



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

August 2019

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about the plight of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her family.

It is a desperately sad situation and I do empathise with her husband Richard, who is doing all he can to keep her plight in the public eye.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office works tirelessly for all our dual nationals detained in Iran and is doing everything it can in each of their cases, including trying to secure access to them and ensure their welfare. This is particularly challenging because the Iranian Government does not recognise dual nationality and therefore does not accept the UK Government's request for consular access. I know that the UK Government has also regularly raised Nazanin's case at the highest levels within the Iranian Government. Indeed, the Prime Minister herself raised her concerns over the case with President Rouhani of Iran at the fringes of the UN Security Council meeting last year.

I am encouraged that UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office have now taken the decision to grant Nazanin diplomatic protection. This makes clear that the UK believes that Iran's treatment of her has failed to meet international standards and elevates the issue beyond that of normal consular assistance and diplomatic pressure to the level of a legal dispute between Britain and Iran. While the Foreign Secretary has been clear that the move is unlikely to be a magic wand, it does demonstrate to the whole world that Nazanin is innocent and the UK will not stand by while one of its citizens is treated so unjustly.

It is my belief that, for the sake of common humanity, it is time to let Nazanin come home. I know that is what the Foreign Secretary is focused on achieving.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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