



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Near East Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

12 July 2017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0595-17

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2017 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

I would like to place a Freedom of Information Request. I am looking for a letter drafted by Save the Children-UK and signed by a cross-party group of senior politician. It is mentioned in this newspaper article: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/sep/10/britain-humanitarian-role-letter>

It contains the following sentences:

- *"Whatever one's views on the vote, this must not be the point in British history at which we reach a fork in the road and choose to abandon such an important notion of collective global responsibility."*
- *"Whatever our views on Syria, we agree that the UK has not and should not renounce its aspiration and ability to engage internationally on the most urgent matters of our time. To do so would be to unlearn the lessons of the world's worst atrocities, such as the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia,"*
- *the Iraq war has "left the British public fearful of military entanglement" and that the recession "has left us protective of a fragile economy". But they warn against leaving Britain "on the side of permanent inaction", and ask [David Cameron](#), Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband to "make it clear that the recent vote on Syria, whatever else it meant, did not and will not mean the UK stepping away from its responsibility to protect civilians".*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information which you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

The information you requested can be released.

I attach a copy of the letter.

Yours sincerely,

Near East Department



We keep and use information in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may release this personal information to other UK government departments and public authorities.