

# Raab: A Good Global Citizen

Rt  
Hon Dominic Raab MP, Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State, speaking today at Conservative Party Conference at Manchester Central Convention Complex, said:

**(Check against delivery)**

“Thank you, conference.

Taking on this job as Foreign Secretary and our mission for a Global Britain is the fulfilment of a long-standing dream.

Fifteen years ago, I was young Foreign Office lawyer, posted to the Hague. Diplomats from Asia to South America would say to me: ‘You guys in the EU. You spend so much time talking to yourselves, you miss so much of what’s going on in the rest of the world.’

It was true then and its true today. Brussels isn’t the only game in town. Everywhere I go, people are fired up by our vision for a Global Britain. When I visited the US, President Trump invited me into the Oval Office to tell me how much he loves our country.”

“When I visited Bangkok for the ASEAN meeting of Asia-Pacific nations, they embraced our role in their region, because they prize our commitment to the rules based international system. In Mexico, we talked about tackling climate change. In Canada, we worked on our joint campaign to protect journalists around the world from torture and arbitrary detention.”

“The truth is we Brits get a warm welcome almost everywhere in world.

Ok, maybe not in Luxembourg.

But you know what. I think the British people have had more than enough of EU leaders disrespecting British Prime Ministers.

So, we’ll strive in good faith for a deal. But if the EU spurn the opportunity for a win-win deal, We will leave at the end of October ... no ifs, no buts.

We want to stay good  
European neighbours.  
But we'll be free to chart our own course, as masters of our own destiny – at home and abroad, with a more liberal and energetic approach to free trade.”

“But our vision of  
Global Britain reaches well beyond just trade.

When I was posted to the  
Hague in 2003, I headed up the FC0's war crimes team.

Experiences like that  
stay with you.

When I visited Sierra  
Leone, I met the victims of that terrible conflict.

A boy told me how a  
rebel soldier had asked him whether he wanted 'long or short sleeve',

Before deciding where to  
wield his machete on his arm.

It was heart-breaking to  
listen to.

But I'm proud Britain  
helped Sierra Leone get back on its feet. I'm proud to have been part of the  
UK's international effort to bring the perpetrators of those crimes to  
justice.”

“And, as we look to our  
future, our foreign policy should be guided by a clear moral compass.

We've got to offer the  
poorest countries the chance to trade with us, freed from the shackles of  
hypocritical EU protectionism.

We've got to lead in  
tackling climate change. That's why we're hosting COP26, the global  
conference  
on climate change, in Glasgow next year.

And we've got to offer  
the down-trodden around the world the hope that comes with standing up for  
the  
basic freedoms we cherish here in Manchester, this week, in this conference  
centre.

Sometimes it feels a  
hopeless task.

But history remembers the courage of those who stand up to be counted.”

“In the 1990s, I met a Russian dissident Natan Sharansky. He’d been locked in a Soviet gulag for 9 years for campaigning for the right of oppressed Jews to leave Russia. I still find that tough to imagine... 9 years in a Soviet jail, miserable conditions, separated from your loved ones.”

“I asked Sharansky what kept his hopes alive. He told me the political prisoners had a secret way of communicating in the gulag. They tapped on the walls, in code, to spread the word.”

“So, when, in 1983, Ronald Reagan stood up and called the Soviet Union an Evil Empire, Those Soviet prisons came alive with the hum of jailed dissidents tapping and whispering from cell to cell. Reagan’s courage and moral clarity gave hope to those who feared they’d been forgotten. And Sharansky was the first political prisoner Mikhail Gorbachev released.”

“The world is different today. But, we must never forget the lessons of history. And we must keep the flame of freedom alive in the darkest corners of the bleakest jails, For those struggling for the basic liberties we take for granted... The right you jealously guard – here, this week – to debate, to have your say, to hold your politicians to account.

So, we won’t look the other way, when the people of Hong Kong are beaten indiscriminately on commuter trains for exercising the right to peaceful protest.

We won’t stand idly by whilst journalists are jailed or beaten up for criticising the despotic regime of Nicolas Maduro in Venezuela.

And we will never rest until all those bearing UK nationality, detained on a cruel whim in Iran, are free to re-join their loved ones at home.”

“We will relish not shrink from our duty to take a leading role in bringing the perpetrators of the worst injustices to account.

Whether it’s ensuring

the release of the two Reuters journalists jailed in Myanmar for reporting on the plight of the Rohingya refugees or bringing war criminals to trial from Yugoslavia to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

And when we leave the EU, we'll be able to do even more.

So, conference, I can tell you today that we will bring into force a UK Magnitsky law, To place visa bans and asset freezes on those individuals deemed responsible for serious human rights abuses, including torture."

"Because, the British people don't want those with blood on their hands doing their Christmas shopping in Knightsbridge or laundering their dirty money through British banks. And because, our vision of Global Britain means being a force for good in the world, A Global Good Citizen."

"And the fate of those living under oppression reminds us how much we prize our hard-earned prosperity, our hard-won freedoms. We must never take them for granted.

That's what's at stake, if Labour takes office under Jeremy Corbyn.

Labour, once a mainstream party now hails the failed socialist experiment in Venezuela where the population starves and dissidents are shot in the street.

A party that chooses to believe the Kremlin over our own intelligence services, when Putin's assassins poison people on the streets of Salisbury.

And a party led by a man in Jeremy Corbyn who attends a memorial at the graves of terrorists responsible for butchering Israeli Olympic athletes out of anti-Semitic hate."

"I say this as a passionate Brexiteer, there are some things even bigger than Brexit, And keeping that lot out of Downing Street is one of them.

So, to any of our colleagues – or former colleagues – tempted to put Jeremy Corbyn and his momentum mob into No 10, as part of some 'temporary' anti-Brexit coalition... I just say this: history would never forgive you."

"As for the Liberal Democrats. They want to scrap the result of the 2016 vote.

You can't call yourself a Democrat, put it in the name of your party, and then try to cancel a referendum.  
Well, no one ever accused the Lib Dems of consistency.  
But when it comes to offences under the Trade Description Act, they're guilty as charged.

This Prime Minister is offering a better way forward.

Let's get Brexit done,

Let's move on,  
Let's unite behind our One Nation vision for the country,  
And let's bring the Conservative family back together."

"We in the Conservative party keep our promises.  
We're going to make a success of Brexit,  
And, we will free our country to reach its full potential.

With the Prime Minister's leadership and energy, we're going to seize this historic opportunity for Britain to reach out to the world on our own terms... with global horizons, limitless ambition and a strong moral compass."

"Friends, it's time to put the past behind us.  
It's time to let go of the wrangling and the doubts.  
It's time for us to be the country we want to be.

Great Britain:  
ambitious, confident and free."

ENDS