

## **Press release: Planned Israeli settlement: statement by Minister for Middle East**

The UK strongly condemns the Israeli government's decision to establish a second new settlement deep in the West Bank in less than a year. These plans could involve the retroactive 'legalisation' of the outpost of Havat Gilad.

Settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the physical viability of the two-state solution. We call on both parties to refrain from actions which make peace more difficult.