House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear [insert the name of your MP],

**Syria**

I’m writing as a Christian and a Tearfund supporter, to ask that the UK do more to help bring peace to Syria. As you may know the 15th of March will mark the 5th Anniversary of the Syria conflict, a conflict that has raged for too long. This conflict has stolen the lives of over 250,000 people. It has stolen the futures of over a million people through injury. Over 5 years it has stolen the safety and security of families by displacing 6.6 million within Syria and causing4.8 million more to flee the country.

It is for this reason I am writing to you as my MP to urge you to encourage the UK Government to ensure that everything possible is being done to make 2016 the year this conflict ends.

I greatly welcome the UK’s efforts in hosting the Supporting Syria & the Region 2016 conference and the commitments made by the Prime Minister to provide an extra £1.2bn in international aid to help fund education, create jobs and enhance humanitarian protection in Syria and surrounding countries.

Following the conference, it is vital that the UK demonstrate the same level of commitment and resourcing to the pursuit of a political solution. It is with this in mind that I am calling upon the UK to commit the full potential of its diplomatic influence (including its position on the United Nations Security Council and G8) to help create and encourage an environment conducive to a successful peace dialogue between direct and indirect parties to the conflict and ensure that UK policy does not undermine these efforts. This can be done by undertaking the following actions:

* The UK to continue to support and strengthen the ongoing cessation of hostilities in Syria (involving the lifting of all sieges and humanitarian access for all), including actively monitoring and holding to account parties in violation of the agreement. This cessation of hostilities must not be a singular moment of reduced conflict but rather a catalyst and starting point for a fuller peace agreement.
* The UK to ensure that British foreign and domestic policy does not contribute to the continuation of the conflict or undermine efforts to reach an inclusive, sustainable and peaceful resolution to the fighting. This must acknowledge the negative impacts of the application of internationally set pre-conditions on the peace process, and include a review of the UK’s conflict analysis - including its sale of weapons and armaments.
* The UK Government must use its position to ensure that non-armed groups including representatives from civil society, faith leaders and community groups are meaningfully engaged in a truly inclusive peace process.
* In particular the UK must take responsibility for ensuring the fulfilment of resolution 1325 to reaffirm: “the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, including where necessary providing financial, logistical and technical support to enable women representatives to participate in the negotiations”.
* The UK Government should boldly use its position on the UNSC and as a lead Humanitarian Donor to maximise the opportunity for full humanitarian access in hard to reach areas, and to ensure that this window does not close.
* Following the Supporting Syria & the Region conference, the UK Government must take a leading role in supporting Governments in the region to implement the compacts agreed in London, to provide refugees in the region with access to quality education, decent work as well as safety and protection from forced return.

Please could you raise my request with Government Ministers and colleagues in the House of Commons at this tragic moment of the 5th Anniversary of the conflict. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely