

Press release: FCO statement on restricting DPRK's illicit shipping practices

FCO and US State Department meet leading figures from maritime insurance industry to discuss further action on restricting the DPRK's illicit shipping practices.

Press release: Fighting the stigma of sexual violence: Lord Ahmad launches film festival

'Fighting Stigma through Film' will take place 23-24 November 2018 at the British Film Institute in London with PSVI co-founder Angelina Jolie.

Press release: Fighting the stigma of sexual violence: Lord Ahmad launches film festival

The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI), Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon has announced that the PSVI film festival, '[Fighting Stigma through Film](#)' will take place on the 23-24 November 2018 at the British Film Institute (BFI) in London. PSVI Co-Founder and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie will take part in the event.

The festival aims to harness the power of film to help fight the discrimination and social stigma faced by survivors of warzone rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict, and to support filmmakers from conflict-affected countries who are part of the fight against impunity and stigma in their own societies and worldwide.

Over two days there will be screenings of more than 35 films and documentaries from 14 countries, including Syria, Burma and Nigeria that

illuminate the reality of conflict-related sexual violence. The screenings will be open to the public and will be combined with a series of discussions with filmmakers and leading experts on conflict-related sexual violence.

PSVI Co-Founder and UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie will join young filmmakers from conflict-affected and Commonwealth countries including Yemen, Burma, Sri Lanka and Syria, who are taking part in a series of workshops designed to help build their capacity to tell their stories and change attitudes in their own societies. Ms Jolie will also lead a Q+A session with Congolese Nobel Peace Prize winner and preventing sexual violence activist, Dr Denis Mukwege.

Over two thirds (68%) of all the films being screened are directed or produced by women. Among the titles, the festival will host the world premiere for Leslie Thomas' film 'The Prosecutors' which explores the fight to get justice for survivors of sexual violence.

The film festival is part of the build-up to the UK-hosted Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict International Conference in November 2019, which will aim to galvanise governments around the world into taking tangible new steps to address sexual violence in conflict, and to uphold international commitments to bring perpetrators to account.

The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon said:

Since launching the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) in 2012, the UK has continued to lead global efforts to end the horror of sexual violence in conflict. We're calling on the international community to provide better justice for survivors and to hold perpetrators to account, strengthening global legal mechanisms needed to do so.

But alongside this, social change is needed. Stigma is a global problem that entrenches poverty and disenfranchisement. That's why changing hearts and minds is not only a moral imperative, but also a vital component of upholding international peace and security.

PSVI Co-Founder Angelina Jolie said:

Artists and human rights defenders often take significant risks to tell the truth about crimes committed against defenceless women, children and men during war. The perpetrators of war crimes often go to extreme lengths to keep the truth from being told. So I am proud to support the filmmakers taking part in the festival.

Stigma compounds the suffering of survivors of warzone rape. It is an unbearable injustice on a human level, and it is a major obstacle to achieving justice for victims of these sickening acts of violence. We need to examine and change the entrenched social

attitudes that treat sexual violence as an inevitable consequence of war or lesser crime – including harmful attitudes to women.

The UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten, who will be taking part in the event, said:

Rape is a crime that can turn victims into outcasts, undermining social cohesion and unravelling family ties. It is time to take a more proactive approach to tackling stigma as a specific harm.

Films being screened include:

- 'The Prosecutors' (Dir. Leslie Thomas) – Kickstarter backed film about a Congolese and Bosnian lawyer's fight to get justice for survivors of sexual violence.
- 'I Am Not Who They Think I Am' (Dir. Marta Martinez) – Documentary set in Uganda about the stigma faced by children born from sexual violence.
- 'Libya: Unspeakable Crime' (Dir. Cécile Allegra) – First-hand accounts of the systematic use of rape following the fall of Col Gaddafi.
- 'City of Joy' (Dir. Madeleine Gavin) – Documentary following the beginning of City of Joy, a centre in the DRC which was set up with the help of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr Denis Mukwege to help women victimised by conflict.
- 'The Uncondemned' (Dir. Michele Mitchell and Nick Louvel) – Drama telling the story of how international law was changed by a single case in a Rwandan court room.
- 'Silent War' (Dir. Manon Loizeau) – Accounts by women and children systematically abused by members of the Assad regime.

[News story: Open Forums for UK Nationals in the Netherlands](#)

The Dutch government and municipalities (gemeentes) support these forums,

joining the panels and answering questions about the impact of the UK leaving the EU. UK Nationals have rights and responsibilities when living in the Netherlands. One consistent piece of advice the Dutch government has given is ensuring you are registered with your gemeente (local municipality), using your current address. The Dutch government is planning to write to UK Nationals on or near the 29 March 2019.

The meetings provide an opportunity to update you on the latest developments as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

The following meetings have been held, and further events, will be announced here and on our [Facebook](#) page. If you want to be updated by email, please subscribe by emailing ukinnl@fco.gov.uk.

Previous open forums

- 9 October – The Hague
- 25 October – Amsterdam
- 1 November – Groningen
- 6 November – Utrecht

Upcoming open forums

You can register for meetings, through the Eventbrite links below:

Once you've registered, you will receive a confirmation email that includes the precise location of the meeting. The meetings will start with a short introduction to update you on the progress made so far in the negotiations and will be followed by a Q&A session.

We will also be holding a Facebook live event early December and will be advertising this soon.

For further information, visit our [Living in the Netherlands Guide](#) for practical information, such as how to register as a resident. You can receive email alerts whenever the guide is updated by signing up here.

For questions concerning your rights as a UK National in the Netherlands, please contact us [here](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Useful Links

[Update on citizens' rights in the context of the EU Exit negotiations](#)

[More information on the UK's departure from the European Union](#)

[Living in the Netherlands Guide](#)

[Immigration and Naturalisation Service Brexit page \(Dutch government\)](#)

[British Embassy in the Netherlands](#)

[News story: End of reprocessing at Thorp signals new era for Sellafield](#)

The last piece of nuclear fuel was 'sheared' (where nuclear fuel is cut into pieces at the beginning of the reprocessing cycle) at Thorp (Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant) last week, and marks one of the final steps in Sellafield's transformation towards becoming a site that is solely focused on decommissioning and hazard reduction.

Nuclear Energy Minister, Richard Harrington, said:

This marks a new and welcome chapter in Sellafield's decommissioning and environmental clean-up journey, protecting the public from hazards, ensuring the land can be re-used in the future.

In 2012, the decision was taken to end reprocessing at Thorp by 2018, once the current reprocessing contracts were complete.

It is an important move towards the end of all reprocessing at Sellafield site, a journey that will finish with the closure of the Magnox Reprocessing Plant in 2020.

Safely cleaning up the legacy from the earliest days of the nuclear industry, at Sellafield and the 16 other nuclear sites across the UK, is the NDA's core mission.

David Peattie, Chief Executive of the NDA, said:

The end of reprocessing at Thorp is a clear demonstration that we are delivering our core mission of the safe, secure, and cost effective clean-up of the UK's nuclear legacy.

This is a historic moment for Sellafield and the UK nuclear industry. Passing this milestone marks another major step in the transformation of the site.

As we continue to make pioneering progress in decommissioning and hazard reduction, the world will continue to look to the UK and to Cumbria for its nuclear skills and expertise.

A flagship of commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing, Thorp operated for 24 years and dealt with spent 'oxide' nuclear fuel from the UK's nuclear reactor fleet and from customers overseas.

Thorp's contribution to the global nuclear industry is a source of great pride for the communities of West Cumbria.

It was the second reprocessing plant built at Sellafield and, at the time, was one of the largest and most complex construction projects in Europe, rivalled only by the Channel Tunnel and Disneyland Paris.