

Press Release: Peter Capaldi to make BBC Radio 4 Appeal for The Hands Up Foundation

(2 August 2021)



*Actor, director, and writer Peter Capaldi makes a BBC Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of The Hands Up Foundation, an innovative charity providing lifesaving aid and crucial education to Syrians in urgent need.*

Peter Capaldi, best known for playing Doctor Who and Malcolm Tucker in *The Thick of It*, will be making a BBC Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of [The Hands Up Foundation](#). The appeal will be broadcast on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> August (at 7.54am and 9.25pm) and again on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> August (at 3.27pm).

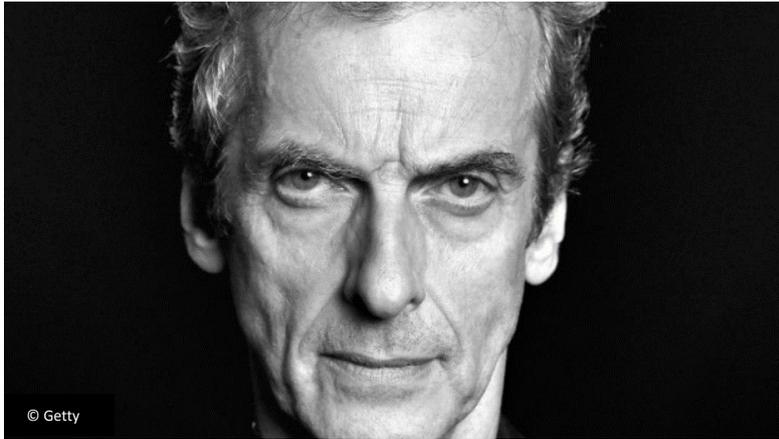
The war in Syria has killed nearly 500,000 people and left 13 million people in urgent need of help. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Syrian conflict, and the continuous unimaginable destruction and violence have been exacerbated by the strains of living through the pandemic. So Hands Up – and Peter – are more determined than ever to raise money for vulnerable Syrians living in extremely challenging circumstances. Our appeal focuses on the story of 12-year-old Rayan, who received a free prosthetic limb with support and funding from Hands Up.

Rayan was playing in the Damascus suburbs when a car bomb exploded nearby, blowing off her left leg below the knee. A few years later Rayan’s family fled the fighting and carried their daughter all the way to Turkey in search of a comfortable and affordable prosthetic limb. Prosthetics provide dignity, hope, opportunity and, importantly, independence. **It costs just £500 to provide and fit a good prosthetic limb.** This is a truly life-changing experience. Rayan was treated free of charge at a clinic funded by Hands Up. She learned how to walk again for the first time in years, and was able to return to school.

**There are an estimated 86,000 amputees**, like Rayan, in Syria. Hands Up works with local Syrian organisations to make sure the most vulnerable receive the help and support they need.

Peter Capaldi says:

*[“I spent time with Syrian refugees in 2015...I have seen the dreadful images of bombed schools and hospitals in Syria, that have left millions without access to healthcare or education. Hands Up is an amazing charity...it can change a child’s life.”](#)*



Peter's appeal on behalf of Hands Up will air at 7.54am and 9.25pm on Sunday, 8th August, and again at 3.27pm on Thursday, 12th August.

To listen in, please visit [BBC Radio 4 Appeal](#).

– Ends –

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Hands Up Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1156491)
- For more information on the [BBC Radio 4 Appeal](#), visit:  
Facebook [@HandsUpFoundation](#)  
Instagram [@thehandsupfoundation](#)  
Twitter [@handsupfound](#)
- To email or call about the BBC Radio 4 Appeal, contact:  
[contact@handsupfoundation.org](mailto:contact@handsupfoundation.org) +44 7871 886 316
- To give to the BBC Radio 4 Appeal, go to:  
[bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](http://bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4), or call 0800 404 8144. **PLEASE NOTE: The donation page will not be live until 7.54am on 8<sup>th</sup> August, so please don't donate before then.**  
Or you can write a cheque to The Hands Up Foundation and send it to: Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. And, importantly, please mark the back of your envelope The Hands Up Foundation.
- To read this press release online, [click here](#).