

CREATING AN EMERGENCY VISA SCHEME FOR SYRIANS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT EARTHQUAKES

The recent death toll of Syria and Türkiye's catastrophic earthquakes exceeded 45,000 deaths. The actual number of deaths is still rapidly increasing. Thousands of Syrian families in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria are left without any shelter or financial support. These families need an immediate and urgent support, particularly since the international humanitarian assistance would take several months to address the accumulating needs of those affected.

Several members of the UK-based Syrian community have first-degree relatives who were badly affected by the earthquakes. These members are able to host their relatives and support them financially.

Amid these exceptional circumstances, we urge the UK government to set up a special temporary scheme, in compliance with the UK's laws and global humanitarian vision, to facilitate granting visas to the Syrian families directly affected by this disaster and who have first-degree relatives residing in the UK.

We also ask the UK government to increase the number of affected Syrians included in the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Community Sponsorship Scheme, in a way that ensures the UK's continuous commitment towards refugees and the international humanitarian law.

Signatories in alphabetical order:

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