



**Freedom and
Fairness**

For Northern Cyprus

The Foreign Secretary

The Rt. Hon. Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton
King Charles Street,
London
SW1A 2AH

24 April 2024

Dear Lord Cameron,

20 years ago this week both sides of the island of Cyprus voted on whether they should put historical differences and political rivalries aside and reunite. The UN-led Annan Plan referendums were widely hailed as opportunities to restore the equality of both sides, and bring the Turkish Cypriot People in the North onto the international stage with an amplified voice, and a vast trading potential.

However, in the same way it rejected over a dozen other proposals, the Greek Cypriots rejected the referendum and voted 'no' for reunification. Whilst two thirds of the Turkish Cypriot population accepted the plan, 75% of Greek Cypriots chose to prolong the impasse. Their rejection illustrates a position they continue to hold today - they do not want a fair, sustainable solution.

The United Kingdom is a Guarantor Power of Cyprus. It was vocal in its disappointment at the Greek Cypriot vote, with former Prime Minister Blair committing to "lifting the sanctions on trade and travel" for Northern Cyprus. He was joined by US and EU leaders who also praised the Turkish Cypriot Peoples' willingness to compromise for the benefit of all Cypriots.

20 years later, the UK has not fulfilled these commitments to the Turkish Cypriot People.

Just days after the referendum, despite voting against the plan the Greek Cypriots were rewarded with EU membership. This has only exacerbated tensions and hindered any progress towards a solution. Meanwhile, Turkish Cypriots are locked out of trade with other countries, are unable to fly directly to and from their homeland, and are frozen out from competing in international sporting competitions.

British groups that falsely claim to be the '*recognised voice of Cypriots living in the UK*' are always eager to position themselves and their Government as the reasonable side. However, the rejection of this plan and this anniversary completely undermines this cheap and easily fallible argument.

The United Kingdom still can deliver on the promises it made to the Turkish Cypriot People in 2004, particularly on the issue of direct flights and trade. As a Guarantor Power it is legally obligated to treat both sides equally - unfortunately, that is not the case today.

I hope you can progress with this as Foreign Secretary and trust you can look at this issue afresh and assess new perspectives on what the island's future could look like - a two state solution being one that mandates consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Çetin Ramadan

Co-chair of Freedom and Fairness for Northern Cyprus