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Rt Hon David Cameron MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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Dear Prime Minister

RE: COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY ON DAESH

In light of your statement on Tuesday (17 November 2015) when you told the House that you would be putting forward a comprehensive strategy to deal with Daesh, I am writing to you as part of the ongoing campaign, which has received the support of 170 Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum, for you and the Government to use the correct terminology to defeat this evil organisation's appeal, propaganda, and self-proclaimed legitimacy.

An important part of your strategy should be to counter Daesh's poisonous and abhorrent ideology and propaganda, which is sucking in vulnerable individuals from our country and around the world. If the Government now officially adopts the term Daesh we can deprive it of the legitimacy that it seeks. The Government must understand that this evil organisation has deliberately chosen to call itself ISIL, ISIS and the Islamic State for a specific reason to gain legitimacy.

By using the term Islamic State, ISIS and ISIL, Government Ministers and the media are handing legitimacy to the Paris attackers – the evil terrorists who took so many innocent lives last week. This also feeds into what the Government does not want to see happen, the rise of Islamophobia, as this evil organisation is daily being linked to Islam. By using such terminology we are affecting the lives of peace loving Muslims in the United Kingdom and around the world.

As you said in reply to my question on Tuesday, "the use of the word Daesh is increasing with every issue of Hansard that is published". It is time to revisit the argument that Daesh should not be used because it is not understood. As you have recognised it is now widely used in Parliament and in the country.

It is being used by many Members from both sides of the Chamber. The Home Secretary, in her recent statement to the House used it, the Foreign Secretary used it in front of the Committee and has previously said to me on the floor of the House that "Daesh is equally acceptable. The Defence Secretary has said that it is "worth reflecting on whether we should



now seek to move on to using Daesh, which does not confer the sort of legitimacy that the title ISIL – involving the word “state” – does.”

It is appropriate for the Government to set the agenda and take the lead on this issue. The French Government has done so by officially using the term Daesh, and we have seen that the media and others have followed.

You have already agreed to use the term when dealing with our international partners, including those in the EU. Now is the opportunity to seize the initiative and call them Daesh, which would also be welcomed by the many Muslims in this country who find the use of the titles Islamic State, ISIL and ISIS to be insulting to their peaceful religion. This is a time when we should be working with the Muslim community not alienating them.

In order to destroy this organisation we need to defeat their propaganda campaign and warped evil ideology and I hope that you will include this in your comprehensive strategy and from now on officially get the Government to use the term Daesh.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Rehman Chishti MP