

Solidarity with Syria

This was passed at London Young Labour AGM January 2016.

LYL conference believes

- 1) That following the attacks carried out by ISIS terrorists in Paris, the British parliament has voted to launch airstrikes targeting the 'Islamic State' in Syria¹
- 2) That the Prime Minister has said that ISIS poses a threat to British security²
- 3) That Jeremy Corbyn has questioned the effect of military action as outlined by the government³

LYL conference further believes

- 1) That leading defence analysts believe the military campaign might need to be sustained over several years⁴
- 2) That currently over 4 million Syrians are displaced due to the ongoing conflict in their country, with just over 10% of Syrian refugees having applied for asylum in Europe⁵
- 3) That the number of refugees seeking safety in Europe is likely to increase⁶
- 4) That the British Government is planning to resettle only 20,000 Syrian refugees until the end of this Parliament⁷.

LYL resolves

- 1) To campaign to allow the resettlement of more Syrian refugees in the UK; This will be achieved through:
 - a) mandating the committee to investigate opportunities for LYL members to

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34931421>

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34931421>

³ <http://www.labour.org.uk/pages/jeremy-corbyn-statement-on-syria>

⁴ https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/201511_bp_uk_air_strikes_in_syria.pdf

⁵ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

⁶ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

⁷ <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06805>

campaign on refugee issues such as Citizen UK's resettlement campaign

b) informing and supporting members on ways to get active in these campaigns

- 2) To campaign to ensure the Labour Party will hold the government to account over the airstrikes; this means transparency on progress of the strikes, updates on the timeline, civilian casualties and the likelihood of British troops on the ground. This will be achieved by:
 - a) writing to MPs and encourage them to question the government
 - b) submitting questions to Jeremy Corbyn for PMQs
 - c) writing to Labour MPs in relevant parliamentary groups and shadow ministerial positions to ensure that statebuilding and political and diplomatic solutions stay on top of the policy agenda

- 3) To ensure the debate around British security will not be allowed to drift into xenophobia and islamophobia; solidarity and human rights should be at the heart of debate as well as action.