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# Over 80 global Parliamentarians add their voices to White Helmets Nobel Peace Prize nomination in memory of Jo Cox

Today, as a <u>powerful film</u> is launched offering a glimpse into the everyday heroism of the Syria Civil Defence force, known as the 'White Helmets', over 80 Parliamentarians from ten countries, including over 20 from the UK, have released a statement adding their endorsement to the White Helmets' nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize 2016.

On a day that also marks three months since the death of Jo Cox MP, a tireless champion of the work of the White Helmets, the Parliamentarians, who include former international development Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell MP, Angela Eagle MP, Lord Tom McNally, and leader of the Green Party Caroline Lucas MP, state, "There could be no better way to remember her today than to continue her work to celebrate and champion these selfless heroes by adding our voices to support her nomination of them for the Nobel Peace Prize."

Unarmed and impartial, the White Helmets were nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize by the late Jo Cox MP earlier this year. A fund in memory of Jo Cox has received over £1.5m in donations from over 44,000 people, with over £500,000 of this going to support the White Helmets' life-saving work. The Parliamentarians join over 133 organisations and over 133 organisations and over 130,000 individuals, including Alicia Keys, Daniel Craig and George Clooney, who have backed the White Helmets' nomination for the prestigious prize, in a bid to make them the 'most popular nomination ever'. Risking their own lives dashing into the wake of barrel bombs to drag the wounded from the rubble, the brave volunteers of the White Helmets have saved 60,000 people since the start of the conflict.

With the war in Syria in its fifth devastating year, having killed a reported 400,000 people, the Parliamentarians state "This nomination offers a reminder to the world of the extraordinary work of everyday Syrians to bring peace to their country, and an important symbol of hope for an end to this devastating war."

## **Full statement:**

"Through the five years of hell of the Syrian conflict, it can be hard to find points of light and hope. Yet in the face of death, destruction and unspeakable horror, the women and men of the Syria Civil Defence, known as the White Helmets, teach us the meaning of true heroism.

As this heroism is celebrated in the release of a powerful film, today also marks three months since we mourned the horrific loss of our colleague Jo Cox MP, a friend and tireless champion of the White Helmets. Then, we pledged to uphold her legacy. There could be no better way to remember her today than to continue her work to celebrate and champion these selfless heroes by adding our voices to support her nomination of them for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This nomination offers a reminder to the world of the extraordinary work of everyday Syrians to bring peace to their country, and an important symbol of hope for an end to this devastating war."

## **Signatories:**

- 1. Tom Mulcair MP, Outremont QC, Leader of the NDP, Canada
- 2. Charlie Angus MP, NDP, Canada
- 3. Niki Ashton MP, NDP, Canada
- 4. Robert Aubin MP, NDP, Canada
- 5. Brando Benifei MP, Socialists and Democrats, Italy
- 6. Sheri Benson MP, NDP, Canada
- 7. Eva Biaudet, Finland
- 8. Daniel Blaikie MP, NDP, Canada
- 9. Rachel Blaney MP, NDP, Canada
- 10. Crispin Blunt MP, Conservative, UK
- 11. Mette Bock, Liberal Alliance, Denmark
- 12. Alexandre Boulerice, NDP, Canada
- 13. Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet, NDP, Canada
- 14. Dr Fanziska Branter MP, The Greens, Germany
- 15. Tom Brake, Liberal Democrats, UK
- 16. Kirsten Brosbøl MP, Denmark
- 17. Ruth Ellen Brosseau MP, NDP, Canada
- 18. Ruth Cadbury MP, Labour, UK
- 19. Richard Cannings MP, NDP, Canada
- 20. Lord Michael Cashman, Labour, UK
- 21. Guy Caron MP, NDP, Canada
- 22. François Choquette MP, NDP, Canada
- 23. David Christopherson MP, NDP, Canada
- 24. Philip Cordery Député, Parti Socialiste, France
- 25. Nathan Cullen MP, NDP, Canada
- 26. Don Davies MP, NDP, Canada
- 27. Anneliese Dodds MEP, Socialists and Democrats, UK
- 28. Fin Donnelly MP, NDP, Canada
- 29. Stephen Doughty MP, Labour and Co-op, UK
- 30. Matthew Dubé MP, NDP, Canada
- 31. Linda Duncan MP, NDP, Canada
- 32. Mark Durkan MP, SDLP, UK
- 33. Pierre-Luc Dusseault MP, NDP, Canada
- 34. Scott Duvall MP, NDP, Canada
- 35. Angela Eagle MP, Labour, UK
- 36. Randall Garrison MP, NDP, Canada
- 37. Stephen Gethins MP, SNP, UK
- 38. Mette Gjerskov MP, Social Democrats, Denmark

- 39. Roger Godsiff MP, Labour, UK
- 40. Cheryl Hardcastle MP, NDP, Canada
- 41. Yusuf Hassan MP, The National Alliance, Kenya
- 42. Carol Hughes MP, NDP, Canada
- 43. Gord Johns MP, NDP, Canada
- 44. Diana Johnson MP, Labour, UK
- 45. Georgina Jolibois MP, NDP, Canada
- 46. Peter Julian MP, NDP, Canada
- 47. Christian Juhl MP, Red Green Alliance, Denmark
- 48. Afzal Khan MEP, Socialist and Democrats, UK
- 49. Baroness Glenys Kinnock, Labour, UK
- 50. Stephen Kinnock MP, Labour, UK
- 51. Jude Kirton-Darling MEP, Socialists and Democrats, UK
- 52. Jenny Kwan MP, NDP, Canada
- 53. Hélène Laverdière MP, NDP, Canada
- 54. Axelle Lemaire, Ministre, Députée, Parti Socialiste, France
- 55. Claudine Lepage, Sénatrice, Parti Socialiste, France
- 56. Caroline Lucas MP, Green, UK
- 57. Alistair MacGregor MP, NDP, Canada
- 58. Sheila Malcolmson MP, NDP, Canada
- 59. Brian Masse MP, NDP, Canada
- 60. Irene Mathyssen MP, NDP, Canada
- 61. Jason McCartney MP, Conservative, UK
- 62. Anne McLaughlin MP, SNP, UK
- 63. Lord Tom McNally, Lib Dem, UK
- 64. Andrew Mitchell MP, Conservative, UK
- 65. Christine Moore MP, NDP, Canada
- 66. Pierre Nantel MP, NDP, Canada
- 67. Omid Nouripour MdB, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Germany
- 68. Anne Minh-Thu Quach MP, NDP, Canada
- 69. Christophe Premat Député, Parti Socialiste, France
- 70. Tracey Ramsey MP, NDP, Canada
- 71. Murray Rankin MP, NDP, Canada
- 72. Angela Rayner MP, Labour, UK
- 73. Romeo Saganash MP, NDP, Canada
- 74. Brigitte Sansoucy MP, NDP, Canada
- 75. Molly Scott Cato MEP, Greens/European Free Alliance, UK
- 76. Marietje Schaake MEP, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), Netherlands
- 77. Baroness Shas Sheehan, Lib Dem, UK
- 78. Jeff Smith MP, Labour, UK
- 79. Sir Nicholas Soames MP, Conservative, UK
- 80. Wayne Stetski MP, NDP, Canada
- 81. Kennedy Stewart MP, NDP, Canada

- 82. Karine Trudel MP, NDP, Canada
- 83. Tom Tugendhat MP, Conservative, UK
- 84. Hilde Vautmans MEP, ALDE, Belgium
- 85. Julie Ward MEP, Socialists and Democrats, UK
- 86. Erin Weir MP, NDP, Canada

### Notes to editor

- To be put in contact with signatories, please contact <a href="london3@crisisaction.org">london3@crisisaction.org</a>, +44 207 269 9450
- For further information on the White Helmets Nobel Peace Prize nomination, please visit <a href="https://nobelpeaceprize.whitehelmets.org/en">https://nobelpeaceprize.whitehelmets.org/en</a>
- For further information on the White Helmets Netflix film, please contact James Turner at the Syria Campaign: <u>james.turner@thesyriacampaign.org</u>, or Jackie Berkowitz at Netflix: <u>jberkowitz@netflix.com</u>