



Sent via email only

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP

15 August 2025

Dear Home Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Health Secretary,

RE: Medical Evacuations from Gaza

We write to you as a cross-party group of MPs, urging you to recognise the real urgency around medical evacuations and act on some of the barriers that are preventing the very sickest children from being evacuated from Gaza as outlined below. We have been working with Médecins Sans Frontières to ensure the evacuation can begin at the soonest possibility.

Whilst we welcome news the Government is finally prioritising this, we must impress upon you the urgency of the situation before us. The healthcare system in Gaza has been decimated, essential infrastructure destroyed and long blockade of food, water, medical supplies and the ongoing extreme violence has led to a medical and humanitarian catastrophe of horrific proportion.

No one is spared and conditions are worsening by the minute. The World Health Organisation estimate more than 14,800 Palestinians are in urgent need of medical evacuation - including children at immediate risk of death from trauma injuries and severe pre-existing conditions, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Given this grave reality, we urge the Government to launch the medical evacuation scheme without delay. As the scheme is developed, we ask you to address the following considerations and provide urgent clarification to the questions outlined below:

- 1. Timeline:** Please confirm the planned timeline for the scheme. This should be done in close coordination with the WHO and civil society organisations, with all eligible evacuees and their accompanying family members expedited as a matter of urgency.
- 2. Medical needs first:** The prioritisation of medical evacuations from Gaza must be determined solely based on clinical necessity and individual case assessment, without regard to financial implications, political considerations or reputational interests.



3. **Funding:** Large-scale evacuations cannot rely on private donations or diversion of aid from other conflict responses. We urge you to ensure adequate Government funding for medical treatment, psychosocial support, housing and other essential costs.
4. **Family unification:** It is vital that children are accompanied by parents, close family members or another appropriate caregiver. There is clear medical evidence to suggest their presence can positively impact the recovery of sick or injured children.
5. **Legal status of evacuees:** Please clarify the legal status of evacuees upon arrival in the UK and following completion of their medical treatment, including any rights to remain and pathways to settlement. We would urge that children and their families are given the option of applying for asylum, humanitarian protection or the chance to resettle in the UK. Evacuees must not be returned to Gaza.
6. **Biometrics:** The requirement for biometrics as a prerequisite to issue visas remains a major barrier, given that the only authorised biometrics centre in Gaza closed in October 2023. We urge you to waive biometric requirements for evacuees under this scheme and permit applications to be completed after departure from Gaza.

We trust you will address these urgent points as the scheme is finalised, and we look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Simon Opher MP
Sarah Champion MP
Nadia Whittome MP
Apsana Begum MP
Ayoub Khan MP
Christine Jardine MP
Sian Berry MP
Peter Lamb MP
Cat Smith MP
Mary Glendon MP
Yasmin Qureshi MP
Cat Eccles MP
Jodie Gosling MP

Brendan O'Hara MP
Neil Duncan – Jordan MP
Andrew George MP
Colum Eastwood MP
Paula Barker MP
Rachael Maskell MP
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Anna Gelderd MP
Bell Ribiero-Addy MP
Olivia Blake MP
Matt Western MP
Claire Hanna MP
Jon Trickett MP
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Afzal Khan MP
Carla Denyer MP
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Dáire Hughes MP
John Finucane MP
Pat Cullen MP
Chris Hazzard MP
Paul Maskey MP
Cathal Mallaghan MP
Helen Maguire MP
Kim Johnson MP
Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP
Ben Lake MP
Linos Medi MP
Ann Davies MP
Abtisam Mohamed MP
Irene Campbell MP
Clive Efford MP
Chris Hinchcliff MP
Lee Barron MP
Clive Lewis MP
John McDonnell MP
Brian Leishman MP
Richard Burgon MP
Ian Lavery MP

Andy McDonald MP
Kate Osborne MP
Emma Lewell MP
Allison Gardner MP
Martin Rhodes MP
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Marsha DeCordova MP
Ben Maguire MP
Calum Miller MP
Liz Jarvis MP
Vikki Slade MP
Mohammad Yasin MP
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Pete Wishart MP
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James Frith MP
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Kirsteen Sullivan MP
David Baines MP
Tracey Gilbert MP
Maya Ellis MP
Lillian Jones MP
Julia Buckley MP
Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP
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Dr Beccy Cooper MP
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