

## [Seatruck Pace report published](#)

Our report on a fatal accident on the ro-ro vessel Seatruck Pace when a crewman fell through a vehicle ramp hatch on 17 December 2018, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened and the subsequent actions: [read more](#).

### **Press enquiries**

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

Press enquiries out of hours 020 7944 4292

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## [PM's speech at the Pride reception: 2 July 2019](#)

Welcome, everyone.

This is the third Pride reception that I have had the pleasure of hosting.

And it is always a highpoint of the summer.

A chance to celebrate the contribution that LGBT people of all backgrounds make to our national life.

To look back with pride on everything that generations of campaigners have achieved.

And to look forward to a future where the bigotry and discrimination that LGBT people still face can be made a thing of the past.

During this year's Pride season, we remember two important anniversaries.

50 years since the Stonewall Riots in New York – the catalyst for the modern LGBT rights movement.

And thirty years since a group of people here in the UK, inspired by those events in 1969, founded Stonewall – today Europe's biggest LGBT rights charity.

I am delighted to welcome Ruth Hunt and all the guests from Stonewall here today – thirty people nominated by Stonewall to celebrate their thirty years

of ground-breaking activism in the cause of human rights.

Stonewall has four inspiring missions: empowering individuals to be their authentic selves; transforming institutions to create inclusive and accepting cultures; changing hearts and minds so LGBT people can participate fully in society; and changing and protecting laws so that equality is achieved, maintained and defended.

These are noble causes and your success in pursuing them has made our country, and our world, a better place.

The last three decades have indeed been years of progress.

Years when the hearts and minds of the British people have been changed – have been opened.

Today we are a more accepting, more respectful, and more loving society when it comes to questions of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The fact that in 2019 the second in line to the throne speaks openly about how relaxed and comfortable he would be if one of his children were to come out to him is a sign of just how far we have come.

It sends a powerful message right around the world.

Because as everyone here knows, the job is not done.

In many countries, LGBT people still face legal persecution, social stigma, violence and discrimination.

A few weeks ago the United Kingdom took over as co-chair of the Equal Rights Coalition – the first intergovernmental network devoted to promoting and protecting the human rights of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people around the world.

Next year we will host an international LGBT rights conference here in London to address the key issues we need to tackle to achieve global equality.

And while the UK is regularly ranked as one of the most LGBT-friendly countries in the world, we know that we still have a long way to go.

We now have a much clearer picture of the challenges, thanks to the National Survey which the Government conducted in 2017.

It drew a huge response and it has provided a wealth of information.

Last year we launched our LGBT Action Plan in response – a comprehensive, cross-government plan to improve the lives of LGBT people.

It makes 75 commitments which the government will meet over the next four years.

And in the last 12 months we have made a strong start, with a third of the commitments already achieved.

We have appointed the first ever National Adviser on LGBT health in the NHS, Dr Michael Brady [and I am very pleased has joined us joined us here today].

We have created a new LGBT Advisory Panel to advise government on everything from ending conversion therapy to tackling hate crime.

And we have expanded our programme to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

I want to commend Penny Mordaunt, Baroness Williams and Vicky Atkins for leading that effort – and for all the work they and their officials at the GEO do to champion equality.

We have seen just how necessary that work is.

I was shocked to see the image of a young couple brutally attacked on a London bus last month.

I am very pleased that Melania and Chris are here with us today.

As Chris said of her experience: 'It was scary, but this is not a novel situation.'

The hostility and hate experienced by LGBT people, especially trans people, in our society is real – and it is something we must all stand against.

The Government has refreshed our Hate Crime Action Plan and the Law Commission will be conducting a review of existing hate crime legislation, to see if it needs to be strengthened.

But the law by itself cannot change attitudes.

That's why we have developed other policies that I think have a huge part to play in breaking down this ignorance and hatred.

Last week we published the final guidance on Relationships Education for schools in England.

Under the new policy, every child will leave school having been taught in an age-appropriate way about the protected characteristics of sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is a chance to establish right from the start that difference is to be respected, diversity to be valued – and I believe it is a huge step forward.

This will probably be one of the last times I make a speech in this garden.

And I am very pleased that one of my final events here should be the Pride reception.

Like a lot of people of my generation, my heart and mind has changed on some of the issues that Stonewall has spent 30 years campaigning on.

It was during David Cameron's leadership that my political party fully

embraced LGBT equality.

I was proud to be the shadow Minister who published the Conservative Party's first Contract for Equalities.

I was proud as Home Secretary to sponsor and vote for the Same Sex Marriage Bill.

When I became Prime Minister, I was determined to use this platform to be an ally to LGBT people.

That's why I spoke out at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting to condemn homophobic laws that still criminalise gay people and call for change.

It is why I pressed ahead with the consultation on reforming the Gender Recognition Act, work that remains unfinished, but which must be completed so we can get a system that works for trans people and commands broad confidence.

And it is why we have put in place that inclusive relationships education for schools – so every child can be taught to accept and respect difference.

I am confident that whoever succeeds me as Prime Minister will share my absolute commitment to equality for LGBT people.

I know that Stonewall and many of the other groups represented here today will carry on working with government – and challenging us too – to make sure we get the best outcomes.

And finally my message to all of you is this: I will only be your Prime Minister for a few more weeks, but I will be your ally for the rest of my life.

Thank you very much.

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## **E3 and EEAS joint statement on Iran: 2 July**

In a joint statement France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the European External Action Service said:

The Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the UK, and the High Representative are extremely concerned at Iran's announcement that it has exceeded the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action stockpile limit for low enriched uranium. The International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed this information.

We have been consistent and clear that our commitment to the nuclear deal depends on full compliance by Iran. We regret this decision by Iran, which calls into question an essential instrument of nuclear non-proliferation.

We urge Iran to reverse this step and to refrain from further measures that undermine the nuclear deal. We are urgently considering next steps under the terms of the JCPoA in close coordination with other JCPoA participants.

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## **Joint Communiqué on the 7th UK-Viet Nam Strategic Dialogue**

On the occasion of the 7th UK-Viet Nam Strategic Dialogue, H.E. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, To Anh Dung, and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Harriett Baldwin MP, welcome the sustained progress in the strategic partnership, particularly in support of the rules-based international order, free trade, sustainable economic growth, education and cultural exchanges and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the full range of bilateral and international issues, including human rights.

The UK and Viet Nam are strong advocates of global free trade and welcome the signing of the EU – Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) on 30 June. Viet Nam and the UK look forward to ensuring continuity of trade relations as the UK leaves the EU, including through transitioning the EU – Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement. The two sides also discussed the UK's proposal on transitioning the Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). This will boost the relationship between Vietnamese and UK firms for enhanced



competition and productivity.

The UK and Viet Nam are committed to working together in multilateral forums. The UK welcomes Viet Nam's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, and both sides look forward to close cooperation on the maintenance of international peace and security during Viet Nam's tenure, including on: women, peace and security; post-conflict reconstruction; and the global non-proliferation architecture, including disarmament, de-mining, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and resolution of regional issues such as the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

The two sides agreed to close collaboration during Viet Nam's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2020. The two countries will work closely together in the run up to the COP26 Climate Change Conference to strengthen commitments to reducing emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy in Viet Nam.

Both sides shared views on recent developments in the South China Sea, expressed support for the peaceful resolution of any disputes in the South China Sea on the basis of international law, including UNCLOS, which will support peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region.

Both sides support the establishment of a new Joint Serious Organised Crime Working Group to coordinate policy development and project delivery in areas of modern slavery, human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and illegal transfer of goods through customs. The signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UK Border Force and the General Department of Viet Nam Customs, as well as the review and evaluation of the Returns MoU between the Home Office and the Ministry of Public Security will reinforce the importance of cooperation on these issues.

Both sides welcomed increased cooperation in the area of defence, in particular the initiation of the Defence Policy Dialogue, high level defence related visits and cooperation on United Nations Peacekeeping, including the deployment of the Vietnamese level 2 field hospital in South Sudan.

Both sides acknowledged the key role of education in the relationship and welcomed the renewal of the decision establishing the educational and cultural status of the British Council in Viet Nam. They also emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral cultural diplomacy to deepen the bonds between the two countries.

Viet Nam and the UK highly value regular Ministerial visits between both countries. Viet Nam's Minister of Finance will shortly visit London, to be followed by Ministerial visits to Viet Nam in the coming months, including for the annual Defence Dialogue and Joint Economic and Trade Committee.