**Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme**

**Frequently asked questions and answers**

**Why won’t you tell us how many vulnerable people have arrived since the PM’s announcement?**

The refugees that we are bringing to the United Kingdom are very vulnerable people.  Our prime concern is their safety and protection as they arrive in this country. We believe that one way to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available. We want to ensure the understandable public interest in the scheme is not based on a running commentary on the numbers that have arrived.

**Why did you decide to expand the VPR scheme?**

The UK is at the forefront of the response to the crisis in Syria and this expansion is part of our comprehensive approach designed as far as possible to help refugees in the region but recognising that for some vulnerable people the only solution is to bring them to countries like the UK.

**Isn’t this a u-turn?**

No. The UK already has some of the largest and longest running resettlement schemes in the EU, providing sanctuary to around 1,000 refugees a year. We see targeted resettlement as part of a sustainable plan to tackle the root causes of these crises and reduce the need to make dangerous journeys often in the hands of ruthless criminals. Our response must adapt to the changing situation.

**How many additional people will you resettle?**

The Government will expand the existing Syrian VPR Scheme and we expect to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament.  This is in addition to those we resettle under Gateway and Mandate and the thousands who receive protection in the UK under normal asylum procedures.

**Why aren’t you taking more?**

Our priorities are humanitarian aid and actively seeking an end to the crisis.  We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK’s help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries.

**Why aren’t you participating in the EU quota scheme?**

We have made it very clear that resettlement schemes are best decided at a national level and that we will not sign up to a compulsory EU quota.  We believe we can make the greatest contribution by focusing our assistance on the most vulnerable people, rather than subscribing to a quota scheme.  Our view of relocation of refugees within the EU remains the same – it is the wrong response.  Instead we will provide support to those countries facing particular pressures and our focus will remain on helping the most vulnerable who remain in the region.

**What about the Syrians in Calais, will you be admitting them under this scheme?** No, Syrians in Calais will not be admitted under this scheme. This scheme is only for vulnerable Syrian refugees still in the region (primarily in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey)

**How will you ensure that the individuals admitted under this programme do not pose a security risk to the UK?** We take security extremely seriously in cases referred to us for resettlement, working closely with the UNHCR who have their own robust identification processes in place.  When potential cases are submitted by the UNHCR for our consideration they are screened and considered by the Home Office for suitability for entry to the UK: we retain the right to reject individuals on security, war crimes or other grounds.