

20th October 2016

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about children in Mosul.

The protection of civilians during armed conflict is a priority for the UK and its allies. When it comes to children, all efforts must be made to protect them from harm.

The international coalition against Daesh is aiming to liberate Mosul in a way that minimises the humanitarian impact. The UK Government is engaging with the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, our coalition partners, the UN and other international organisations to ensure comprehensive plans are in place to achieve this.

The International Development Secretary has urged all parties in the conflict to ensure aid agencies get the access and support they need and that international humanitarian law is upheld. The Iraqi Government has committed to protecting civilians during the conflict, which I welcome.

The UK has committed £169.5 million since summer 2014 to help those affected by Daesh in Iraq and this includes £40 million in new funding announced last month to help put in place essential humanitarian support ahead of the military operation. The UK is also the largest contributor to the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund.

With regards to people who choose to leave Mosul, the UK is working with partners to ensure stabilisation efforts allow internally displaced persons to return to their homes safely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP