

Urging all parties to ensure the ceasefire in Gaza is durable and prevents further violence: UK statement to UN Security Council

Thank you President, and my thanks go to the representatives from the UAE and others who called this important Council session.

The United Kingdom joins fellow Council Members in welcoming the ceasefire in Gaza announced last night. We express our thanks to Egypt, Qatar and the office of UN Special Coordinator, Tor Wennesland, for their mediation efforts. We now urge all parties to do their utmost to ensure the ceasefire is durable and prevents further violence.

These last few days we have once again seen tragic scenes in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We strongly condemn the firing of over 1,100 rockets at civilians by Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the ongoing campaign of terror attacks by the group, which has resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians, Israelis and Palestinians alike.

As my Foreign Secretary has been clear, the UK stands by Israel and its right to defend itself in the face of such terrorism and violence.

The United Kingdom expresses its deepest condolences to the families of innocent Palestinian civilians killed over the past three days, particularly the tragic deaths of children. The UK supports a timely and thorough investigation into all of these reports. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the cycle of violence, have taken too many lives.

We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including lack of movement and access, damage to civilian infrastructure, and critical supplies, such as fuel for power plants to supply electricity, including for hospitals. We welcome Israel's announcement that it is allowing humanitarian aid through to Gaza. Immediate access for humanitarian relief is essential, and we expect that the ceasefire agreement will now allow for prompt restoration of movement and access for people and goods via the Erez and Kerem Shalom crossings.

This escalation is yet another reminder of the urgent need for progress towards a Two State solution that ensures a safe and secure Israel, living alongside a Palestinian state based on 1967 lines, with Jerusalem the shared capital of both states.

Capacity building for sustaining peace in Africa

Thank you President for convening this briefing. And thank you to all our briefers for their valuable remarks. I will make three points.

First, as our Kenyan colleague said, Africa is a continent of great potential. Yet the United Kingdom shares the deep concern expressed by others with regard to the scale of challenges that many countries in Africa are facing today.

Covid-19 has made it harder to consolidate development gains.

Many countries have had to grapple with the impact of climate change and exacerbating humanitarian pressures. The drought in the Horn of Africa and flooding in South Sudan are just the latest tragic examples.

On top of this, the global economic consequences of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine have hit the continent hard, jeopardising hard-won peace and development gains.

Second, the UK remains committed to do its part to support African countries to fulfil their potential. Through our new International Development Strategy, we are working with governments and civil society to help partners get on track for the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes capacity building to strengthen institutions that work for the well-being of their citizens.

The UK remains a strong supporter of efforts to promote peace and manage conflicts across the continent. We take our responsibilities in this Council seriously. We work in close partnership with the AU, for example to reconfigure the AU Transition Mission in Somalia.

We have trained over 3,000 African peacekeepers in the last financial year through the British Peace Support Team in Africa.

And in July, we hosted the second UK-Ghana Security Dialogue where we agreed to support regional approaches to tackling growing risks of instability in coastal West African states.

The UK is the second largest donor to the Elsie Initiative Fund, having provided over \$6 million since 2019, to increase the participation of uniformed women in UN peace operations.

Third, there are no shortcuts. Development gains and fragile peace will be lost if large parts of a population are marginalised, or human rights are abused. Internationally, we need a model of cooperation that prioritises the

values of openness and inclusion. Peacebuilding and development must be people-centred if they are to be sustainable.

And as this Council has made clear, the meaningful participation of women in peace processes is central to building sustainable peace.

In closing President, the United Kingdom remains fully committed to peace and development in Africa. We look forward to the continued partnership, between this Council and the UN Peacebuilding Commission, the wider UN membership and regional organisations – to advance peace and development in Africa.

Thank you.

[Giant crane now in place to help reinstate flood defences](#)

Press release

A huge 800-tonne crane is now in situ near Matlock Bridge to help the Environment Agency reinstate the town's flood defences.



The Environment Agency's work to restore flood protection in Matlock, Derbyshire started last week when a huge 800-tonne crane arrived on site.

While the crane is situated on the A6 near Matlock Bridge, the road remains closed and a temporary 2-way traffic system on the bridge is now in place.

The crane is being used to assist in carrying out work to reinstate the River Derwent flood defences. This involves replacing the river wall that collapsed after this year's February storms and the adjacent flood wall behind businesses in Crown Square, Matlock.

The work currently involves lifting 600 2-tonne bags into the river from the A6 to form a working platform for piling works to take place.

A family-fun 'Name the crane' day is being held in Matlock on Wednesday 10 August. In attendance will be Sarah Dines MP; the Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire; the Mayor of Matlock; and the Civil Chair of Derbyshire County Council among other local dignitaries.

Naomi Doughty, Project Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

The large 800-tonne crane situated on the A6 near to Matlock Bridge in Derbyshire is helping us to carry out essential work on reinstating the flood defences on the River Derwent. This involves lifting materials and machinery across the river to where the replacement river wall and flood wall will be constructed.

It will be in place until at least the end of the year and will then either remain in situ to enable the cladding of the sheet piles to take place or return in the spring when the weather is more conducive to the works being carried out.

We've listened to feedback from local businesses about the difficult times they've experienced recently so, in conjunction with our contractors, Jackson Civil Engineering, we are holding a 'Name the crane' family-fun day on Wednesday 10 August to encourage more visitors to Matlock.

Kathryn Battelle, Public Liaison Officer for Jackson Civil Engineering, added:

The crane is one of the biggest mobile cranes in the UK and we're running a competition to find the best name for it.

We're hoping that families will come and join in the fun at our event on Wednesday, which will also provide a unique photo opportunity among other fun activities. We have some great prizes on offer and Jackson Civil Engineering will match all public donations made on the day for Air Ambulance.

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[Charity Commission Annual Public Meeting 2022](#)

News story

Charity Commission Chair, Orlando Fraser QC and CEO, Helen Stephenson CBE invite you to the Annual Public Meeting on Wednesday 12 October at 10:45am.



You are invited to join our Annual Public Meeting on Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 10.45am.

Our Chair (Orlando Fraser QC), CEO (Helen Stephenson CBE) and colleagues will provide updates and insight into the Commission's work.

About the event

This year's meeting is a hybrid event open to all members of the public and charity representatives.

This event is free of charge but pre-registration is a must. Please [book online for this event](#).

More information will be available soon. In the meantime, If you have any questions about the event, please email events@charitycommission.gov.uk.

Date & Time

Wednesday 12 October 2022

In person: 10:00am for registration

Online: 10:45am

Our [privacy notice](#) for the live broadcast of our annual public meeting can be found on GOV.UK.

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[CNC assist at Commonwealth Games 2022](#)

News story

CNC officers and specialist search dogs have been hard at work supporting West Midlands Police to bring safety and security to the Commonwealth Games.



CNC handlers and police dogs have been on duty each day for the duration of the pre-games (18 – 22 July) and the post-games (25 July – 7 August), conducting searches and engaging with the public.

Officers have searched hotels, conference facilities, bus stations, train stations, stadiums, the National Exhibition Centre, Coventry City football grounds and Alexander Track and Field Stadium in Birmingham.

Upon completion, a total of 90 days of operational searches will have been conducted.

Insp Andrew Potter, of the CNC's Operational Dog Unit, said: "It has been an honour to be able to work alongside our West Midlands colleagues to provide specialist search dog capability during the Commonwealth Games."

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