

Speech: Better Education and Stronger Political Opportunities for Women

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Thank you very much Mr President and thank you to your delegation for putting this important topic as an open debate today. Thank you to our two Ministers for joining us; I found your presentations really powerful. It's excellent that you've given us time to be with us today. Minister Wallström, you are a very frequent visitor to this Council which is extremely welcome and I think all I can say is that I wholly endorse what you said in the Council today, both of you, so thank you very much indeed for that. It's a very important opportunity; thank you to the Secretary-General, the Executive Director and Randa Siniora. I just wanted, if I may Mr. President, to digress briefly to repeat what I said on 17 October about the content of briefings to this Council but we do believe that civil societies contribution is essential.

I want to add our voice to those congratulating the Nobel Peace Prize winners. I think in this year it's a very important signal of the criticality that their work has, not just for the communities who benefit from it and are protected by it, but what it says overall about the international community's priorities when it comes to putting the issue of women and girls and women, peace and security right at the centre of policymaking.

Two years ahead of the twentieth anniversary of Resolution 1325, we're very pleased to have this important moment to reflect on progress and consider what more can be done. It's not just a moral issue, this issue of women's political and economic empowerment; fundamentally it's an economic issue. Countries who enable equal opportunities for all their people, who enable equal access to the law and services, who enable equal participation in the economic life of that country are much more likely to thrive and prosper than countries who do not. So fundamentally, enabling half of your population to participate fully is much more likely to improve inclusive growth and sustainability. And I think that's a really important economic point that we all need to bear in mind.

Mr President, successive Security Council resolutions have of course argued that greater political and economic empowerment of women is a key element of conflict prevention and I think this is all part of the Secretary-General's core agenda. He spoke very powerfully today. We welcome his leadership, we welcome that of the UN Secretariat and we look forward to working more with them.

When women meaningfully participate in peace processes, the resulting agreement is 35 per cent more likely to last at least 15 years. It will be more inclusive and hence, it will better serve the community it represents. I'd like to echo what the Swedish Minister said about the importance of participation being a right, not a bonus.

As conflicts around the world become more complex and formal peace processes risk stalling, women's efforts to tackle conflict have never been more needed or more vital. In this regard, we as the United Kingdom were pleased to bring members of the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth network to New York this week to exchange experiences with other regional women's mediation networks and explore ways collectively to drive the agenda forward. I do think these mediation networks, whatever their label and wherever they come from, are actually an important resource for us all. The Executive Director was able to describe some of the work on the ground that has been very important and I am sure that they would be delighted to work even more closely with the United Nations.

Mr President, SDG5 collectively makes clear that empowering women isn't just about these community-based actions. It also requires addressing systemic challenges and structural issues and getting to the core of the barriers to women's full and equal participation and exercise of basic rights. In line with this, my government has cross-government National Action Plan committing to increasing women's participation in decision-making and scaling up interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. I commend such plans to all of those countries who don't have them. And we also commend a signing-up of the UN Compact on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse which the Secretary-General also mentioned today.

We often hear about the importance of mainstreaming gender equality right the way through policy. As an example of this, the United Kingdom has opened all military roles to women and we are closing in on our target to have women make up 15 per cent of our armed forces. It is not enough but we believe it's a good start.

Mr President, you may not know, colleagues may not know that there is today a British aircraft carrier sitting just off the coast of Staten Island. It's on a friendly visit to New York. I want to stress the word 'friendly.' But what I also want to stress is that 13 per cent of that ship's company are women. 83 out of 650 personnel on board are women. It's the highest that we have of our Royal Navy fleet. As I say it's not enough but it's a good start and we hope very much to build on that.

Mr President, I'd like to talk a little bit about education. Education is key to achieving our ambition and this means educating women, men, boys and girls if we want to change attitudes and behaviours. We have a Leave No Girl Behind campaign. This has the goal of empowering women and girls through quality education, including education in emergencies. And I do just want to stress the word 'quality.' A lot of excellent work has been done around the world in getting girls into school. I previously had the honour to be the British Ambassador to Afghanistan and I've seen girls going to school and I've seen the difference it makes to their lives. The next challenge is to make that a real quality education so that they get the skills and the tools necessary so that they can as they grow up play a full role in the political and economic life of their country. Also as part of this campaign, we've endorsed Safe Schools Declaration and we believe that this represents an important step forward.

We've talked also about sexual and gender-based violence. By definition, this prevents women from being active participants at school, in the workforce and in other political and economic spheres. I want to endorse what the Netherlands Minister said in particular about speaking out against violence against women leaders because they are the people who at the moment will be driving this forward and we support you in that.

Finally Mr President as we collectively look towards 2020, the ambition for all of us should only continue to grow. I want to really echo what the Ministers and others said about the need to change our plans into concrete implementation. I think it's very important. I hope we will be able to continue to address these issues in the Security Council. I just wanted to close by referring to Minister Wallström's quote from the women she met about wanting bigger boats, bigger nets and not to get raped. I think there is a wealth of meaning and description in that very simple sentence. If we do nothing else, we ought to be able to provide them with better equipment, better safety and the personal security that they require.

Thank you very much Mr President.

[News story: Commander JFC awards outstanding individuals](#)

General Sir Chris Deverell, Commander JFC, presented the awards to recipients, who were joined by family members and colleagues at the ceremony. Welcoming the recipients, General Deverell said:

The work carried out by Joint Forces Command is only made possible by its staff. Today we are able to recognise the work of individuals in the JFC workforce who have made an extraordinary contribution to JFC's success, and it is important that we do so.

Being able to recognise these achievements is one of the favourite parts of my role as Commander JFC. The staff here today should be incredibly proud of what they have done, and I hope they realise they stand as a leading example to their colleagues in JFC and across UK defence.

Commendations were awarded to individuals from across JFC in recognition for their work and achievements. These commendations recognise support to ongoing operations and activities, engagement with the local community, and individual acts of courage in the line of duty.

After receiving his award Lt Col Lamb said:

It is always great to be recognised. We all work hard, and if you do get recognised then that is fantastic.

Mr Ballard, a civil servant shared:

I'm absolutely touched and honoured, it's amazing to be recognised. The recognition for me personally is a wonderful feeling, but the people who should really be here as well are my wife and children and my great team at BFBS.

The Commander JFC Commendations can be awarded to service personnel, civil servants and contracted staff from across the organisation. Those awarded the Commander Joint Forces Command Commendations are:

- Dr Katrina Frost
- Mr Trevor McMaster
- Lt Helen Stevenson, Royal Navy
- W01 Paul Bawden, Corps of Royal Engineers
- Cdr Ian Kennedy, Royal Navy
- Sqn Ldr Christopher Gardner Royal Air Force
- Mrs Val Rooney
- Mrs Carol Thrussell
- Mr Christopher Richards
- Mrs Rachel Norris
- W01 Colin Suffield, Royal Army Physical Training Corps
- Maj Anthony Kriehn, Corps of Royal Engineers
- Lt Col Shaun Lamb, Royal Regiment of Artillery
- Mr Paul Meiklejohn
- Mr Robert Sendall
- Miss Rosie Allum
- SAC Alan Manison, Royal Air Force
- Mrs Diane Dalton
- Mr Anthony Ballard, BFBS Cyprus
- Ms Jenny Buttolph,

[News story: 100 diwrnod i fynd i gyflwyno'ch Ffurflen Dreth ar gyfer 2017 i 2018](#)

Gall trethdalwyr lenwi Ffurflen Dreth Hunanasesiad ar gyfer y flwyddyn dreth flaenorol mor gynnar â 6 Ebrill. Fodd bynnag, mae llawer o bobl yn aros tan ar ôl y Nadolig i'w llenwi. Y llynedd, llenwodd dros 11 miliwn o gwsmeriaid

Ffurflen Dreth Hunanasesiad ar gyfer 2016/17, a llwyddodd 10.7 miliwn ohonynt i wneud hynny mewn pryd. Cyflwynodd 4,852,744 o gwsmeriaid eu Ffurflen Dreth ym mis Ionawr 2018 (44.8% o'r cyfanswm) a 758,707 o gwsmeriaid ar 31 Ionawr.

Mae 100 diwrnod i fynd tan y dyddiad cau ar 31 Ionawr 2019, ond does dim byd yn bod ar lenwi'ch Ffurflen Dreth ymlaen llaw. Gallwch ddysgu faint o dreth sydd arnoch a'i thalu cyn y dyddiad cau – un peth yn llai ar eich rhestr felly dros y cyfnod prysur.

Meddai Mel Stride, yr Ysgrifennydd Ariannol i'r Trysorlys:

“Y llynedd, llenwodd dros 11 miliwn o drethdalwyr eu Ffurflenni Treth Hunanasesiad ac o ganlyniad i hynny, cafwyd refeniw o £32.7 biliwn – y swm uchaf erioed. Ac mae'r arian hwnw'n ariannu ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus hanfodol.

“Mae cyfran sylweddol o'n Ffurflenni Treth Hunanasesiad yn dod oddi wrth weithwyr hunangyflogedig a busnesau bach, ac mae'r llywodraeth yn ymrwymedig i'w helpu a lleihau eu baich gweinyddol. Gallwch gyflwyno'ch Ffurflen Dreth a rheoli'ch treth ar-lein yn hawdd ac yn hwylus drwy'ch Cyfrif Treth Personol.”

Meddai Angela MacDonald, Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol CThEM ar gyfer Gwasanaethau i Gwsmeriaid:

“Er bod y dyddiad cau 100 diwrnod i ffwrdd, mae llawer ohonom yn ei gadael hi tan fis Ionawr i ddechrau arni. Mae amser yn hedfan dros yr ŵyl, ond eto mae'r dasg o lenwi'ch Ffurflen Dreth o'ch blaen o hyd.

“Rydyn ni am helpu pobl i gael eu Ffurflenni Treth yn iawn. Drwy ddechrau ar y broses yn gynnar, gallwch ddod o hyd i'r holl wybodaeth fydd ei hangen arnoch i gyflwyno'ch Ffurflen Dreth yn ddiffwdan mewn pryd.”

Mae treth yn cael ei didynnu'n awtomatig o'r rhan fwyaf o gyflogau, pensiynau neu gynilion trethdalwyr y DU. Ond, mae'n rhaid i Ffurflen Dreth Hunanasesiad gael ei llenwi bob blwyddyn gan bobl neu fusnesau sydd ddim yn cael treth wedi'i didynnu'n awtomatig, neu sydd o bosibl wedi ennill incwm ychwanegol heb ei drethu.

Y llynedd, cyflwynodd 93% o gwsmeriaid eu Ffurflen Dreth ar-lein – y ganran uchaf erioed – ac mae CThEM yn rhoi cryn gymorth i unigolion sydd angen llenwi'u Ffurflen Dreth. Mae [ffilmiau a gweminarau](#) ar gael sy'n dangos pob cam o'r broses, ac mae arweiniad arbennig ar gael i wahanol fathau o unigolion.

Mae help i'w gael hefyd ar wefan [GOV.UK](#) eu gan Wasanaeth Cwsmeriaid Cymraeg CThEM ar 0300 200 1900.

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno Ffurflenni Treth ar bapur yw 31 Hydref 2018, a'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno Ffurflenni Treth ar-lein, a thalu unrhyw dreth sy'n weddill, yw 31 Ionawr 2019. Gall cwsmer wynebu isafswm cosb o £100 am gyflwyno'r Ffurflen Dreth yn hwyr.

[Press release: Man who sexually assaulted a young girl has sentence increased](#)



A man who sexually assaulted a young girl on repeated occasions will spend longer in jail after the Solicitor General, Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his sentence to the Court of Appeal for being too low.

Paul Ridout, now 72, was in his 50s when he regularly forced his victim to carry out sexual acts. The victim did not initially report Ridout as she believed the relationship was normal.

In August this year, Ridout was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with a 1 year extended licence period at Cardiff Crown Court. Today, this has been increased to 9 years imprisonment with a 1 year extended licence period after the Solicitor General referred the case for being unduly lenient.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

“I am pleased the Court of Appeal has agreed that Ridout’s sentence deserved to be higher. He sexually abused a young girl on repeated occasions, and I hope that she will be able to take some comfort from the increased sentence he received today.”

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[Press release: Man who sexually](#)

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