared with our European neighbours and not simply shouldered by the countries closest to the turbulence driving people from their homes.

People are dying. The world is facing the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. They are dying in large numbers – crammed into trucks and boats – desperately in search of a safe and sustainable future for themselves and their loved ones. Every death is a tragic indictment of Europe’s failure to provide safe and legal routes for refugees to find safety in Europe.

The consequences of our inaction plays out on our TV screens daily. According to the United Nations, 2,500 have already perished en route to Europe since January 2015. Please urge the UK government, on behalf of your constituents, to wake up to the urgency of the current crisis and work with its European counterparts to offer immediate humanitarian help and agree long-term solutions to refugee resettlement.

I am proud of moments in our country’s history when we have provided a haven for refugees from across the globe. There is more we can and should do now. We can be part of the solution; our country can step up and provide safe refuge to those fleeing for their lives from places like war-torn Syria and Afghanistan, and brutal regimes in Eritrea and Sudan.

It’s time for the UK to accept its fair share of people fleeing war and persecution, and to show more leadership on this issue – particularly in Europe. Our government has rightly called on other countries to give far more by way of humanitarian aid to support refugees and improve stability elsewhere. But we cannot expect the sort of commitment and cooperation needed on that front, if the UK continues to refuse to share responsibility with other European countries for the refugees arriving on our continent.

Yours sincerely

David Rogers