

PM travels to Europe for Ukraine crisis talks

News story

The Prime Minister will travel to Germany today for the Munich Security Conference.



- Prime Minister will address Munich Security Conference on the importance of Western unity
- While in Germany he will meet world leaders to discuss current tensions
- Visit comes as allies warn that an invasion of Ukraine could take place at any moment

The Prime Minister will travel to Germany today (Saturday) for discussions with European allies amid increasing concern about the likelihood of a further Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This week the build-up of forces has continued despite Russian claims to the contrary, with 7,000 more troops arriving on Ukraine's border in recent days. The UK and other allies have warned that military action could take place at any moment and without warning.

At the Munich Security Conference the Prime Minister will deliver a speech calling on allies to stay united in the face of Russian hostility. He will remind partners that, while there is still time to persuade President Putin to stand down Russian troops, the only prospect for this is if the western world speaks with one voice to dissuade and deter.

While in Munich, the Prime Minister will also meet a number of European partners to discuss the current response. In recent days the Prime Minister has spoken to the leaders of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Japan, Australia and elsewhere about the ongoing crisis.

The Prime Minister said:

There is still a chance to avoid unnecessary bloodshed, but it will require an overwhelming display of western solidarity beyond anything we have seen in recent history.

Allies need to speak with one voice to stress to President Putin the high price he will pay for any further Russian invasion of Ukraine. Diplomacy can still prevail.

That is the message I will take to Munich today as we redouble our efforts to prevent a grave miscalculation which would devastate Ukraine, Russia and the rest of Europe.

The Munich Security Conference is the world's largest annual gathering of international leaders and foreign policy experts. When the Prime Minister addressed the conference last year he warned that countries like Russia who seek to act with 'reckless abandon' to harm our people must be met with the 'immovable rock of trans-Atlantic solidarity'.

One year on, the Prime Minister will reiterate that message both in his speech to the conference and in meetings with world leaders.

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