

Ben Bradshaw MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA



Exeter City of Sanctuary
c/o CoLab
King William Street
Exeter
EX4 6PD

18/10/17

Dear Ben

Re: Unaccompanied Child Refugees in Calais + EU

Calais Action: Outside Parliament 24th October and subsequent Parliamentary Debate.

We are writing to you firstly to thank you for your recent letter (Ref. C/Ind/MILNO1011) and for the on-going support you have offered us as regards unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We know that this is an issue of concern to you. As you say in your letter there is much more the Government could do now both -

- To speed up family reunions so children aren't waiting months or years alone in Calais and risking their lives or vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.
- To fill all *480 places allocated to the 'Dubs' scheme* (raised in April from the initial 350 places offered). Only 200 children have been transferred since the Dubs Amendment was passed in May '16 –**and none at all this year.**

The second reason we are writing is let you know of two imminent events at Parliament on this issue, including an urgent parliamentary debate:

1. **Next Tuesday 24th October** there is a **Day of Action** for the *child refugees of Calais* outside Parliament at 12pm at George V statue. This is being organised by 'Safe Passage' and 'Help Refugees'- led by Lord Dubs, to urge the Government to take action.
2. **An urgent Parliamentary debate** titled '*Calais and Unaccompanied Child Refugees in Europe*' has just been approved. The debate is likely to be held next week (? 26th October) but the exact date and time has not yet been confirmed due to a busy parliamentary timetable.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend and participate in the forthcoming Parliamentary debate. (Apologies for the short notice but we have only just been notified of the debate's approval). We know there is very strong feeling locally in Exeter about the dreadful plight of the estimated 200 children currently sleeping under trees and rough in Calais- many with a legal right to family re-union here or eligible for 'Dubs', but unable to access it. There are many more very vulnerable child refugees alone and 'at risk' in EU.

Please could you let us know Ben:

1. If you will be able to attend the Parliamentary debate (date tbc) and represent our views?
2. I, Clare Henry, will be representing our Exeter group and supporters and attending the Safe Passage/Help Refugees action outside Parliament next Tuesday 24th October. Child refugees from Calais will be present. I understand that the plan is we will then be in Central Lobby, Westminster at 1.30pm approx. If you are at the House of Commons on

that day and free to meet in Central Lobby at that time I would appreciate the opportunity to meet briefly with you to discuss the debate and issues. Would that be possible for you?

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you

With best wishes

Signed: Clare Henry on behalf of Exeter City of Sanctuary Campaigns Group and supporters

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