Gideon Amos OBE
Member of Parliament for Taunton & Wellington
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
gideon.amos.mp@parliament.uk

Taunton Welcomes Refugees
Chair: Simon Forrester
1 Style Road
Wiveliscombe
TA4 2LN

29 June 2026

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February. I would like to thank you, and the many volunteers who give their time and care to those refugees and asylum seekers who find their way from all over the world to make a new home in Taunton and Wellington. Please do pass on my thanks to all of those who work alongside you and provide support and hope for people at a very vulnerable time in their lives.

I was proud to back the 'Somerset Welcomes Refugees Here' motion at our Somerset Liberal Democrats conference in Taunton back in 2021 and honoured to be able to continue that work in Parliament. I do strongly agree with many of the points in your letter and Liberal Democrats are working hard to achieve an outcome.

The proposed increase of the wait for Indefinite Leave to Remain beyond five years is immensely damaging and counter-productive. We may not be able to avoid this for people coming to the country in future, but it is utterly wrong that we should move the goal posts for those already here. I spoke strongly against this in a Westminster Hall debate on 2nd February.

Liberal Democrats also continue to advocate for asylum seekers being allowed to work while they are waiting for a decision on their status. It seems obvious to me that this is a benefit to society and a benefit to asylum seekers. The government needs to stop being so timid and trying to appease voters on the right.

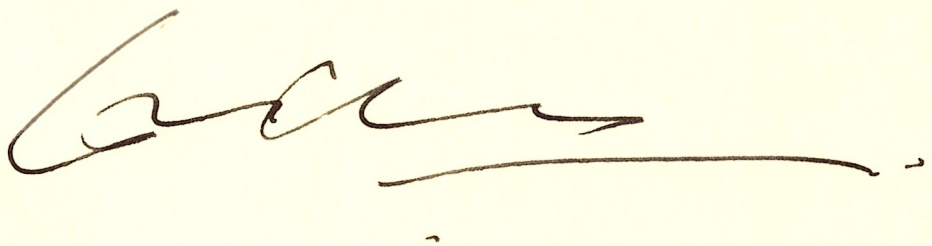
I also want to increase the availability of safe routes for asylum seekers. The dangers and abuse that are suffered by many trying to reach these shores by irregular routes are terrifying. Their journeys here, when they do not result in death, often leave them severely traumatised. As well as the suffering they endure, it leaves them less able to be functioning and contributing members of society: it is clear that the provision of such routes would benefit both asylum seekers and society and we will continue to push the government to operate such schemes, as was done successfully for both Syrians and Ukrainians.

Whilst Gideon Amos MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case.

I shall continue to work for a humane and just asylum policy and continue to argue against those who would demonise all foreigners, failing to see our shared humanity.

Thank you again for everything that TWR does in Taunton – those who volunteer, those who fund-raise, those who support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any of those you support need our assistance, or if we can support you as an organisation.

With best wishes,



Gideon Amos OBE MP