

Dear Ms Donelan,

I like many people across the UK am already taking individual action to reduce suffering from the ongoing war in Ukraine by supporting charities and the effort that I know you have supported in Wiltshire. However, it concerns me greatly that the **UK government is not taking sufficient action, and that it continues to restrict the intake of Ukrainian refugees.**

The situation in Ukraine is very personal for me. Both of my parents were Ukrainian and taken by the Germans to work as forced labour in the Second World War. When the war was over they feared the Russians more than the Germans and they chose to move west to the UK, rather than Ukraine-which was controlled by the Russians. They never spoke about what they experienced and it wasn't until after they had both died that my brother and I discovered the family in Ukraine we never knew we had.

I watch in horror the daily news bulletins and cannot help but think that 80 years on, history is now repeating itself. Our family in Ukraine have had their lives turned upside down, facing an uncertain future and fearing for their lives as the Russians progress. We in contact with them daily and they are grateful for the support the UK is giving but we must do more and act with the urgency this crisis requires.

75 years ago we were grateful when England welcomed us as displaced persons where we settled, brought up our families and made a positive contribution to the UK economy.

In this current crisis I am in total disbelief that the UK has adopted a bureaucratic policy of making sure numbers of displaced refugees entering the UK falls into hundreds not the thousands that other less wealthy countries are accommodating and this puts the UK to shame.

I would dearly love to say to our family cousins in the UKraine please leave you life in this war zone and come to the UK and we will support you as much as we can just as other countries have offered.

Unfortunately, I can't do this as our government policy is unclear and instead of removing barriers it is portraying the UK is a fortress to people who need our compassion and kindness at a time in their lives that you and I can never comprehend.

As my MP, I urge you and the government to revise our policy to give clarity and hope and to mirror what our European partners have offered and let history repeat itself by once again allowing our country to accommodate refugees from an independent sovereign, democratic elected nation who are fleeing a war zone, just like my parent did 75 years ago.

Please do everything you can to ensure we are not on the wrong side of history.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Stefan Barbaruk