

Sent by email.

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Home Secretary

Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Foreign Secretary

11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Sajid and Jeremy,

I am writing about the safety and welfare of British children who have become involved in the conflict in Syria. As you will be aware, these are incredibly vulnerable children. Many of them are very young and these children are at huge immediate risk through no fault of their own. When a child is a British citizen, I would expect the British Government to be taking proportionate steps to protect them and I am therefore, extremely concerned to hear reports about multiple British children living in very dangerous situations on the edge of the conflict.

I would be grateful if you could address the following points relating to the British Government's protection of these children:

- 1) Can you confirm that you will not remove British citizenship from any British child, nor remove citizenship from any adult for conduct committed while a child?
- 2) Can you confirm how many British national children are you believe to be located in camps (a) in Syria; (b) in neighbouring countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey etc)?
- 3) Can you outline what efforts you are taking to protect the safety and welfare of British national children who are resident in camps in Syria? In relation to those children in camps in neighbouring countries, can you confirm that all the families including young children have been offered consular assistance? Can you outline what this assistance includes, and how many children have been helped?
- 4) Can you confirm how many families with young children are believed to have returned from Syria? How many of these have been through the Channel process? I would be grateful if you could outline what processes are in place through the Channel process to protect the children within these families.

Because of the serious nature of these issues I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Select Committees.

Best wishes,



**Anne Longfield**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**

Children's Commissioner for England: [Anne Longfield OBE](#)

Post: Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT  
Tel: 020 7783 8330 Email: [info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.request@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)  
Visit: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Help at hand is a service for children and young people in care, leaving care, living away from home or working with children's services  
Tel: 0800 528 0731 Email: [help.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:help.team@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk)

 [childrenscommissionersoffice](#)

 [@ChildrensComm](#)

 [childrenschampion](#)

