



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

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Mr J A Sekulow and Mr R W Ash
European Centre for Law and Justice

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Dear Mr Sekulow and Mr Ash,

Thank you for your letter of 22 December to the Prime Minister, about providing aid to the victims of Daesh atrocities. I am replying as the Minister responsible for our relations with the Middle East.

Alongside our continued commitment to bring Daesh to justice, we are using our aid budget to alleviate the immediate humanitarian suffering of the most vulnerable people in the region, including Christians, Yazidis and other minorities, as well as the majority Muslim population in Iraq and Syria.

The UK has pledged over £2.46 billion in response to the Syria crisis, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. The UK has committed £229.5 million to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq since 2014. This includes at least £20 million this year towards life-saving humanitarian assistance as announced by the Prime Minister during her visit to Iraq in November 2017, to continue meeting the needs of the displaced and to help people return home.

This funding is providing a vital lifeline to millions with clean water, sanitation, essential medicines and funding for Non-Governmental Organisations and charities. We are also providing significant Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) funding to support those who have been victims to sexual abuse, for example, by helping Iraq to implement their National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Throughout the conflict against Daesh, UK aid has provided a vital lifeline to millions of Iraqis who have lost everything and have been forced to flee their homes.

The UK has committed over £90 million in Conflict, Stability and Security Fund funding to Iraq, including over £25 million helping to make areas that have been affected by conflict safe, repair basic infrastructure and rebuild homes so that people can return. We are also one of the largest contributors to the UN's demining programme in Iraq, supporting efforts to clear land so that civilians can return to their homes without the threat of landmines and unexploded remnants of war.

Our support to the UN's Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS) is helping fund over 1,000 projects across Iraq, including over 250 covering health, education and electricity in the Nineweh Plains helping to jump-start local economies and provide vital support to Christian and other minority communities so they may flourish.

We have provided nearly £13 million to the FFS to date; including £1.68 million most recently for the repair of housing in West Mosul, one of the last areas to be liberated from Daesh and subjected to some of the worst damage.

Ultimately, the only way of safeguarding minority communities is by defeating Daesh. The British Government is committed to this: we have a comprehensive strategy for defeating Daesh and continue to work with our international partners and the UN towards a political settlement in Syria. In Iraq we continue to support Prime Minister al-Abadi and the Government of Iraq helping it to build a stable, secure, prosperous and unified Iraq.

Yours sincerely
Alistair Burt

THE RT HON. ALISTAIR BURT MP
Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa