

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MP Praises Decision on Gurkhas

Julie Morgan, MP for Cardiff North, welcomed today's announcement that all Gurkha Soldiers who retired before 1997 and served for at least four years will be granted the right to settle in the UK. The decision comes after Parliament recently voted against a weaker settlement proposed by the Government. Julie Morgan was the only Labour MP in Wales to have voted against the Government.

On hearing the announcement, Julie said,

"I am thrilled that the Government has made this decision. I have firmly backed the campaign for Gurkha Justice and believe that those who have served this country deserve the opportunity to settle here.

"I have been calling for a swift settlement and I praise the Government for coming to this conclusion so quickly in light of the Parliamentary vote last month. They have rightly consolidated their commitment to the Gurkhas; a commitment that had already seen 6,000 former soldiers given the right to settle in Britain since 2004 and I look forward to many more now joining them. It is great to see the Home Secretary asking for all 1,400 outstanding cases to be processed by 11th June.

"I have also been calling for an equitable settlement. I believe today's announcement will allow the cases of all former Gurkha soldiers to be dealt with in an equal way. The policy recognises their commitment and dedication. I am so glad to see that these moral arguments have been taken into account.

"I would also like to praise Joanna Lumley and all those involved with the Gurkha Justice campaign for their continued commitment to this cause.

"Gurkha soldiers have fought, with distinction, with the British army for most of the last century, they have played their part in many of the major fields of action in recent history from the Falkland's to the Gulf. I, like most of my constituents and many people across the UK, am immensely grateful for this contribution. We can now proudly remember and recognise this."

ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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