

Mrs Anne Main MP
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

H.E. Md. Nazmul Quaunine,
Bangladesh High Commission
28 Queen's Gate
London
SW7 5JA

9 May 2018

Dear High Commissioner,

We write to you regarding the proposed relocation of between 70,000-100,000 Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char Island by the government of Bangladesh.

In 2017, the government of Bangladesh introduced plans for the development of 13,000 acres of land on the island of Bhasan Char in the Bay of Bengal, for the temporary accommodation of over 70,000 Rohingya refugees. This proposal would relocate these refugees from the Kutupalong and Balukhali camps in Cox's Bazaar. These plans propose the accommodation of one tenth of the total 700,000 refugee population, who have fled from the violence of the Myanmar military since August 2017.

We would like to raise our concerns with the uninhabitable nature of Bhasan Char. The Island itself is vulnerable to persistent flooding and cyclones due to its topography, with the island regularly disappearing underwater for months during the annual monsoon season. Furthermore, there is increasing concern about whether adequate resources, such as food and water, in addition to facilities and humanitarian access, will be available for Rohingya refugees on Bhasan Char Island. The most immediate worry is the planned settlement becoming a prison camp, denying resettled refugees basic human rights, resources and international support.

We would like to ask you, as High Commissioner, to urge the government of Bangladesh to consider the unsuitability and risks of Bhasan Char for the relocation of tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees. However, if the government of Bangladesh insists on using the Island, we would be grateful to hear how they will be able to deliver humanitarian access, facilities and

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resources to adequate levels, as well as protection from persecution, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to your response.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Main".

Anne Main MP
Co-Chair of the APPG on the Rights of the Rohingya

Rushanara Ali MP - Co-Chair of the APPG on the Rights of the Rohingya

Paul Scully MP

Baroness Berridge

Baroness Uddin

Lord Ahmed

Baroness Nye

Shabana Mahmood

Nic Dakin MP

Rt Hon Ann Clywd MP

Bob Blackman MP

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