



Ben Macpherson MSP,  
Minister for International Development  
T3.25, Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
EH99 1SP

**18 October 2019**

Dear Ben,

### **Humanitarian Aid For North East Syria**

As you are aware, Turkey's invasion of North East Syria has caused widespread destruction, killed hundreds and badly damaged key civilian infrastructure in the region. I welcome the First Minister's words in response to Patrick Harvie on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup>, expressing opposition to the invasion and calling for a 'strong international response'.

It is in regard to this international response that I am writing to you with an urgent request for use of the Scottish Government's Humanitarian Emergency Fund. I note that £100,000 was issued through the fund to SCIAF and Islamic Relief last week for aid work in the North West of Syria, where the civil war continues to rage. This is most welcome but given the circumstances which now exist in the North East, I believe there is a strong case for a similar amount to be deployed to partners on the ground in that region as well.

Heyva Sor a Kurdistane (the Kurdish Red Crescent) have continued to operate in the region throughout Turkey's assault. This is despite the targeting of hospitals and ambulances by Turkey and their proxy forces. At present Heyva Sor a Kurdistane is importing food from Northern Iraq, providing medical aid & ambulances, operating health and education centres, providing psychological support to women & children and more.

With the current ceasefire not yet being honoured by Turkish proxy forces and reports in today's *Times* and *Foreign Policy* magazine of alleged chemical weapon use by those same proxies, I know you will agree that the situation is urgent. Support from the Scottish Government for those

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delivering emergency relief on the ground will not only save lives, it will send a strong signal to other countries across the world to similarly support humanitarian assistance to the region.

I am available to discuss this matter by phone if you require, or to put you in touch directly with Heyva Sor a Kurdistane.

I look forward to your response

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Greer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ross Greer MSP

Scottish Green Spokesperson for External Affairs & International Development

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