

Accessibility links

- [Skip to article](#)
- [Skip to navigation](#)

The Telegraph

[Telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk)

Tuesday 28 January 2020

- [Home](#)
 - [Video](#)
 - [News](#)
 - [World](#)
 - [Sport](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Money](#)
 - [Comment](#)
 - [Culture](#)
 - [Travel](#)
 - [Life](#)
 - [Women](#)
 - [Fashion](#)
 - [Luxury](#)
 - [Tech](#)
 - [Film](#)
-
- [USA](#)
 - [Asia](#)
 - [China](#)
 - [Europe](#)
 - [Middle East](#)
 - [Australasia](#)
 - [Africa](#)
 - [South America](#)
 - [Central Asia](#)
 - [KCL Big Question](#)
 - [Expatriate](#)
 - [Iran](#)
 - [Iraq](#)
 - [Israel](#)
 - [Palestinian Authority](#)
 - [Syria](#)
 - [Jordan](#)
 - [Saudi Arabia](#)
 - [Bahrain](#)
 - [Dubai](#)
 - [Yemen](#)
 - [Egypt](#)
 - [Libya](#)
-
1. [Home](#)»
 2. [News](#)»
 3. [World News](#)»
 4. [Middle East](#)»
 5. [Syria](#)

Lord Carey: Britain has a duty to rescue Syria's Christians

Accepting refugees from UN camps won't help this persecuted group, which has been driven into hiding



Syrian migrants board the ferry on the Greek island of Lesbos Photo: AP

By George Carey

9:00PM BST 05 Sep 2015

The dramatic and disturbing developments of the past few days have introduced a new, heart-rending dimension to this refugee crisis. Undoubtedly, the most disturbing aspect is just how impotent Europe is proving itself to be. If the EU is not resilient in the face of this disaster, it could be torn apart.

I can't help thinking of Corporal Jones's catchphrase – "Don't panic!" But even the Germans are panicking as Angela Merkel, in a desperate attempt to cajole her fellow European leaders into accepting binding quotas, has [declared open season for up to 800,000 Syrians](#) to come to Germany.

Isn't it a bit rich for the Germans to criticise other nations, including Britain, for failing to accept refugees? For years, our warm-hearted land has consistently accepted more asylum-seekers than Germany.

Besides, it would be a mistake to give way to bullying calls to immediately open our doors to tens of thousands of refugees. We are a small island and recent immigration figures are highly disturbing. Last year, a net figure of 330,000 people settled among us – more than the population of Sunderland. Imagine this continuing, year after year.



Lord Carey: 'I welcome David Cameron's announcement to allow thousands more to enter Britain' Photo: Andrew Crowley/The Telegraph

Alas, the signal that Germany is opening its doors to this influx will make Europe into an even more attractive magnet for those who are genuine refugees – but also to floods of economic migrants, most of whom are young men travelling alone. We don't even know how many of these have been combatants in the civil war.

If some of what I say sounds harsh or, heaven forbid, a touch unchristian, let me make it clear that I welcome David Cameron's announcement to allow thousands more to enter Britain through refugee camps in Syria's neighbouring countries. In the long term, this strategy will cut out the traffickers and reduce the risk of the sea and land journeys.

But the frustration for those of us who have been calling for compassion for Syrian victims for many months is that the Christian community is yet again left at the bottom of the heap.

According to the [Barnabas Fund](#), a charity which recently resettled some 50 Syrian Christian families in Poland, Mr Cameron's policy inadvertently discriminates against the very Christian communities most victimised by the inhuman butchers of the so-called Islamic State. Christians are not to

be found in the UN camps, because they have been attacked and targeted by Islamists and driven from them. They are seeking refuge in private homes, church buildings and with neighbours and family.