

LOCAL MP BACKS NEW CAMPAIGN TO REUNITE CHILD REFUGEES WITH UK FAMILIES

Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock MP Corri Wilson has backed a new campaign calling on the UK Government to do more to reunite unaccompanied refugee children in Europe with their families in the UK.

The campaign, launched by Unicef UK and Citizens UK this week, calls on the UK Government to redouble its efforts to help lone child refugees that are stuck in camps across Europe – including on the UK border with France – despite having a legal right to be with their families in the UK. Many of these children have been in camps for months because of delays in family reunion procedures and a lack of support on the ground.

The Scottish Government has led the way in the UK on practical support for refugees - launching Scotland's refugee taskforce with £1million of funding, providing £375,000 in aid to support humanitarian activity in southern Europe, and ensuring Scotland has taken in more than its proportionate share of refugees given a safe haven in the UK under the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

Commenting Corri Wilson MP said:

“The UK Government must speed up its efforts to resettle these vulnerable children. We know that many thousands of unaccompanied child refugees have gone missing in Europe in the past year – many of them victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. There is no excuse for the delays these children are facing – they are unnecessary and completely unacceptable.

“As the campaign by Unicef UK and Citizens UK highlights, we know that there are at least 157 refugee children in Calais right now who could be safe and protected with their families in the UK if the Government were to get its act together.

“The longer we fail to fulfil our commitment to these children the greater the risk to their safety and wellbeing. The UK Government has a moral and legal obligation to take urgent action now and do everything it can to reunite these children with their families.”