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www.gov.uk/number10

THE PRIME MINISTER

9 November 2015

Dear Students

Thank you very much for sending me your thoughtful letter.

Like you, I have seen the very sad news reports and photographs of the many people, including children, who have left their own countries to seek a new life in Europe.

Many of these families are fleeing the terrible conflict in Syria and, unfortunately, too many of them do not make it to safety. That is why it is so important for us to help people before they make these incredibly dangerous journeys.

Our country is giving more money than any other, except the United States, to help vulnerable people in Syria and those who have escaped to neighbouring countries. Since 2012, we have spent over £1 billion on assistance. We have provided more than 15 million food rations, helped 1.6 million people to access clean water and supported over 200,000 children to get an education.

All of this is made possible by our promise to spend 0.7% of our country's income on overseas aid. The world's richest countries have all promised to do this but only we have kept that promise. We should all be very proud of this achievement and the real difference it is making to people's lives.

However, the scale of this crisis means we need to do more. Our country has a long and proud history of helping people who are fleeing war and persecution to find a new home here with us. In that spirit, I recently announced that we will welcome an additional 20,000 Syrian refugees into this country.