

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: NAZANIN ZAGHARI-RATCLIFFE & ANOOSHEH ASHOORI.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori; your comments about whom I have read with great interest.

I want to reassure you that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office continues to work hard to assist British nationals detained in Iran. My thoughts are with Nazanin and Anoosheh, and their families. Like you, I want to see them both released immediately.

I am told that the UK Embassy in Tehran continues to request consular access to Mr Ashoori and has been supporting his family. The UK regularly calls on Iran to release all British-Iranian nationals arbitrarily detained, including Mr Ashoori.

I recognise that Nazanin's ongoing furlough does not represent the final objective of securing Nazanin's permanent release and I have been assured that the UK's lobbying efforts remain focussed on getting Nazanin home. It is appalling that Iran began a new case against Mrs Zaghari-Ratcliffe, and threatened her with being returned to prison, and I am relieved that the groundless new trial was adjourned. The Iranian authorities have put an intolerable burden on Nazanin and her family. It is vital that Iran knows the strength of the UK's convictions regarding this, and so it is encouraging that on the 29th October, the Iranian Ambassador was summoned to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. It was made clear to the Iranian Ambassador that his country's treatment of Nazanin is unjustified and unacceptable, is causing an enormous amount of distress and is further tarnishing its reputation through its actions towards her.

The UK continues to call on Iran to live up to its responsibilities under international human rights law and the Vienna Convention and release dual nationals. Cases continue to be raised at the most senior levels, and discussed at every opportunity with Iranian counterparts.

Like you, I am also sympathetic to Parliament having a new opportunity to debate dual nationals imprisoned in Iran, and I am sure opportunities to do so will be being considered.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*  
*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**