



20 December 2019

Dear local authorities,

UK Resettlement Scheme – pledges to resettle refugees

The Government is committed to supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people who seek protection in the UK through resettlement and asylum routes. We could not do this without the ongoing commitment and support of local authorities and your communities. I would like to thank you for the important contribution local authorities, such as yours, make to resettlement, the asylum system, or both.

On 17 June, the then Minister of State for Immigration and the Minister for Faith wrote to your Leader to tell them about the new UK Resettlement Scheme. Since then we know that many of you have been considering how to start, or continue, contributing to the UK resettlement effort. In the year 2020-21, we aim to resettle in the region of 5,000 refugees. I am grateful to those who have already indicated your clear commitment to support this important humanitarian effort.

We intend the start of the new scheme to follow seamlessly the arrival of the 20,000th refugee through the existing Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme. We have begun to receive referrals under the new scheme from UNHCR and anticipate arrivals from early April.

To ensure a smooth flow of arrivals through transition we now need a fuller picture of the number of places that local authorities across the UK are able to offer. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could **please let your Regional Strategic Migration Partnership know, by Friday 31 January, how many refugees you will pledge to resettle in 2020-21**. In some authorities, you may still be working through your decision-making process. If that is the case, please do let us know: this is certainly not the final opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the UK Resettlement Programme.

If you wish to clarify aspects of the scheme, please **get in touch with your Regional Strategic Migration Partnership or your Resettlement Contact Officer who will be happy to help**.

In talking about numbers, it might be possible to lose sight of the individual lives that we are impacting positively, and in many cases saving, through our resettlement schemes. We know that behind each successful resettlement is a huge amount of planning and ongoing hard work. Thank you again for your invaluable support for resettlement through the current schemes, as well as your support for those who arrive through asylum routes. I look forward to hearing from you in relation to the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Carr', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kate Carr

Director of Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration