

Gurkha charity and Foreign Office staff support Gurkha veterans and Nepalese communities through Coronavirus crisis

Life-saving support and supplies have been delivered to the families of British Gurkha veterans and communities across Nepal after the UK Embassy in Kathmandu teamed up with the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Foreign Office staff in Nepal negotiated with the local authorities to allow the supplies of vital equipment and basic necessities to be transported through strict lockdown measures in the mountainous country.

The diplomatic agreements allowed life-saving provisions, such as medicines, pensions, PPE, hand sanitiser, and clean water to reach Gurkha veterans and rural health facilities on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the Trust travelled across tough terrain, sometimes by foot, to reach veterans and health facilities dotted across the country.

Through UK aid funding and with the help of the British Embassy's staff, the Trust's Covid-19 Intervention Programme has so far supported 53 health facilities, 14 Government institutions, and 17 quarantine centres across Nepal.

The British Ambassador to Nepal, Nicola Pollitt said:

The UK's relationship with the Gurkhas is so special, and the work that The Gurkha Welfare Trust does is such an important part of recognising the selfless service that these soldiers have given to our country.

Their contribution to the coronavirus response has been typically exemplary, and I am pleased that the team here in the Embassy, with help from departments across government, were able to back them up.

Director of The Gurkha Welfare Trust, Al Howard added:

We are extremely proud of our community programmes in Nepal, including the provision of clean and safe drinking water to thousands of people across the country. To put those skills to use at a time when we all need to pull together is a pleasure and a privilege. I sincerely hope it helps in the fight against COVID-19.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust has been supporting Gurkha veterans and their families in Nepal for more than 50 years.

Before the pandemic hit, the Trust's priority has been to provide welfare and medical support to the Gurkha veterans and their families living across the country.

Further information

[Foreign Secretary Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Srebrenica Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

Press release

The Foreign Secretary has released a statement on the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



On the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has reiterated the UK's commitment to supporting reconciliation across the Western Balkans.

Today (11 July) marks twenty-five years since the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the worst atrocity in Europe since the end of the Second World War. More than 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys were murdered and over 20,000 women and children were forcibly expelled from their homes.

The UK calls on leaders in the region to fulfil the commitments they agreed at the 2018 London Summit. The Foreign Secretary has urged all parties to reject hate speech and the glorification of the perpetrators of genocide and war crimes, and stressed that verdicts from international and domestic courts must be respected.

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab said:

On the 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, we remember the victims and the anguish of their families.

During my time in the Hague between 2003 and 2006, pursuing those responsible for this dark chapter in European history, I was reminded daily of the heinous cruelty perpetrated against the innocent.

The UK is determined to end impunity and help rebuild those countries affected – as our commitment to the ICC, and UK investment and support for Bosnia demonstrates.

Further information / notes to editors

- Two international courts, the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former-Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), after exhaustive legal processes, have ruled that Srebrenica was a genocide.
- Over the past 25 years the UK has provided millions of pounds of financial support projects relating to Srebrenica, including support for the families of the victims and assistance to help find those who are missing.
- The UK will continue to support the victims' families in their fight for justice. The UK provides political, financial and logistical support to the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (formerly-the ICTY) in their work to hold perpetrators to account.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to date, a total of 57 individuals have been tried at the BiH State Court for crimes committed in and around Srebrenica in July 1995. A further 20 individuals have been tried at the ICTY for crimes related to Srebrenica over the course of 12 cases. (ICMP, 2020)
- In 2015 HRH The Princess Royal visited Srebrenica for 20th anniversary commemoration service. HRH The Prince of Wales was due to visit Srebrenica earlier this year. His visit was postponed due to the COVID 19 outbreak.
- In 2018 at the Berlin Process Western Balkans Summit in London, the UK negotiated the signing of three joint declarations. All the Berlin Process Leaders signed the joint declarations on war crimes, missing persons and on regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations in

the framework of the Berlin Process.

- The UK supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration. Reconciliation and good neighbourly relations remain central to achieving this aim and to maintaining stability in the region.

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[Space sector to back 50 SP-Internships this summer](#)

The UK Space Agency-backed Space Placement in Industry Scheme (SPIN) provides unique opportunities for undergraduate students considering a career in the space sector, and for space sector organisations looking to find the talent of tomorrow.

The space sector is growing rapidly in the UK and could kick-start an additional 30,000 new job opportunities over the next decade.

Kathie Bowden, lead for Skills and Careers at the UK Space Agency, said:

The SPIN placements allow students to influence their own learning choices, providing them with an environment where they can showcase their skills and abilities to a range of employers.

The versatility of the space sector in this current climate means that the interns won't be disadvantaged this summer and will still be able to add valuable experience to their CVs.

Klara Halikova, an ecological and environmental science student at the University of Edinburgh, is on a placement with forestry and environmental monitoring company, 2Excel Geo. She said:

Big data and remote sensing are an up-and-coming field for an environmental scientist. Throughout my degree I was not given the opportunity to explore them as much as I would have liked.

This placement is allowing me to catch up with the industry allowing me to push ahead in my field.

The majority of placements are being adapted to start remotely. Placements which demand a physical presence in labs or cleanrooms have been made as flexible as possible with start dates delayed. Host companies are keeping an eye on the latest advice to adapt as changes occur.

Henry Franks is studying engineering at the University of Cambridge and is on a placement with Magdrive. Mark Stokes, Cofounder of Magdrive, explained:

We had a few ideas beforehand of having an on-hand intern technician, but when it became apparent that homeworking would be an ongoing way of working we decided we should focus on an area of research which could be done remotely.

Having Henry with us for eight weeks working solely on research and development means we can utilise his specific skill set. He can dedicate the time we would not have to a project which will shape our offer to clients, and the direction the business will take.

Forty-two internships will be funded by the UK Space Agency's Education and Space Flight Programmes this summer. A further eleven SPINternships are hosted and funded by organisations including the Satellite Applications Catapult, Quotient, an SME based in Edinburgh and the Open University.

The UK space sector is growing. Small satellite launch from the UK presents a huge opportunity for young people to take up careers in science, engineering or even as space entrepreneurs – helping to ensure the ongoing growth of the UK's space industry.

The 53 applicants will participate in a virtual space sector induction in July and a Showcase of their work in the autumn.

[United Kingdom-Colombia Trade Dialogue: A new relationship for a new world](#)

World news story

Minister Jayawardena met with Minister José Manuel Restrepo, Minister of Commerce, Tourism and Industry in Colombia, for the first UK-Colombia Trade Dialogue.



1. Trade ministers from the United Kingdom and Colombia set out this week a new chapter in our historically close relationship.
2. In a time of unprecedented challenges, we agreed to work together to make sure that free and fair trade between our two sovereign nations secures a green and resilient recovery and the future prosperity and opportunity all our people deserve.
3. We highlighted the importance of increasing trade and investment flows through collaboration in modernising markets, exchanging regulatory and technical expertise, and encouraging business to seek opportunities to enhance and diversify the goods and services available to our people.
4. We welcomed the progress we've made so far, including signing the United Kingdom-Andean Free Trade Agreement, which will give British and Colombian business the ability to trade and grow in liberalised and equitable markets. We agreed work to make sure that the benefits of this agreement help to open opportunities for producers, consumers and businesses – large and small.
5. We asked our experts to continue to work together to increase bilateral trade and investment, at pace, in the sectors that are the key to a sustainable and prosperous future:
 - Clean Energy as means of securing a sustainable and climate friendly recovery. Building on our bilateral Partnership for Sustainable Growth signed by President Duque in London one year ago, and attracting investors in both markets, the United Kingdom and Colombia are committed to greener, cleaner approach to the global recovery from the Covid crisis.
 - Agri-foods: improve sustainability, access, productivity, and traceability to increase trade and consumer choice and reward good stewardship and quality production in this critically important sector

for the Colombian economy.

- Technology and Creative Industries, to help our people access the most innovative goods and services, leveraging the talent and creativity of both countries, and benefit from the dynamism of our creative economies.
 - Financial services: we want to use the latest technologies and products to support SMEs, drive innovation through open banking, strengthen capital markets, and increase the use of green finance to support a sustainable and dynamic future economy.
 - Life sciences: collaborating on regulation and innovative health technology to increase collaboration amongst businesses in both countries to get the best health care outcomes for our people.
 - Infrastructure: we want to make both countries more attractive to investors through transparent, well-structured and sustainable infrastructure projects, and we want to increase the active participation of our companies in one another's infrastructure markets.
6. We acknowledged the already energetic collaboration between our ministries, trade and investment promotion agencies, embassies, and bilateral chambers of commerce that have ensured a unique ecosystem focused on increasing trade and investment between both countries, with successful activities such as the Colombia Investment Roadshow that concluded today. This ecosystem provides a very solid footing to implement the agreements we have reached today.
 7. We particularly welcomed today's signing of a memorandum of understanding between NICE and IETS. We want this agreement to drive more effective incorporation of new technologies into health systems. We are confident that this collaboration will increase trade flows between our two countries, as well as attracting more British investment into Colombia.
 8. We hope that this model of collaboration can be mirrored in other key sectors as we move forward together towards a commercial future based on technology, innovation and trade.
 9. Finally, we agreed to work together on the global stage to make the case for free trade and make sure that its benefits continue to be shared widely. We committed to cooperate in helping make global trade institutions fit for 21st Century challenges, charting a course for a sustainable, fair and prosperous future for all our people.

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Trade and Agriculture Commission membership announced

Retailers, farming unions, consumer, hospitality and environmental bodies from across the UK have been named as members of the Government's new Trade and Agriculture Commission.

It will be chaired by food safety expert Tim Smith, a former Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency and Tesco Group Technical Director.

The English, Scottish and Welsh branches of the National Farmers Union (NFU) are all represented, as are the Ulster Farmers Union and the Farmers' Union of Wales. Other members include the British Retail Consortium, UK Hospitality, and the Food and Drink Federation.

It will report directly to International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, advising on:

- Trade policies the Government should adopt to secure opportunities for UK farmers, while ensuring the sector remains competitive and that animal welfare and environmental standards in food production are not undermined.
- Advancing and protecting British consumer interests and those of developing countries.
- How the UK engages the WTO to build a coalition that helps advance higher animal welfare standards across the world.
- Developing trade policy that identifies and opens up new export opportunities for the UK agricultural industry – in particular for SMEs – and that benefits the UK economy as a whole.

The scope of the Commission was agreed after close consultation between farming unions, the Department for International Trade and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It will be set up for six months and submit an advisory report at the end of its work which will be presented to Parliament by the Department for International Trade.

International Trade Secretary, Liz Truss, said:

My officials and I are working round the clock to ensure that any trade deal we strike brings the very best opportunities to the UK's farming community.

We recognise the importance of engaging with the agriculture industry and seeking expert advice, which is why we have set up the Commission.

We are putting British farming first and giving our producers the best opportunity to export their world class food abroad and grow their businesses. Our high food and animal welfare standards won't

be compromised.

George Eustice, Environment Secretary said:

We have been consistently clear that we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards in all of our trade negotiations.

The Agriculture and Trade Commission will ensure that the UK's agricultural industry, our support for farmers and our commitment to high welfare standards are maintained. This Government will work hard to ensure any future trade deals are in their best interests and will prioritise both food production and our world-leading environmental targets.

The agriculture and food industries are our largest manufacturing sectors employing more than 4 million people and contributing £120 billion to our economy. The new Commission will play a crucial part advising on how trade policy can create further growth and stimulate this critical pillar of our economy.

Chair of the Agriculture and Trade Commission, Tim Smith, said;

The trade decisions the Government is making now will shape the future not just of British food and farming, but the whole country, so it is important that the voices of industry and the British public are heard.

This Commission will bring a clear-eyed perspective on what is fair and works for consumers, farmers, food producers and animals. I am delighted to chair it, and look forward to independently advising the Government on how trade policy can both protect and advance the interests of British farming and the UK as a whole.

President of the NFU, Minette Batters, said;

Today's announcement (regarding the Trade and Agriculture Commission) is a hugely important development in ensuring UK farming's high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection are not undermined in future trade deals. It addresses a crucial element of a much broader challenge in ensuring the UK's trade policy delivers a prosperous and sustainable future for UK agriculture. This means securing trade deals that work for UK farmers and consumers, as well as our farmed animals and our environment, and we will continue to work with Parliamentarians so that they have proper oversight of our trade policy.

All of this will be underpinned by the important work of the Trade and Agriculture Commission in the months ahead, and the NFU stands ready to contribute its technical expertise so that the Commission can do this job as quickly and robustly as possible. The role of the independent Chair will be critical, and we look forward to working with him in the weeks ahead to ensure the Commission meets the expectations and ambitions of all the consumers, campaigners and farmers who have demonstrated over recent months how important this issue is.

Kate Nicholls, CEO of UK Hospitality, said;

Tourism is our third largest export earner and eating out is a vital component of that, so it is critical that needs and concerns of the hospitality supply chain are reflected in the trade deals being negotiated. That is why I am so pleased to be involved in the new Trade and Agriculture Commission.

Our dynamic hospitality sector is rightly regarded as one of the best in the world, in part due to the fantastic quality of our food. Ensuring access to high quality food at a reasonable price will be key to keeping this up and ensuring hospitality can play a central role in the economic recovery.

Andrew McCornick President of NFU Scotland said:

As the UK sets its own trade policy this is a moment in time that will shape Scottish farming for generations to come. The Commission has the potential to set a roadmap for UK trade policy that will allow farming to grow and thrive across the UK by opening up new markets but also ensure that our production standards are front and centre of all new trade deals. For NFUS ensuring that production standards are taken into account in trade is absolutely critical.

John Davies, President of NFU Cymru, said:

We have consistently argued for the establishment of a trade and agriculture commission at what is a crucial time for British agriculture and as such we fully welcome today's announcement by Secretary of State Truss. We are determined to play a full role within the commission in order to ensure UK farming's high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection are not undermined in future trade deals.

Ivor Ferguson, President of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU):

The Government's recent announcement of the establishment of this Commission recognises the importance of addressing the challenges of protecting our world leading environmental, animal welfare and food production standards. The UFU now have direct involvement in this Commission to ensure that the dedication of Northern Ireland's farmers, who take pride in upholding the UK's high-production standards and producing quality food for the nation, is not undermined in future trade deals.

Chlorine-washed chicken and hormone-fed beef are illegal in the UK. Any changes would need to be approved by Parliament. This Government will not compromise UK:

- High environmental protection
- Animal welfare
- Food safety standards

Members include:

- Ex-Tesco Tech Director/FSA – Tim Smith (Chair)
- NFU England – Nick von Westenholz
- NFU Scotland – Andrew McCornick
- NFU Cymru – John Davies
- Ulster Farmers Union – Victor Chestnutt
- The Farmers Union of Wales – Glyn Roberts
- Lamb Farmer – Rob Hodgkins
- Competere – Shanker Singham
- Former Chief Veterinary Officer – Nigel Gibbens
- British Retail Consortium – Andrew Opie
- Former Trade Minister – Lord Price
- Trade Out Of Poverty – Tom Pengelly
- Former Trade Minister and Agriculture Minister for New Zealand – Sir Lockwood Smith
- UKHospitality – Kate Nicholls
- Food and Drink Federation – Ian Wright CBE
- LEAF – Caroline Drummond