

Mrs Anne Main MP  
St Albans



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

9 May 2018

Dear Foreign Secretary,

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 Bazar.

We would like to raise our grave 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.

In response to recently tabled parliamentary questions to the Department of International Development, the Minister made clear that the Department also **"has concerns that the island may not provide safe accommodation for Rohingya refugees and we have shared these concerns with the Government of Bangladesh"**.

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Therefore, we would like to ask the UK government to use its influence to ensure that Bhasan Char is not used for the resettling of tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees.

Thank you in advance and we look forward to hearing what work is being done to ensure the safety and protection of the Rohingya refugees on this matter.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink 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**

**Lord Ahmed**

**Baroness Uddin**

**Shabana Mahmood**

**Baroness Nye**

**Rt Hon Ann Clywd MP**

**Nic Dakin MP**

**Bob Blackman MP**

**Imran Hussain MP**

**Baroness Cox**

**Roberta Blackman-Woods MP**

**Ronnie Campbell MP**

**Baroness Kinnock**

**Rt Hon John Spellar MP**

**Baroness Berridge**

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