

# News story: Priti Patel statement on the liberation of Mosul

International Development Secretary comments on the liberation of Mosul, following the Iraqi Prime Minister's formal declaration.

## **International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:**

"The liberation of Mosul after two years of Daesh brutality and oppression comes at a high price for both the Iraqi Security Forces and the city's people and I pay tribute to the tenacity and courage they have shown.

"Throughout this struggle, UK aid provided shelter, medical care, clean water and other lifesaving aid to those who have lost their homes because of the fighting or been forced to flee the city for safety.

"The declaration that Mosul is once again free is a great victory for the people of Iraq, but it must now be backed up by the painstaking task of rebuilding and reconciling so families can return home as quickly as possible. The UK will continue to stand alongside the people of Iraq to take this vital work forward in the weeks and months ahead – and helping to shore up stability and security across the region is ultimately in our national interest as well."