Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

Foreign Secretary meets leader of the Syrian White Helmets

2018-11-01

In July this year the Foreign Secretary coordinated an international effort to rescue dozens of members of the volunteer rescue service and their families from Southern Syria. This effort was in light of the threat to their lives from the Syrian regime.

The UK has since given a number of the rescue workers and their families a safe haven in communities across the country, as part of the Home Office’s Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme.

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said:

Few people have to make the kind of moral choices that faced White Helmet Raed al-Saleh, who I was privileged to meet today. The White Helmets risked life and limb to save over 115,000 lives during the Syrian conflict, despite attacks at the hands of the Syrian regime and the Russian military. The UK is proud to stand behind them.

Mr Raed al Saleh expressed his gratitude to the people and Government of the UK for their support to the 3,000 men and women of the White Helmets over the past 6 years, which he said, “has enabled our volunteers to provide essential life-saving support to more than 115,000 persons and services to more than 4 million Syrian civilians who live under daily risk of violence in Syria.”

The Foreign Secretary speaks to Raed al-Saleh, leader of the Syrian Civil Defence

Watch: White Helmets, Syria: A conversation with Jeremy Hunt

View the

previous joint statement on the resettlement of the White Helmets

.

Further information

Follow the Foreign Secretary on Twitter

@Jeremy_Hunt

and

Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter

@foreignoffice

and

Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on

Instagram

,

YouTube

and

LinkedIn

Media enquiries

For journalists

Email

newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-meets-leader-of-the-syrian-white-helmets