



Letter to Canadian Ambassador and high commission in the UK

15.05.2016

Dear Mr. Gordon Campbell

The Syrian organizations in the UK would like to take this opportunity to thank the Canadian Ambassador, the Canadian Government especially the Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau, and the Canadian people for their outstanding sympathy and support that they have shown to the Syrian refugees in Canada.

We are overwhelmed with the hospitality and generosity of the Canadian Government in the sympathy that it has shown to vulnerable Syrian refugees, in its commitment to taking in 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada and potentially expanding this number in the future, in its establishment of a new Cabinet ad hoc committee of nine ministers to help bring Syrian refugees to Canada, in its hosting of a forum by the Governor General on welcoming Syrian refugees and supporting the settlement and integration process of Syrian refugees to their new home country, and recently in Prime Minister Trudeau's personally welcoming and greeting Syrian refugees at the airport and handing out warm winter coats. These actions have well demonstrated to the entire world Canada's humanitarian tradition and values in sharing responsibility to help people who are vulnerable, displaced and persecuted.

The Canadian people have shown great affection, sympathy and warm hospitality towards Syrian refugees. They have displayed harmony, humanity, and understanding of the hardships that the Syrian people experienced through their crisis. Such actions help maintain alliances with affected peoples like Syrians, improve Canadian diversity and contribute to the country's economy and stability.

As Syrians we are proud to see Syrian refugee families step forward, return the favor, and show great solidarity with the Canadian people who have been affected by the national wildfire disaster in the province of Alberta, which spread quickly forcing more than 100,000 residents of Fort McMurray region to flee the blaze and destroying up to 1,600 homes. Syrian refugee families have helped by organizing local relief efforts, opening up their own homes and supporting families who recently suffered from this disaster. They said, "We totally understand what they have feeling because we have passed through the same situation, we lost everything in just one second." It was a great example of integrity and solidarity.

Syrian organizations in the UK feel obliged to show warm gratitude towards the Canadian people and we express our utmost solidarity and support with the Canadian Government and population. We look forward to strengthening both countries' relationship in the future after we achieve a free and democratic Syria.

Signatories:

- Peace & Justice for Syria
- Rethink Rebuild Society
- SyrCom (Syrian Community in the south west)
- Help 4 Syria UK
- Syrian platform for peace
- SAY (Syrian Association of Yorkshire)
- Scotland 4 Syria
- Kurds House
- Syrian Welsh Society