

# UN Human Rights Council 44: Statement on the Human Rights Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

Thank you Madam President,

The UK has the honour to present draft resolution L.10 on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of a group of states: France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey and my own country, the United Kingdom.

Madam President,

In light of the unique circumstances of the 44th session, we have chosen to respond appropriately and present a short and focused resolution.

This resolution highlights the ongoing dire situation of human rights across Syria and the need for all parties to abide by international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It focuses on key developments since we negotiated the March resolution, including: the call by the UN Secretary General and his Special Envoy for an immediate nationwide ceasefire; the Commission of Inquiry's latest findings on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Idlib; and the importance of unimpeded humanitarian access.

The text also reflects the additional risks to detainees posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted by the High Commissioner, the Commission of Inquiry and the Secretary General's Special Envoy, and requests that the Commission of Inquiry presents a report on the situation of arbitrary detention across Syria.

Madam President,

Our decision to streamline this resolution was taken in response to the unique situation of this meeting of the Human Rights Council. It should not be misinterpreted to suggest any improvement of the human rights situation in Syria, which remains one of the worst in the world.

We hope our approach this session will enable even more members of the Council to support this text.

Finally Madam President,

We would like to highlight an oral revision to operative paragraph five of document L10, circulated in advance through the secretariat. In view of UN Security Council Resolution 2533 adopted on Saturday 11 July, we have deleted the words in OP5 'and calls for the continuation of cross-border humanitarian support beyond July 2020',

and replaced with

'regrets in this regard the further reduction in approved crossing points for cross border humanitarian aid, and urges the Syrian authorities to immediately and significantly improve cross line access to prevent further unnecessary suffering and loss of life'.

We would request that action is taken on L.10 as orally revised. If a vote is called on this resolution, I would urge all members of the Council to vote in favour of it.

---

## Temporary fee changes



The following temporary fee changes were in place from 30 July 2020 to 31 March 2021. The fee changes related to patents, supplementary protection certificates (SPCs), trade marks and registered designs.

- fees for extensions of time were zero
- there was no surcharge for payment of a patent application fee after the date of filing
- fees to apply for reinstatement and restoration were zero
- for patents and designs, there was no surcharge for late payment of a renewal fee
- for trade marks, the surcharge for late payment of a renewal fee was £1

The fees affected by the temporary fee changes are set out in the tables below. The deadlines for completing actions, requesting extensions of time and paying fees were unaffected by these fee changes and still needed to be complied with.

Any actions taken on or after 1 April 2021 will require the usual fee. Please see the IPO's forms and fees pages for full details of our fees relating to [patents](#), [trade marks](#) and [designs](#).

### **Extensions of time**

Where reasons are required to support a request for an extension of time or a late payment, the Office will try to [support those applicants](#) who have been

affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This will continue to be the case after the temporary fee changes have ended.

## Late renewals

If you renew your IP right on or after 1 April 2021 and this is after the renewal date then you may need to pay a late payment surcharge. For patent and design renewals the late payment surcharge is calculated based on the renewal date and may be as much as £120. For trade mark renewals the late payment surcharge is £50.

## Lapsing of rights

There is no change in practice in relation to the lapsing of rights. For example, where the renewal period has ended in relation to a trade mark or design, then it will be marked as expired on the register. Note that the proprietor may still renew the right late within the six-month surcharge period following the end of the renewal period. There is no change to the periods in which intellectual property rights can be restored or the safeguards which may be available to third parties when rights are restored.

## Legislation

The [legislation](#) making these fee changes came into force on 30 July. Our systems have now been updated to reflect that the fee changes have now ended.

## Temporary fee changes

### Patents and SPCs:

Form	Details	Temporary fee until 31 March
AF1	25% surcharge for late payment of the application fee	No surcharge for late payment. The application fee will be £60 if filed electronically, £90 if filed on paper.
Form 3	fee for making a late declaration of priority under r.7(2)	Zero. There is no change to the £40 fee for making a late claim to priority under r.6(2).
Form 12	late payment of a renewal fee	Zero. There is no change to the renewal fee itself.
Form 14	request to reinstate a patent application	Zero
Form 16	application to restore a patent	Zero
Form 52	request to extend a prescribed time limit (including the compliance period)	Zero
SP2	SPC late payment fee	Zero. There is no change to the annual fee itself.

## Temporary fee changes – Trade Marks:

Form	Details	Temporary fee until 31 March
TM9	request for an extension of time before the period has expired	Zero
TM9R	request for a retrospective extension of time	Zero
TM11	late payment of a renewal fee	£1. There is no change to the renewal fee itself.
TM13	request to restore a trade mark	Zero. There is no change to the renewal fee itself.

## Temporary fee changes – Designs:

Form	Details	Temporary fee until 31 March
DF9A	late payment of a renewal fee	Zero. There is no change to the renewal fee itself.
DF29	request to restore a registered design	Zero

Published 1 July 2020

Last updated 1 April 2021 [+ show all updates](#)

### 1. 1 April 2021

Changed to reflect that the temporary fee changes have come to an end.

### 2. 2 March 2021

Edited to update information as we enter the last month of the temporary fee changes.

### 3. 30 July 2020

Updated to reflect the period of interruption ending

### 4. 17 July 2020

Some further information on surcharges

### 5. 1 July 2020

First published.

---

# Thousands to benefit from high-quality community based English language learning

- £5.1 million fund to provide classes to those with little or no English
- 30 areas across England to benefit from funding
- Lessons to take place in safe spaces like community centres and places of worship

Thousands of people are set to benefit from a new programme of English language classes and activities to help them fulfil their potential, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed today (17 July 2020).

Building on the success of previous community-based programmes, Mr Jenrick announced £5.1 million for the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Integration Fund for classes and language learning activities in 30 areas across England.

The new programme will offer English language sessions to those with little or no written or spoken English. The 30 successful local authorities have all designed programmes that will best meet the needs of residents with little or no English language skills, who may feel disconnected, and will help them to fulfil their potential and improve their connections within their local communities.

The tailored language lessons will be delivered in familiar and accessible community buildings such as community centres and places of worship in a socially distant way, or online, via apps, with digital laptop libraries and 1:1 learner support.

Communities Minister Rt Hon Robert Jenrick said:

We are committed to levelling up and uniting our country. And a successful, well integrated society requires everyone to be able to speak English.

This funding will provide language classes to thousands of people, so they become fully integrated and active members of society, making a positive contribution to the UK.

The most recent Census (2011) found that 770,000 people that live in England speak little or no English.

Since 2013 over 100,000 places have been made available to help isolated adults improve their English language proficiency and build their self-confidence through community-based programmes.

Lack of English skills presents a clear barrier to social and economic mobility. For some learners more formal approaches to learning English can be challenging.

The most common difficulties are travel costs, lack of childcare, illiteracy in their first language, digital exclusion or a reluctance or lack of confidence to make the first steps towards learning English.

Community-based tuition is proven to be a highly effective means of engaging people who are in greatest need of support and may not have previously taken steps to learn English.

The programmes will focus on connecting learners to the places, spaces and people in their local area – helping them in everyday situations such as shopping in the high street, visiting the doctor or attending a parents' evening. The fund will provide opportunities for English language practice, as well as social mixing through shared interests and activities both faced to face and online.

Find listed the [30 local authorities offered funding](#).

Up to £5.1m is being awarded in 2020/21 to support 30 local authority proposals for one year schemes offering taught sessions to participants at New to ESOL level (pre-entry – entry level one) by qualified ESOL practitioners; and social mixing opportunities for the whole ESOL community through clubs and activities.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has a successful track record of delivering English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), in community-based settings, as a key intervention to support increased social integration. Interventions range from the Community Based English Language Programme in 2013 to the Integrated Communities English Language Programme in 2019/20.

For the last 3 years ESOL social mixing opportunities, such as conversations clubs and activities, have also been supported by the Department through the Controlling Migration Fund.

The fund is intended to supplement English language provision already available under the Adult Skills Budget and many of the participants will be expected to progress to more formal ESOL classes as their proficiency and confidence grows.

**Case Studies are both part of the £5.1 million announcement**

## **Case study 1**

Manchester's 'Talk English' is currently developing a dedicated web-based app ready for September so that learners and teachers can interact securely with one another using text, audio and video messaging. Learners will also be able to access good quality online learning activities and evidence and record their learning.

The new app will help tackle digital exclusion as well as improve the rate of progress for learners, who will use the app to continue their learning outside the classes and cafes also on offer through the scheme. It will also make sure learning can continue even if Covid19 puts further restrictions on physical classes and activities in future months.

The app will be highly visual in order to maximise engagement with learners who often have very low literacy and struggle to engage on other distance learning platforms.

## **Case study 2**

Wakefield Council were awarded a grant of £222,879 from the ESOL for Integration fund. This will fund ESOL classes in community venues across the town, targeting and supporting learners who are at the very beginning of their English language learning journey.

The council are developing a curriculum and resources that are specific to Wakefield, introducing learners to local culture and local dialect, including the local Wakefield Trinity rugby league team, the fantastic pantomime at the Theatre Royal Wakefield, the joys of Yorkshire Puddings and the secrets of the Rhubarb Triangle.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Wakefield council is adapting its programme by developing online teaching and resources, creating workbooks for learners that are posted to them, recruiting volunteers to be language buddies to support learners over the phone and are addressing digital poverty amongst learners through a laptop loan scheme and provision of data bundles.

---

## **[Guyana elections: Foreign Secretary's statement, 17 July 2020](#)**

Press release

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab statement on the elections in Guyana, which took place over 4 months ago.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

It has been over 4 months since elections in Guyana – no electorate should have to wait that long for a result. The UK is disappointed by the ongoing attempts to frustrate the will of the people. The Caribbean Community scrutinised recount cleared the way to declare a legitimate result. That should now happen.

Any government sworn in on the basis of non-credible results will face strong international condemnation and consequences – we have started the process of putting those consequences in place. The UK pays tribute to the patience displayed by the people of Guyana during this challenging time.

Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter [@foreignoffice](#) and [Facebook](#)

Follow the Foreign Office on [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

For journalists

Email [newsdesk@fco.gov.uk](mailto:newsdesk@fco.gov.uk)

Published 17 July 2020

---

## [Audiences back in theatres from 1 August](#)

- Pilots underway ahead of opening up of indoor performance venues □

Audiences adhering to social distancing will be able to return to indoor theatres, music and performance venues from 1 August, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced today.



The announcement marks a major step in getting the arts and cultural sectors fully back up and running, and follows the government's announcement of £1.57 billion of funding for the arts, culture and heritage sector earlier this month, the biggest ever one off investment in these industries.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is working with the sector on pilots of performances with socially distanced audiences that will inform final guidance for venues in the run up to August 1. These include the London Symphony Orchestra at St Luke's, London with a variety of further events in the coming weeks.

This announcement marks the move to stage 4 of the government's 5-stage roadmap for the return of professional performing arts. Under the new regime, audiences, performers and venues will be expected to maintain social distancing at all times.

Guidance for the performing arts, published earlier this month, also sets out further measures to support the safe return of audiences, including:

- Reduced venue capacity and limited ticket sales to ensure social distancing can be maintained□
- Tickets will be purchased online and venues encouraged to use e-tickets to reduce contact and help with track and trace□
- Venues should have clearly communicated social distancing marking in place in areas where queues form and adopt a limited entry approach□
- Increased deep cleaning of auditoriums□
- Performances should be scheduled to allow sufficient time to undertake deep cleaning before the next audience arrives□
- Performers, conductors, musicians must observe social distancing wherever possible□

### **Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:**

The UK's performing arts sector is renowned across the world and I am pleased that we are making real progress in getting its doors reopened to the public with social distancing. From August indoor theatres, music venues and performance spaces will safely welcome audiences back across the country.

This is a welcome step in the path to a return to normal and, coupled with our £1.57 billion rescue package, will help secure the future of this important sector.

### **Notes to editors:**

Read the [full guidance](#) and further details of the [£1.57 billion rescue package](#).

Singing and the playing of brass and wind instruments in groups or in front

of an audience is still currently limited to professionals only.

This guidance will be for organisations in England. Organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should adhere to the advice of the devolved administrations at all times.

This guidance will be updated as the evidence develops around singing, wind and brass instruments, and the wider public health context. The five stages of the phased return to professional performing arts is as follows:

- Stage One – Rehearsal and training (no audiences and adhering to social distancing guidelines)□
- Stage Two – Performances for broadcast and recording purposes (adhering to social distancing guidelines)□
- Stage Three – Performances outdoors with an audience plus pilots for indoor performances with a limited distance audience from July 11. We will now also work with the sector to get small pilots started as soon as possible and will set out further details in due course
- Stage Four – Performances allowed indoors / outdoors (but with a limited distanced audience indoors)□
- Stage Five – Performances allowed indoors / outdoors (with a fuller audience indoors)□