



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Christina Rees MP  
39, Windsor Road  
Neath  
SA11 1NB

21<sup>st</sup> February 2016

Boris Johnson MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to you seeking your urgent attention on the following matter.

A school in my constituency, Llangatwg Comprehensive, last week travelled from the UK to New York via Iceland. As is always the case with such trips, the pupils with accompanied by an appropriate number of teachers, including a Mr. Juhah Miah, a Welsh Muslim, local resident and UK passport holder. It is my understanding that following a stop in Iceland, Mr. Miah and the rest of his party boarded the flight to New York from Reykjavik on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. However, Mr. Miah was removed from the flight and escorted back to the terminal by US Homeland Security Officials. This left Mr. Miah, his colleagues and the pupils, shocked and distressed. Following a night in a hotel of unsatisfactory standard, Mr. Miah attempted to visit the US Embassy in Reykjavik, but was denied access to the building or any form of explanation or assistance. Understandably, Mr. Miah was embarrassed and humiliated by the whole experience.

I have spoken with the Chief Executive of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, the employing authority, who informs me that neither the Authority or Mr. Miah have received a satisfactory reason as to why Mr. Miah was refused entry to the US, or indeed any form of apology. I find this situation totally unacceptable. Mr. Miah holds a full UK passport and has no dual nationality.

Following the recent attempt by the US President to enact a travel ban, The UK Government's travel advice states that "we have confirmed with the US Government that British Passport holders (regardless of country of birth or whether they hold another passport/nationality) aren't affected by the Executive Order". In addition, on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in a statement to the House of Commons, you said "We have received assurances from the US Embassy that the Executive Order will make no difference to any British Passport holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport."



From the information presented above, it is clear to me that the advice issued by the UK Government and agreement with the US Government has not been honoured or followed through in the case of Mr. Miah. This is completely unacceptable and has caused embarrassment and distress to Mr. Miah. His travelling colleagues were also distressed, leaving them a member of staff down for the remainder of the trip, and placing them in a potentially serious situation raising questions about the impact of the safeguarding of the children they were responsible for.

I should be grateful for an urgent response involving your observations on the situation, a comprehensive and satisfactory explanation of why Mr. Miah was refused entry to the US, and a full apology directed to Mr. Miah.

I look forward to receiving your response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Rees', written in a cursive style.

Christina Rees MP  
Shadow Secretary of State for Wales

CC: The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Ms Debra Heien, Consul General