

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Cc: The Prime Minister, Mrs Theresa May

21st February, 2017

Dear Minister

We are writing to add our voices to the many critics, including from Conservative MPs, of the Government's decision to close the scheme for bringing unaccompanied children to Britain under the Dubs Amendment. This amounts to turning Britain's backs on the most vulnerable refugees, leaving them prey to smugglers, traffickers, prostitution, not to mention day-to-day problems of basic survival. We consider closure of the scheme to be shameful, considering the risks to these children and the relatively low numbers involved, and at odds with the parliamentary support the Dubs Amendment gained. Instead, Britain could do the right thing and lead the way on this issue.

It is good that Britain provides substantial amounts of aid to refugee camps in the Syrian region, but that does not remove the moral responsibility to help unaccompanied child refugees on our doorstep.

We appeal to you to reopen the scheme for providing asylum to unaccompanied child refugees. We understand there are councils that are ready to take more children, if the Government will provide the necessary funding. We urge you to do this without delay.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our appeal.

Yours sincerely