

Many constituents have written to me about refugee children, an issue I care about strongly.

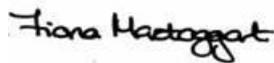
I have raised the issue of refugee children several times in Parliament. I have asked questions about unaccompanied children which you can see [here](#). My [question](#) asking how many children had applied for asylum or family reunion revealed that the Home Office is failing these vulnerable children and not storing crucial data. I raised [this](#) in the House of Commons later, pointing out the fact that the approach being taken is failing children.

I have also [suggested](#) that the Department of Education and Home Office work together to provide support to children

In my capacity of Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, I have [highlighted](#) the risk of children going missing and being exploited, I have also worked with colleagues across Parliament and recently held an information session with the APPG Children and APPG Runaway and Missing Children and Adults. I tabled an Early Day Motion on the need for independent advocates for trafficked children, which you can see [here](#) and I am trying to secure a special Adjournment Debate on the issue. Many refugee children have been trafficked, and they need the support of a skilled advocate.

The Government's approach to the refugee crisis has been shambolic, taking too long to bow to pressure from parliament to accept these vulnerable children, and continuing to delay the implementation of their agreement so that children remain in dangerous circumstances while waiting for processing of their applications to come to Britain. There needs to be urgent action to help children that wish to reunite with family in the UK and I will continue to push for this as well as for a strategy which safeguards these children and accelerates action in these cases.

Yours ever,



Fiona Mactaggart MP