

**Statement: PS12.01**

**Cabinet – 9 March 2021**

**Re: Agenda item 12 – Future Commitment of Bristol City Council to the UK Government Resettlement Scheme**

**Statement by: Eileen Means**

On the day when this Conservative Government announced that aid from the UK to desperate, war-torn Yemen is to be cut by half, reading this report stating that Bristol is happy to welcome 15 refugee families, up to 80 people, restored my faith in human nature somewhat. These families have fled unimaginable horrors, leaving their homes, endured family separation, not knowing when or if they will see each other again, they may have suffered torture and need a safe roof where they can access jobs, health services if needed and education for their children. Indeed, women and children are particularly traumatised.

We can be proud of our city and its willingness to share the benefits of living here and its resources with people who have been through such great losses. We, here in Bristol offer a safe roof at last, security that gradually grows especially for the children and a warm welcome as a City of Sanctuary. (The weather we can do nothing about!).

Very sincere appreciation to the Officers in Adult care and other departments involved, Bristol Refugee Rights, the Haven health care, Bristol Hospitality Network, Refugee Action, Refugee Women of Bristol and all the other agencies who provide assistance and ongoing support, not omitting ACH & Himilo (housing with support) who do such a wonderful job.