Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme - Overview

Background
On 29 January, the Home Secretary made a statement to Parliament outlining the Government's intention to relocate to the UK some of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, displaced to neighbouring countries by the ongoing conflict.

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme will run in parallel with the UNHCR's Syria Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP). The scheme is based on need rather than being designed to meet a quota. In particular, the programme will prioritise help for survivors of torture and violence, and women and children at risk or in need of medical care.

Funding
As with the Gateway Refugee Resettlement programme, central government will meet the costs of the arrivals in terms of accommodation and integration support, health and education costs for the first year from arrival.

Individuals will be given 5 years leave to remain with full access to public funds and benefits from the point of arrival.

Numbers and case types
We have not set a specific quota for the programme. For planning purposes, we are working on the basis that overall the UK would take around 500 people (not cases) over the next 2-3 years – with around 150 in the first year. We expect that the caseload will include families (with both parents), women and children at risk cases (i.e. single parent families – female headed) and medical cases. We do not expect unaccompanied children to form part of the initial caseload (and if they do, these will be brought across under separate arrangements).

Timing
We are aiming to bring the first group of families to the UK by late March. Our plan is to bring in at least one group (comprising 2/3 families) per month.

A more detailed briefing will be circulated to local authorities and partners shortly. In the meantime, to discuss the scheme in more depth please contact:

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