

# WELCOME...

**NEW**

## to your Local Lobbyist Pack

Have conversations. Build relationships. Change the world.

Earlier this year, nearly 100 of you told us what you love about being a Local Lobbyist as well as areas where we can improve. We're working on it, starting with the way we communicate with you. I hope you find this new pack easy to use.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop me a line.

*Ashley*

### 5 easy steps to influence your MP

1

#### Seize the moment.

With the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October, what better time to stand up for those in poverty? Millions of displaced people worldwide have been forgotten. Now's the time to act!



2

#### Read this pack!

This pack has the information you need to meet with your MP. Please let us know if you need anything else!

3

#### Prepare for your MP meeting.

Research your MP to see if they are on a relevant committee or if they've asked any questions about displacement in parliament. You can ask us or go to [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com)

4

#### Meet your MP!

Remember, MPs want to hear about why you're passionate about ending poverty. The enclosed MP briefing contains the facts they need, but make sure you tell them why you care about poverty and injustice.



5

#### Give us feedback.

It's really important to let us know if you meet with your MP. It provides us with an overview of MP's responses to our campaign. Fill out the simple form below!

### Latest update

You spoke up! Thanks to all of you who had meetings or events with your MPs during the Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week of Action. There were 40 events with MPs in constituencies across the country.

This success meant MPs saw the huge swathes of support for tackling climate change. Sometimes when we are all focused on large-scale change, it can be easy to overlook the successes along the way. These meetings all add up and help us get closer to a world where everyone can thrive.

**christian  
aid**

We believe in life before death

## Do you know about the forgotten millions?

In 2018, the UN is bringing states together to sign two new agreements, called Compacts, on refugees and migrants.

This gives us a great opportunity to make sure that some of the most vulnerable people in the world are better supported by the international community.

Currently, the world is neglecting the biggest population of displaced people – those who have been forced from home but remain in their own country. Because they have never crossed a border, they often receive little international attention even though they face many of the same challenges as refugees. Of the 65 million people displaced around the world, more than 40 million are internally displaced.

We want our politicians and decision makers to recognise the plight of internally displaced people and put displacement on the agenda for this Parliament. Refugees arriving in Europe have dominated the UK media and political conversation, but the humanitarian imperative is to ensure all people are protected, wherever they are and whatever their status. If internally displaced people continue to be shut out of the conversation, the agreements will fail to effectively tackle the problem of forced displacement. Your conversations can highlight this issue.

**As your MP is a minister in a relevant department it's even more important to influence them! It's their responsibility to agree an ambitious position on the UN Compacts with other departments. Please ask them to:**

- Agree with other departments to have a stronger position at the UN, so the Compacts respond comprehensively to all people forced from their homes
- Make sure the UK pursues long-term reforms that provide funding for the protection of refugees and displaced people.



## Focus on the DRC

In 2016, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) had the greatest number of new people displaced by conflict in the world. This year, almost a million people have already been forced to flee.

The scale and nature of the suffering is immense, but it's mostly hidden from public view.

**'In the DRC there is no guarantee of security, especially here in eastern Congo. Shabunda is totally forgotten.'**

Celestin Kirongozi

Celestin fled his home when rebels attacked his village in the DRC. He walked over 300km to seek safety. During his journey he witnessed the murders of nine fellow priests at the hands of a rebel militia. Today he lives in Shabunda and works alongside Christian Aid local partners, helping fellow displaced people.

But Celestin and others like him cannot do it alone. The millions of displaced people in the DRC, and elsewhere, need world leaders to stand up for them now.

## The world's poor don't have a voice in Parliament. You do.

Over the past few months, new MPs have been busy setting up offices, political parties have been reshuffling, and all MPs are starting to think about priorities for this Parliament. As a Local Lobbyist with Christian Aid, you can make sure the voice of the poor is heard in the corridors of power.

Each time you are in touch with your MP, whether you're asking them a question on climate change, displaced people, tax dodging or something else, you're showing them that you care about the poorest in our world. We want our political leaders to know that there are plenty of

people in the UK who are proud of our history of tackling poverty, despite what some parts of the media might have them believe. Make sure that they know why you are so passionate about building a better world each time you speak with them, no matter what you ask them to do.



## Your feedback is important!

Please let me know if you were in touch with your MP. You'll help to build up a picture of the messages they received and we can support you in responding to their questions.

Contact me at [locallobbyist@christian-aid.org](mailto:locallobbyist@christian-aid.org) or 020 7523 2014.

# Briefing for MPs

## Internally displaced people

October 2017

### What you can do

As a Minister, please make the UK a champion for tens of millions of internally displaced people, by:

- agreeing with other departments to have a stronger position at the UN so that the UN Compacts deliver a comprehensive response to all people forced from their homes
- ensuring the UK and other donors pursue reforms for the long-term, and provide predictable and sustainable funding for the protection of refugees and internally displaced people.

People are being forced from their homes on a scale greater than we've ever seen before – but the true picture of displacement remains largely hidden. Media and political attention has been focused on refugees arriving in Europe, but the majority of people who flee are stuck within their own country, seeking safety but unwilling or unable to cross a border. These are internally displaced people – they outnumber refugees two to one and are largely ignored by the international community, denied the official protection afforded to refugees.

The UK played a pivotal role in establishing international recognition of the first 'official' internally displaced people: in 1991, in the wake of the Gulf War, hundreds of thousands of people found themselves trapped at the Turkish border with Iraq. A 13-country relief operation led by the US and UK began, and the UK spurred a UN process for the international community to recognise and respond to the reality of internally displaced people. With displacement at its highest level ever, it's time for the UK and the world to do much more.

### Internally displaced people today

Since 2000, the number of internally displaced people has nearly doubled, and has increased by 10 million in the past four years. It is now at record levels: of the 65 million displaced people worldwide, more than 40 million are within their own country – though the true figure is likely to be much higher.

Tragically, 2016 was a record year. Sub-Saharan Africa overtook the Middle East as the region most affected, due to violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, and South Sudan. A further 2 million people were internally displaced across Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Disasters triggered by natural causes forced 24.2 million people to flee their homes last year, mostly in East Asia and South Asia, and in small island states hit by typhoons and hurricanes. This year, between January and June, 9 million people were internally displaced and millions more were uprooted over the summer months by flooding in South Asia and hurricanes in the Caribbean.

The multifaceted and often catastrophic events that drive displacement leave internally displaced people particularly vulnerable to poverty and exploitation. They and their children are almost twice as likely as refugees to die from conflict-related causes, particularly disease and starvation. With little, if any, aid from international agencies or the UN, they often survive through their own resilience, living among host communities. The fact that they have not crossed a border should not be an excuse to ignore their plight.

Poorer countries bear the brunt of both internal displacement and hosting refugees, which is unfair and, ultimately, unsustainable. We must heed their demands for real and fair solutions.

### Spotlight on Africa

The devastating famine across East Africa – combined with ongoing violence in parts of the continent – has forced so many people to flee that it now rivals the Syria conflict as the world's largest displacement crisis. Most people are displaced within their own country, but many are moving back and forth across borders in search of safety.

- There are 1.89 million internally displaced people in South Sudan, of whom 61% are children. There are a further 1.97 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries. This year, 6 million South Sudanese people face severe food insecurity.



- In neighbouring Sudan, of the 4.8 million people who need humanitarian assistance, nearly half are internally displaced, totalling 2.3 million people, including 2.1 million in Darfur.
- Conflict, drought and the lack of food that follows has caused the displacement of 2 million people across north-east Nigeria.
- Renewed conflict in the DRC has caused almost one million people to flee this year, adding to the 2.2 million who had already been displaced, some for many years. 400,000 children face severe acute malnutrition in the Kasai region alone.

### What must be done

In September 2017 the UN is calling on states to agree two new Compacts on refugees and migrants. This should be a major opportunity to address the global displacement crisis, but so far the more than 40 million internally displaced people are almost invisible in the process, and little is being done to address this. We believe that any deal which does not include internally displaced people – the largest group of displaced people in the world – would be a failure of huge proportions. That's why Christian Aid is calling for a comprehensive response: a fair deal for all people on the move. That means we want the UN and its member states to agree to work towards a deal that is FAIR:

- **Funded:** for the long-term rather than on a short-term appeal basis. States and other donors must put in place long-term, multi-year, predictable and sustainable funding for UN humanitarian organisations, rather than pledging on an appeal-by-appeal basis which leaves emergencies chronically underfunded.
- **Ambitious:** UN vision and commitments must match the scale of the problem, but it is the actions of governments that must be ambitious. Member states and UN agencies must back up their commitments at summits with action and implementation.
- **Inclusive:** the UN Compacts must include all people on the move, especially those currently left behind such as the stateless, trafficked people, and modern-day slaves. As the largest group of displaced people, inclusion of internally displaced people is essential.
- **Respectful of rights and other international law:** the UN summit must kickstart a process for all states to integrate the UN Guiding Principles on internal displacement into national laws and policies, upholding the fundamental human rights of internally displaced people, and the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law during conflict, which if respected would ensure protection and assistance, and stop them from being discriminated against.

### What can the UK do?

The UK must join the calls of developing country governments and other donor countries for a full and comprehensive response to internally displaced people in the UN Compacts. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the world's second largest aid donor, and a leader in development and humanitarian policy, the UK can support action on all aspects of the FAIR framework.

### Supporting internally displaced people

The situation in the DRC shows one major problem with the way internally displaced people are treated by the international community: 80% of aid is direct into camps, but nearly three quarters of internally displaced people live outside them. Administrative convenience is put above the needs of vulnerable people.

Instead, most internally displaced people find shelter with host families receiving no humanitarian or development support, and they have often been on the move for years.

Christian Aid is working with local partners to support internally displaced people and host families across the DRC's Kasai region, where more than 1.4 million people have been forced to leave their homes.

### The Rohingya crisis

Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes by a fresh outbreak of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. In late August, reports of villages being burned and people killed made the headlines. The majority of those fleeing the violence walked for several days across the country's border into Bangladesh to makeshift refugee camps while others have fled to other parts of Myanmar.

More than 500,000 people have fled the country, and unknown numbers are displaced within Myanmar. Aid agencies are stretched and limited humanitarian access in Myanmar is a major issue. Both groups urgently need food, water and shelter. Hygiene kits and sanitation support are also vital to help prevent disease and to offer dignity. Christian Aid has set up a medical team, consisting of doctors, paramedics and nurses, to treat between 200 and 300 people per day in an informal camp in Bangladesh.

Christian Aid is working with local partners in Bangladesh and Myanmar to do all we can to support displaced communities regardless of ethnicity or religion.