

Dear MP,

On 1 December a new clause widening access to Refugee Family Reunion will be debated in the House of Commons as part of the Immigration Bill. I am asking you to support this change.

After the trauma of fleeing their home, refugee families can find themselves divided across countries, even continents.

In the UK people with refugee and protection status can bring their spouses and children to join them, but the rules do not stretch further than that.

The British Red Cross have helped reunite nearly 300 refugee families so far this year, but they believe the rules should be extended to cover more family members divided by conflict.

Like the two Syrian brothers who wanted to reunite with their mother. She was in a camp in Iraq and had recently been imprisoned in Syria. Despite her vulnerability, as a woman alone with no other family and in a second country, she did not qualify for refugee family reunion.

Or like the Syrian-born Palestinian refugee who wished to bring his wife and children to join him in the UK. The family had fled Syria and were living in a camp in Lebanon. Unfortunately, their eldest son was aged 20 at the time of making the application. His wife and younger children were granted visas, but his elder son was refused due to his age. The family are now divided.

The new clause on Refugee Family Reunion has cross-party support. It would strengthen an existing safe and legal route for refugees, help avoid potentially life-threatening journeys across Europe, and help thousands more refugees every year.

Please vote for Refugee Family Reunion.

- Because refugee families should not be divided by conflict
- Because we believe the UK Government should do more to provide safe and legal routes for refugees

Yours,