

# [Global Resource Initiative taskforce: greening the UK's environmental footprint](#)

Representatives from leading businesses and environmental groups come together today (18 July) to consider how we can reduce the climate and environment impacts of key UK supply chains.

The [Global Resource Initiative \(GRI\) taskforce](#) will seek to identify [ambitious actions](#) to drive more resilient and sustainable food systems that avoid deforestation and environmental degradation overseas, while supporting jobs and livelihoods.

The taskforce will bring together major businesses including [Legal & General](#), [Cargill](#), [McDonald's](#) and [Tesco](#) together with the [Green Finance Institute](#), [WWF](#) and [NGO Forest Coalition](#).

Just as any company has a supply chain, so too does the UK and demand for key commodities like palm oil, soya and beef can act as a driver of deforestation and environmental degradation overseas, leaving a so-called environmental footprint.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Ingredients in products we are consuming daily come from parts of the world where we are losing habitat, which impacts wildlife and climate change. Having a fully sustainable supply chain is vital for the planet. I am pleased the UK is showing leadership on this global challenge, supported by leading businesses, investors and conservationists.

The government anticipates a report next year, ahead of key international biodiversity and climate summits later that year.

The series of summits in the 2020 'super year' offer opportunities to shape the international sustainability agenda. It will contribute to the delivery of the UK's international commitments on climate and biodiversity, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The GRI is a key part of the commitment the government made in the 25 Year Environment Plan to leave a lighter footprint on the global environment. It will complement existing work to promote sustainable commodities, and the government's recent commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The taskforce is supported across government and was developed in partnership by the [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#); the [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy \(BEIS\)](#) and the [Department for International Development \(DFID\)](#).

Sir Ian Cheshire, the chair of the independent taskforce said:

The GRI presents an opportunity to transform our approach to sustainable land use and to shape the direction of travel for the UK while creating a model for change that will inspire other countries.

I very much look forward to playing a leading role in this new taskforce and I am delighted to be joined by so many distinguished individuals.

Beth Hart, Director of Supply Chain at McDonald's UK and Ireland said:

At McDonald's we are focussed on using our scale for good in order to reduce our environmental impact; for example globally by 2030 in partnership with our suppliers we have committed to a 31 per cent reduction in emissions intensity across our global supply chain. Working with our suppliers, we also have a commitment to eliminating deforestation from our global supply chains by 2030.

The GRI taskforce presents the opportunity to further identify and address some of the biggest challenges we all face in partnership, and we look forward to collaborating across industry and various centres of excellence to continue to reduce our environmental impact.

Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas, Chief Executive Officer for the Green Finance Institute said:

Finance has a key role to play in achieving the aims of the GRI. There are clear synergies between government and private sector as we look to scale up potential financial solutions to support sustainable supply chains. As the principal interface between government and the private sector with regards green finance, the Green Finance Institute is excited to be contributing to the work of the Taskforce.

## **Further information and taskforce members**

<b>Sir Ian Cheshire</b>		<b>Chair of the taskforce</b>
Dame Helena Morrissey	Legal and General	UK Head of Personal Finance
Rebecca Marmot	Unilever	Chief Sustainability Officer
Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE	Green Finance Institute	CEO
Amine Bel Hadj Souлами	BNP Paribas	Global Head Sustainable Finance

## **Sir Ian Cheshire**

Julian Roberts	Willis Towers Watson
Bas Rüter	Rabobank
Mike Barry	Formerly M&S
Nick Martell-Bundock	Cargill PLC
Christopher Stewart	Olam
Kené Umeasiegbu	Tesco
Berry Wiersum	Sappi
Keith Kenny	McDonald's
Tanya Steele	WWF-UK
Dominic Waughray	World Economic Forum
Melissa Pinfield	FOLU
Bernice Lee OBE	Chatham House
Anna Collins	NGO Forest Coalition

## **Chair of the taskforce**

Managing Director, Alternative Risk Transfer Parametric Solutions
Director of Sustainability
Formerly Director of Plan A and Sustainable Business
Senior Director of Sustainable Development
Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability
Head of Environment
CEO
Global Vice President Sustainability
UK CEO
Managing Director, Head of the Centre for Global Public Goods
Programme Director
Executive Director, Hoffmann Centre for Sustainable Resource Economy
Head of NGO Forest Coalition

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## **[Forensic Science Regulator newsletter: number 32](#)**

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## **[Government launches call for evidence on allocating additional fishing quota in England](#)**

The government has today (Friday 19 July) launched a [call for evidence](#) to shape how we allocate additional fishing quota in England after we leave the

EU and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

After we take back control of our waters, we will negotiate for fairer shares of fishing quota. The government has committed to allocating any quota returned to the UK on a different basis and to working with stakeholders to develop this new approach.

This call for evidence is an important step in fulfilling that commitment, helping us achieve our ambition of a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry and of setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world.

Fisheries Minister Robert Goodwill said:

As the UK becomes an independent coastal state outside the EU and the CFP, we are committed to creating a new system for allocating additional quota which works for our fishermen and the seas they rely on.

This call for evidence is an important milestone in that process and gives everyone with a stake in our waters the chance to shape how we go about allocating additional fishing quota in a way that will help ensure a thriving and sustainable fishing industry for generations to come.

In developing this new approach, the government is seeking views on the values and processes which underpin good quota management. This will help inform who should benefit from this additional quota and how it should be distributed.

For example, the call for evidence will look at whether England could learn from allocation models in other parts of the world, how allocation could help tackle choke risk and how a new approach could best support coastal communities and ensure a sustainable industry.

The [call for evidence](#) will run for six weeks.

The deadline for responses is 30 August 2019.

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**[Joint Statement of the 13th Meeting of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade](#)**

## Committee, 15 July 2019

1. We welcomed the progress made by the Joint Working Group on Trade to implement the recommendations of the India-UK Joint Trade Review agreed at the 12th JETCO. We noted the establishment of government-to-government dialogues on food and drink, information communications technology (ICT), life sciences and services statistics. We were pleased by the close collaboration with business and progress made to address non-tariff barriers to trade in these sector work-streams.
2. We welcomed the next steps expanding the scope of the work to be undertaken by the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade. Alongside continued efforts on the three sector work-streams, the Joint Working Group will expand its remit to focus on chemicals and trade in services. As two service-driven economies, we particularly welcome the inclusion of services; a sector in which both sides excel. These measures will deepen our partnership, addressing barriers to trade and creating further opportunities for our businesses.
3. Under the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade both sides reaffirmed the crucial role of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in underpinning the rules-based multilateral trading system, and the importance of enhancing free, fair, and open trade for achieving sustainable growth and development. We welcomed the progress made through the UK-India Multilateral Dialogue, the next meeting of which is planned for Autumn 2019, to strengthen our bilateral engagement on multilateral issues, including in relation to the WTO Appellate Body and other issues of concern. Both sides will continue their co-operation in the WTO, especially in support of the UK's new schedule of concessions and commitments.
4. More broadly, we reiterated our support to the broader international multilateral system; noted its importance in providing security, prosperity, and progress; and stated both countries' fundamental commitment to shape, strengthen and protect it. We will work constructively ahead of the 12th Ministerial Conference, to be held next year, to achieve a positive outcome and thereby contribute to a strengthened multilateral trading system.
5. We welcomed the progress made under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in the Fields of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries between the United Kingdom's Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group under this Memorandum will take place later this year to continue our cooperation and knowledge sharing in these sectors. Ongoing collaboration will reinforce the excellent progress already made in the reduction of barriers to trade creating new and exciting opportunities for our agricultural businesses.

6. We also welcome the increased collaboration through the India-UK Tech Partnership and look forward to implementation of the programme this year. We are pleased to note the work being done towards finalising the MoU between the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Ministry of Communications on Cooperation in the Field of Telecommunications and ICT. This will further bolster our cooperation in the field of telecoms and ICT to strengthen UK-India digital trade – a sector in which both countries excel and will look to grow further. We look forward to the mutually-beneficial MoU being signed at the earliest opportunity.
7. We welcomed the progress on the UK-India Fast Track Start-up Fund which will provide investment capital into a portfolio of Alternative Investment Funds. The funds will in turn support under-funded, job-creating, technology driven start-up enterprises and thus establish the India-UK partnership as a joint force for good. This will strengthen entrepreneurial and innovation connections between India and the UK.
8. Both sides welcomed the strength of the UK-India investment relationship and reaffirmed our commitment to facilitate foreign investment. The UK and India have been top five investors in each other's economies since 2010. We recognised the work of the UK-India Fast Track Mechanism to facilitate investment into India and resolve company issues. India welcomed the establishment of a Fast Track Mechanism in the UK to help facilitate Indian investments in the UK. Both sides look forward to holding the first round of the UK-India Investment Dialogue in the very near future.
9. Both sides agreed on the importance of stable business and regulatory regimes and welcomed the on-going partnership between UK and India on sharing best practices on Ease of Doing Business. The UK congratulated India on their rise to 77th place in the 2019 World Bank Ease of Doing Business ranking – a 65-place improvement since 2014. In line with the MoU signed by our two Prime Ministers in 2016, the two sides have continued to share expertise and work together on strengthening the business environment in India. We welcomed the fact that this co-operation is now being scaled up through a UK supported programme working with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This aims to support the delivery of fundamental business environment reforms in line with India's growth agenda, leveraging UK expertise where possible.
10. Both sides recognised the vital role Intellectual Property (IP) plays as a driver for economic growth and global trade and welcomed the ongoing engagement under the UK-India MoU on Intellectual Property, which is now delivering results. We will continue to work in partnership to develop and strengthen the positive impact of a strong, reliable environment that supports and rewards and protects innovation and creativity and acknowledges the increasing importance of IP in bilateral trade dialogue between the UK and India.

11. Both sides welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on law and justice that paves the way for greater collaboration and exchange of expertise across areas including rule of law, dispute resolution, training, use of technology and legal services regulation. The Ministers were also pleased to note that the first meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee, set up under the MoU, has already taken place and the two sides have agreed the next steps to enhance bilateral cooperation.
  12. Both sides recognise the importance of 'Access India Programme' (AIP) and the role that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play in our bilateral trading relationship. As we look towards the future, we will be exploring how to expand the opportunities for SMEs to feed into future JETCO discussions on the future of UK-India trade.
  13. Both sides welcome the fact that last year over 55,000 skilled work visas were granted by the UK to India, more than the rest of the world combined. This demonstrates the strength of the India-UK relationship. We also note that following the last JETCO meeting, the UK published a White Paper on its future approach to a skill-based immigration system and has launched an extensive programme of engagement, including engagement with India in January 2019. We welcomed the continued outreach by the Home Office to listen to India's views on the UK's future skills-based immigration system. The UK noted that these discussions will feed into thinking as the UK's future immigration system is designed.
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## Confronting Extremism Together

Growing up in the seventies, looking like this, extremism was part of my life.

I changed my route to school to avoid members of the National Front.

I watched my mum time and time again scrub the word 'Paki' from the front of our shop.

And – rightly or wrongly – as a child, I punched a bully who used the same racist slur to my face.

Although perhaps it's not a great idea to bring up my past indiscretions just before I get a new boss!

We've undoubtedly come a long way since my school days.

I'm proud to say we're now a more multi-racial, more welcoming, and a more tolerant society.

But just last week I met schoolboy Jamal Hijazi, whose heart-breaking story took me right back to my childhood.

A Syrian refugee who wasn't just insulted by a classmate, he was attacked.

Not in the 1970s, but just a few months ago.

No one can hear his moving story and deny we still have a problem in this country.

And it's not just racism, with the blind hate of extremism showing its face in many ugly forms.

In 2015 we published our ground-breaking Counter Extremism Strategy.

Back then, the Prime Minister led the charge as Home Secretary, and I commend her pioneering work.

But four years on, it's time to take stock and to talk openly about the threat, and to admit it's got worse.

Yes, progress has been made.

But when I hear what happened to that schoolboy, I know we have to do more.

So we set up the Commission for Countering Extremism to help us do just that.

I thank them for their work so far, and while I do welcome their first findings, they lay bare the ugly truth.

Just over half of the respondents to their consultation had witnessed extremism in some way.

One in five had seen it in their own area.

Almost a quarter online.

The targets are many and varied.

And the top group identified by the Commission as most at risk of extremism? Everyone.

When over half of us have witnessed extremism, it's gone from being a minority issue to one that affects us all and the way we all live our lives is under unprecedented attack.

People are getting angrier about more things – and extremists are quick to try and exploit that.

In 2015, our focus was on extreme Islamists, particularly the lure of Daesh.

While their physical stronghold has now been wiped out, that threat certainly remains.



But now the fault lines dividing our society have splintered and spread.

Reports of far-right extremism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate are on the rise.

Women are being robbed of opportunities by religious extremists.

The internet has further emboldened those that are inclined to hate.

Angry words whip up a climate of fear and incite hate, violence, public disorder, oppression and segregation.

Women beaten on a bus because they are gay, sledge hammer attacks on mosques, children being forced into marriage.

Christians, Muslims and Jews being slaughtered in Sri Lanka, Christchurch and Pittsburgh.

Public discourse is hardening and becoming less constructive.

Around the world populism, prejudice – and even open racism – have catapulted extremists into power.

Now I'm proud to say this has not happened in mainstream politics here.

We're naturally liberally minded people.

We remain the most successful multi-racial democracy in the world.

[Political content removed]

Thankfully, our politics has not gone down the same road as much of Europe and the US.

But we must act now, to avoid sliding into the barely masked racism of nationalism.

Because there's one thing I know for sure about this country: we're better than that.

We won't just accept rising anger.

We won't just slap ourselves on the back and talk about the success of the Counter Extremism Strategy.

We won't deny the threat is now worse than ever.

That's why I'm here to set out my three part approach to counter that threat.

Because if we are to stop extremism in its tracks we must have the courage to confront it, the strength to take decisive action, and the foresight to tackle the root causes.

Firstly, we all need the courage to confront this issue.

Why? Because tackling extremism isn't easy.

People are scared to talk about it.

This is a sensitive issue and sometimes it can easily cause offence.

But I'm here regardless, because we desperately need a national conversation about extremism.

I will not stay silent and create a vacuum where extremist views can fester and grow.

So I want to be frank about some of the challenges we face.

For a start, what exactly is extremism?

Why have we struggled to come up with a definition?

The threat is not black and white.

There are countless shades of grey between a loaded comment, an online threat, and a terror attack.

Extremism can be the thin end of a wedge.

The unpleasant words that skate on the right side of the law, but stir up hate and drive violence in others.

Of course, you shouldn't arrest everyone with a suspect view.

Of course not. I won't be the thought police – people are entitled to hold and express their own views.

But the challenge is being able to identify where an opinion crosses the line into extremism.

When it goes from free speech to the corrosive spread of dangerous propaganda.

When it incites harm and becomes criminal.

At its heart, extremism is a rejection of the shared values that make this country great: freedom, equality, democracy, free speech, respect for minorities, and the rule of law.

It attacks our society and tears communities apart.

It turns us against each other and can lead to violence, discrimination and mistrust.

But there's a delicate balance between personal and religious freedom and protecting our shared values.

In this country, everyone has the right to observe their cultural and

religious practices without any fear of abuse.

We celebrate differences and in part that's what makes us great.

Our shared values are not about forcing everyone to drink tea, eat fish and chips, and watch the cricket – although I hope they watched it the weekend!

But cultural sensitivities must not stop us calling out extremism.

To back away from a problem because of someone's ethnicity is not liberal, it is weak.

Of course, we need to be measured.

But we must not be afraid to confront any problem in any community.

Whether group-based child sexual abuse, or the oppression of women through FGM, forced marriage, so-called honour-based violence, I refuse to stand silently by.

The protests at Parkfield and Anderton Park schools in Birmingham bring this balancing act, I think, into sharp focus.

Earlier this week Panorama focused on the row over lessons on equality that include teaching about families with same sex parents.

Sara hit out at the extremists who have hijacked the protests, distorting genuinely-held religious views of parents. It is entirely right that parents with legitimate concerns talk to their schools about what is being taught in a calm, constructive way.

The right to protest and oppose Government policy is one we hold dear, but where that spills over into intimidation of pupils and teachers, it is unacceptable.

And I agree with Sara that it is entirely wrong if any situation is exploited by extremists.

[Political content removed]

Of course, words alone are not enough.

So the second part of my approach is showing strength with decisive action against extremism.

As the threat comes in many forms, so must our response.

So we need to combine the more gentle approach of working with communities and promoting shared values with an unashamedly tough approach to those who spread extremist poison.

So our work embraces those we need to help fend off extremists:

- Strengthening communities through our Building A Stronger Britain

Together programme and the Integrated Communities Strategy.

- Protecting religious institutions from hate crime with our Places of Worship Protective Security Programme.
- And boosting integration by committing to new British Values Tests and strengthened English Language provision.

But we've also been unafraid to be robust in our approach to the people and organisations that pose the highest threat:

- Refusing to let the worst extremists into the country to spread their vile views – I've personally excluded 8 since I have become Home Secretary – from a far-right white supremacist, to a US black nationalist, and extremist hate preachers from a number of faiths.
- Removing British citizenship from dual nationals to keep dangerous individuals with the most extreme views out of the UK.
- And launching our Online Harms White Paper, to ensure companies take more responsibility for harmful content on their platforms.

But we know that more needs to be done, and we know that we must keep pace with the changing threat.

So, I can announce today that in anticipation of the Commission's full report, I've asked my officials to start work on a comprehensive new Counter Extremism Strategy.

And while we wait, I will continue, in that time, to call out extremism wherever I see it.

We all have a role to play in stopping any normalisation or legitimisation of these views.

Extreme views can be found on all sides of the spectrum, from Islamist organisations like Hizb u-Tahrir and IHRC, to far right groups like Britain First and Generation Identity.

And those that spread intolerance and division from all corners are often given a platform by media and political figures.

Supposedly mainstream groups can be guilty of that too – groups like MEND. They aren't always as intolerant of intolerance as they may claim to be.

One of the most prominent organisations that rejects our shared values is called CAGE.

When challenged they claim the Government is anti-Muslim.

Something they will no doubt say about me later today.

I will act against those who seek to divide us wherever I can.

So I have amended the guidance for sponsoring migrant workers.

This will allow us to refuse or revoke a sponsor licence where an

organisation behaves in a way that is inconsistent with British values, or that's detrimental to the public good.

I can tell you now that I plan to revoke CAGE's licence on this basis, subject to representations.

I will do all I can to ensure groups like CAGE are not trusted with the privilege of sponsorship and I will see it removed.

Now the third part of my approach is having the foresight to tackle the root causes of extremism before it takes hold.

I know what it's like to be an outsider.

I want everyone to have the opportunities that I had, to feel they belong to our brilliantly diverse Britain.

But, sadly not everyone does, and that cultural separation can sow the seeds of extremism.

The extremists set out to fracture our society, therefore we must unite to defeat them.

We need fewer labels that divide, and more overlapping layers that draw us together.

First, community – when people truly come together we build unbreakable local networks that extremists cannot breach.

Second, language – I saw how hard it was for my own Mum when she came to this country speaking very little English.

We estimate that 1 million people living here today that cannot speak English well or at all.

And if we can't communicate with each other, how can we build bridges?

So, I'm making it my mission to ask for more money in the Spending Review to properly fund lessons and break down language barriers.

Third, integration – A couple of years ago I visited a primary school in my home town of Rochdale where around 95% of the pupils were Asian. 95%.

And only a mile or so down the road was another primary where around 90% of the pupils were white.

If we want to see more social cohesion we must rally against segregation and have a more positive approach to integration.

And finally, national identity – we must celebrate the qualities that define us as a nation.

My parents were proud to choose to be part of this country and I want to inspire that same passion in others, to encourage citizenship and a sense of

belonging.

Of course, I understand that there are some concerns about immigration.

Loose language is used at all levels.

I'm from an immigrant family, I know what it's like to be told to go back to where you come from – and I don't think they mean Rochdale!

Some worry that new arrivals will take over their communities – that our national identity will be diluted. I firmly reject that.

I've seen how immigration can enrich our country and I welcome it.

I know how much immigrants have contributed to our culture, our society, our economy and our public services. Just this week I was thrilled to meet three cricketers who helped win the World Cup for this country.

One was born in Barbados, one was born in New Zealand, one was born in Ireland – all three of them English heroes.

I recognize the huge benefits of immigration, but if people from different backgrounds are living separate lives in modern ghettos then it's no good for anyone.

To be truly pro-immigration we must be pro-integration too.

And to do this, we must confront the myths about immigration that extremists use to drive divisions.

We know the scale is exaggerated to stoke up fear and that they use immigration as a proxy for race. Sweeping plans to cut immigration as if it's automatically bad can add to the stigma.

In 2015 a survey of school children found the average estimate was that nearly half of people in the UK were foreign born. That's what the children thought.

The truth according to the 2011 census? 13%.

A staggering 60% of the same group believed it was true that "asylum seekers and immigrants are stealing our jobs".

I won't ignore that some people feel this way, but we must not be afraid to confront these issues with an honest and open public debate.

Only by talking about this can we show how much integration enriches our communities.

We all benefit, because an integrated society is a strong one, where different cultures form the layers of a watertight national identity: interlocking to form a united front. A united front so smooth there will be no footholds left for extremists.

This multi-layered approach will help us tackle extremism.

This is not just a job for the Government alone.

But we will lead from the front.

It takes the whole of society to challenge these vile views.

Everyone has a part to play: \*broadcasters who must not give platforms to extremists... \*police who must swoop on the worst offenders... \*and public figures who must moderate their language.

And anyone can challenge the myths that are peddled by extremists that deepen divisions.

So tell your friends and shout it loud and proud: people from minority backgrounds do not steal their jobs, they're not terrorists, and that there is no global 'Zionist conspiracy'.

Extremism is a problem that isn't going to go away so I'm here to redouble our commitment to tackle it head on.

I will not flinch from confronting extremism.

I will do everything in my power to stop those who seek to undermine our country.

And I will tackle the root causes.

To unite communities, to protect our fundamental values, to protect those most at risk.

I've made this my mission and I'm asking you to do the same.

Together let's call out hate and unite our society and create a stronger, better, bolder Britain.

Thank you very much.