

December 2016

Dear Home Secretary,

We, civil society leaders from XXXX, are writing to you because while it is over a month since the Calais 'jungle' was demolished, as Christmas approaches, 1600 unaccompanied children are still stuck in limbo in centres across France.

At the time of the demolition you told Parliament it would be a good outcome if Britain took in 'half' of the total number of unaccompanied children.

It is now clear that there were some 2000 unaccompanied children in Calais at the time of demolition, many more than first thought. However, we believe the commitment to half remains the right one.

Britain showed real moral leadership in bringing 300 children to safety during the demolition period, and this would not have happened had it not been for the personal commitment you showed to these children and to ensuring the rescue operation was delivered.

But we hope you will agree that our obligation to the children of Calais extends beyond the existence of the camp.

Many of the children left in France have family in the UK they have a legal right to be reunited with. Many more of different nationalities and ages could benefit from sanctuary through the Dubs route we like so many across the country supported.

Rather than looking to close down opportunities for safe, legal routes to sanctuary for these children, we urge you to focus on delivering the commitment you made to take in half of these children.

Given the 95,000 unaccompanied children who entered Europe last year, 1000 children in total from the Calais 'jungle' seems like a small responsibility for Britain to meet.

Like communities across the country, we stand ready to welcome these children and support them to build a full and dignified life when they reach the UK.

This is no more than Britain has always done for those fleeing conflict and persecution, and we urge you to deliver on those values again now.

Signed:

Increasing the power of communities to participate in public life

112 Cavell Street · London · E1 2JA  
tel 020 7043 9881 · fax 020 7375 2034  
email [info@citizensuk.org.uk](mailto:info@citizensuk.org.uk) · web [www.citizensuk.org](http://www.citizensuk.org)

