

# Declaration by the High Representative Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol

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Four years on from the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the European Union remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The European Union reiterates that it does not recognise and continues to condemn this violation of international law. It remains a direct challenge to international security, with grave implications for the international legal order that protects the unity and sovereignty of all States.

The European Union remains committed to fully implementing its non-recognition policy, including through restrictive measures. The EU calls again on UN Member States to consider similar non-recognition measures in line with the UNGA Resolution 68/262. The European Union does not recognise the holding of elections by the Russian Federation in the Crimean peninsula.

The ongoing militarisation of the peninsula continues to impact the security situation in the Black Sea region. In violation of international humanitarian law, Russian citizenship and conscription in the armed forces of the Russian Federation have been imposed on Crimean residents.

The European Union condemns the construction of the Kerch Bridge without Ukraine's consent and the limitations it has already imposed on the freedom of transit.

Since the illegal annexation by the Russian Federation, the human rights situation in the Crimean peninsula has deteriorated further. Residents of the peninsula face systematic restrictions of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression, religion or belief and association and the right to

peaceful assembly.

The rights of the Crimean Tatars have been gravely violated through the shutting down of Crimean Tatar media outlets, the banning of the activities of the Mejlis, their self-governing body, and the persecution of its leaders and members of their community. Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians and all ethnic and religious communities in the peninsula must be ensured the possibility to maintain and develop their culture, traditions, education and identity.

The EU reiterates its call for the immediate release of Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko, Mykola Semena and all those who have been detained and sentenced in breach of international law. Journalists, human rights defenders and defence lawyers should be able to work independently and without undue interference.

The EU calls for full compliance with international human rights standards in the peninsula. All pending cases of human rights violations and abuses, such as enforced disappearances, torture and killings should be thoroughly investigated. Full, free and unrestricted access for international human rights actors to the whole territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and Sevastopol, continues to be paramount. The EU recalls UNGA Resolution 72/190 of 19 December 2017, and calls for its full implementation, including the Russian Federation's obligations under applicable international humanitarian law.

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This declaration is issued on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation (18 March 2018).

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## **Company and director fined for exposing workers to fall from height risks**

A solar panel installation company and its sole director have been fined for failing to manage and control fall from height risks.

Reading Crown Court heard how, after a concern was raised by a member of public, a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector made a visit to the site where Sasie Limited was installing solar panels on the roof of a commercial building. On this visit the inspector identified two workers on the roof without any form of fall protection and a prohibition notice was

served.

When the HSE inspector returned to the site three days later there was further unsafe work being carried out on the roof. An investigation by HSE found that the unsafe work was allowed to continue by the director, Mr Kelly despite a member of public bringing it to his attention and the serving of the prohibition notice.

Sasie Limited of Waterway Street, Nottingham pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and Sections 33(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and also Regulation 6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,300.

Mr Ean Marsden Kelly of Waterway Street, Nottingham pleaded guilty to breaching two counts of Section 37(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £500.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Dominic Goacher said "Falls from heights are the one of the biggest causes of workplace fatalities and major injuries.

"All work at height must be properly planned irrespective of the task being undertaken and those in control must ensure suitable control measures to prevent falls are in place throughout the duration of the project".

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [legislation.gov.uk/](http://legislation.gov.uk/)
3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>
4. Further information about best practices can be found in freely available HSE guidance <http://hse.gov.uk/construction/safetyopics/roofwork.htm>

Journalists should approach HSE press office with any queries on regional press releases.

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**[Speech: Dr Phillip Lee's speech at](#)**

# Centre for Social Justice launch event

Thank you very much for inviting me along to this launch event today. Firstly can thank the team at Centre for Social Justice for this insightful report. It not only raises a number of pertinent points about the challenges which female offenders, and the services responding to them face, but also outlines practical and creative proposals we can take to tackle them.

Secondly, I would like to emphasise an important theme that runs throughout this report: the need for a multi-agency, gender-responsive approach to female offenders that brings together local and national partners in a coordinated and accountable manner.

Female offenders are some of our most vulnerable members of society and often have complex needs. As articulated in the report, a significant number of these women have histories of mental health issues, substance misuse, trauma and abuse, homelessness, poor education and unemployment.

For many, these issues have developed prior to their involvement with the criminal justice system. Many of these women are also likely to be already known to, or already engaged with, different public services before they even commit a crime.

Despite this, we know that outcomes for a significant number of women remain persistently and unacceptably poor.

We must address these issues at the outset if we want to reduce crime, reduce reoffending, protect victims and the public.

Achieving this requires a joined-up approach from the relevant Government departments, national and local statutory services, and the voluntary sector, to develop a coordinated, multi-agency response. I'm pleased to say we are making some real progress in achieving this. And, this is a principle that also underlines my female offender strategy.

## **Whole System Approach and women's centres**

As set out in the report, we are investing £1 million pounds seed funding to support local areas to develop new ways of working with female offenders by adopting a multi-agency – often termed Whole System – approach.

The whole system model brings together local agencies, criminal justice, statutory and voluntary. Together they provide the holistic, targeted support a female offender needs, with shared investment and outcomes. The National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies are key partners, ensuring that female offenders receive targeted, wrap-around support both through the gate and in the community.

Women's centres are often at the heart of many of these Whole-System Approach models. And I have been impressed by the women's centres that I have visited.

Over the past year I met staff and service users at Nelson Trust and Anawim, which are both providing valuable support to vulnerable women.

I recognise the hugely important role that these women's centres can play in supporting female offenders and those at risk of offending. Our best response to female offending must be one that is locally-led.

## **Liaison and diversion**

Another recent success commended in the report is that of Liaison and Diversion (L&D) services. L&D services place clinical staff at police stations and courts to provide assessments and referrals at an earlier stage. In doing so, we can intervene early to support people with mental health, drug and alcohol issues as soon as they come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

L&D services will be operating across 82% of England by the end of March 2018, and across 90% of the country by the end of March 2019. Full rollout is expected by 2020/21.

And we are going further. NHS England are currently enhancing 'women's pathways' across all L&D services, to address the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system.

A specific women's lead will be appointed in each service to focus on this. Services will:

- offer to see all females who come into custody
- provide females with the choice of the gender of their practitioner
- offer gender-sensitive tools for screening
- and provide effective onward referrals to gender specific and sensitive services.

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he needs of particular groups such as women sex workers and foreign national women, will also be considered. These pathways will be co-designed with women with lived experience.

This will mean that more female offenders will be diverted away from the criminal justice system in the first place, away from charge, or to a community sentence. I firmly believe that early intervention is an important part of our response to female offending. Not only does it improve outcomes for these women but also their children, their families and the public as a whole.

## **Devolution**

As the report outlines, Police & Crime Commissioners (PPC'S) have a real appetite to be more involved in a new approach for female offenders.

This is extremely welcome. PCCs play a valuable role as visible and accountable leaders of the local police and crime systems. And Combined

Authorities bring together several services which are crucial to reduce reoffending.

I recognise the potential benefits that a more locally-led system offers. I am keen to work closely with PCCs and Combined Authorities to explore this further.

It is crucial that we work more closely with these local partners to tackle the issues leading women into the criminal justice system.

To deliver this, we have signed devolution agreements with several areas, including Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, West Midlands and Greater London.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to exploring options to provide greater devolution of criminal justice responsibility and budgets to local commissioners.

## **Women at court**

Another issue raised in the report was that of awareness of pre-sentence report writers of the disposals available in their areas. We have recently undertaken an audit of pre-sentence reports and assessment tools for female offenders at court. This looked at how we could take a more gender responsive and trauma informed approach towards the women we are working with.

Cross-departmental work is now progressing to increase the quality of assessments for female offenders and a work plan has been developed to take this work forward.

This work is also looking to increase the take up of effective community sentences in line with sentencing guidelines. This work is being carried out in partnership with the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC's).

## **Workforce development**

However, for these changes to have the necessary impact, it is essential that we have a gender informed workforce.

We continue to roll out Trauma Informed training to criminal justice professionals. Training is now being extended across the National Probation Service and CRCs, as well as to prison staff.

We have also supported the wider Criminal Justice System roll out of the 'Safeguarding Children When Sentencing Mothers' training material completed by Dr Shona Minson.

This training raises awareness of the diverse implications of maternal imprisonment for children.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to Dr Minson for her invaluable work.

## **Benefits and employment**

Today's report also rightly highlights the challenges which prisoners face when leaving prison, particularly around access to welfare support.

Prisoners are able to speak to a Department of Work and Pensions Work Coach before release. They can make an appointment at the relevant Job Centre as early as the day of release. Once the former prisoner attends the Job Centre to complete their claim, eligible prisoners can receive funds within hours.

However, we recognise that more can be done. That is why we are working with the Department of Work and Pensions to improve the process with the aim of enabling a claim in advance of release.

And I want to do more to help women into employment on release too. Getting and keeping a job can change people's lives and work is the best route out of crime. The prison and probation service have an important role to help offenders build the skills and experience they need whilst they're in prison so they can have the right attitude for work and get a job when they're released. As the Secretary of State outlined on 6 March, we will shortly be launching our Education and Employment Strategy. This will set out our approach to helping offenders get the skills they need to find a job and avoid the activities that landed them in prison in the first place.

## **Accommodation**

Another factor that plays an important part in rehabilitation is accommodation. There is considerable evidence which tells us there is a link between lack of stable accommodation and reoffending. Suitable accommodation plays an important part in enabling offenders to get a job, into training, or registered with a GP.

HMPPS has undertaken some initiatives to improve access to accommodation, such as expanding the BASS contract to offer accommodation to offenders on licence.

We continue to work with all probation providers to help make sure offenders get the support they need to find accommodation on release.

But accommodation is a serious problem which requires a cross departmental response, as recognised in the report's recommendations.

We are working with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to improve access to housing for those being released from prison.

As part of this, we are investigating how Housing First and proposals regarding the private rented sector could help to ensure that offenders with complex needs, including female offenders, can secure suitable accommodation

This work will form part of the wider Government commitment to eliminate homelessness.

## Conclusion

As you know, my female offender strategy is due shortly. I hope to outline in this what further progress we have made in the areas I have highlighted today, and others, to address the challenges which female offenders face. This is a complex issue and one that I want to get right.

Thank you for having me here today to support the launch of this report.

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## [The Lodzkie Region shows best practices in the circular economy](#)

Members of the ENVE commission visited the Lodzkie Region on 14-15 March to get acquainted with best practices in the area of the circular economy.

The delegation has visited various projects in the fields of environmental protection, waste management, bioeconomy, renewable energy and eco-innovation. These result from the cooperation between private businesses, applied science and research institutes, non-governmental organizations and the Lodzkie regional authority.

Marshal **Witold Stępień (PL/EPP)**, member of the European Committee of the Regions since October 2011, was keen in organising a study visit in his homeland to present concrete projects created through public-private partnerships that bring both economic and environmental benefits to local communities.

“The Lodzkie Region illustrates how local governments can be change agents driving the shift towards circular economy models that lead to low-carbon communities”, said Witold Stępień (PL/EPP).

The Łódzkie Region is part of the European project “Synergic Circular Economy across European Regions” [SCREEN](#). Its goal is to develop a reference framework for the establishment of synergies between Horizon 2020, EU’s research and innovation programme, and the European Structural and Investment Funds related to the circular economy.

The ENVE delegation includes members **Bruno Hranić (HR/EPP)**, Mayor of the Municipality of Vidovec in Croatia, **Gillian Ford (UK/ EA)**, Member of the London Borough of Havering in the UK, **Marco Dus (IT/PES)**, Member of Vittorio Veneto Municipal Council in the Italian Province of Treviso, **Vytautas Vigelis (LT/ALDE)**, Member of the Municipal Council of Švenčionys district in Lithuania, **Ribányi József (HU/EPP)**, Vice-Chairman of the Tolna County Assembly in Hungary, **Andres Jaadla (EE/ALDE)**, Member of Rakvere City Council in Estonia, **Ioanis Sgouros (EL/PES)**, Regional Councilor of Attica in Greece, **Mary Freehill (IE/PES)**, Member of the Dublin City Council in Ireland,



**Jaroslav Hlinka (SK/PES)**, Mayor of Kosice-South in Slovakia, **Giuseppe Rinaldi (IT/PES)**, President of the Italian Province of Rieti, **Vytautas Kanevičius (LT/ECR)**, Member of the Council of Kazlų Rūda Municipality in Lithuania and **Raymund Kovács (HU/EPP)**, Budapest XVI. District Representative.

These are the projects visited by the ENVE delegation:

**Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer, Medical University of Łódź:** coordination between science and businesses for economic development in medicine and health. The Centre incubates new business ventures while providing administrative support at all stages of commercialization. Areas: oncology, neurology, neurodegenerative diseases, biomolecular sciences, cardiology, diabetes, allergy and immunology.

**GREEN HUB:** a non-formal initiative in zero waste and health. Green Hub is an initiative of local and regional NGOs, business, and researchers towards the circular economy.

**Town of Brzeziny:** implements a €5 million project on the production of clean electricity and heat, photovoltaic and solar collectors, wind farms and the creation of a transport system based on electric cars.

**STEIG Sp. z o.o. – producer of BOXlife Polish Modular Houses:** not for profit social enterprise, leader in the production of residential and service modules operating under social objectives, human rights, environmental, work and employment best practices integrating socially marginalized citizens.

**Waste Management and Recycling Cluster:** formed by businesses, research and development units, support institutions and consulting companies dedicated to environmental education. Collection, disposal, processing, recycling and transport of all types of industrial waste. Specialised in used electrical and electronic equipment. The cluster is supraregional and its impact goes beyond Łódzkie to include Wielkopolskie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, , Małopolska, Masovia, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Silesia, Świętokrzyskie and Zachodniopomorskie.

**O-PAL RECYKLING:** purchase, collection, recovery, processing and recycling of all types of waste.

**STAL-CAR:** Stal-Car is two licensed and authorised scrap yards operated since 2006. The company is in the forefront of the biggest automotive spare parts dealers in Poland.

The next study visit of the ENVE commission will take place in Nijmegen in April. Nijmegen has a lot to share when it comes to environmental and climate-friendly cities as it is the European Green Capital 2018.

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## **African Union – European Union relations: joint visit of AU and EU ambassadors to Central African Republic**

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