

Dear

I am writing as a constituent to ask for an opportunity to brief you on the situation in Western Sahara. The situation there is of great concern to me

Western Sahara is the last country on the UN list of territories still subject to a process of decolonisation. The UN has been tasked with organising a referendum of self-determination. The process has really run into the sands and the UK government could do more to support the UN process.

The situation in Western Sahara may have been crowded out of the agenda by other conflicts, but it remains as serious as ever:

- around 180,000 refugees remain in desert camps which, with climate change, have experienced temperatures over 50 degrees;
- Freedom House, the Washington-based monitor of human rights has assessed the situation in occupied Western Sahara as being worse than Iran and Afghanistan, and only very marginally better than North Korea; and
- with no progress towards a referendum on the territory's future, the cease-fire negotiated by the UN in 1991 has broken down.

Nevertheless, Morocco enjoys a trade agreement with the UK with no requirement for action on human rights.

I would appreciate it if you would join the Western Sahara All Party Parliamentary Group by contacting Ben Lake MP for Ceredigion Preseli was the Chair of the APPG in the previous parliament.

If you would like to meet to discuss this further I would be happy to meet you.