

[Home Secretary statement on the London Bridge attack inquests](#)

Today (28 June 2019), His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft QC delivered his conclusions in the inquests into the deaths of the eight people killed in the London Bridge and Borough Market terror attack on 3 June 2017.

The London Bridge attack was an act of pure evil carried out by a group of terrorists who sought to strike fear at the core of our tolerant and inclusive society.

Over the past two months, we've heard the deeply moving and harrowing accounts of people caught up in the horrors of that tragic evening.

We've also heard stories of compassion, bravery and pure courage. My thoughts continue to be with the victims and all those affected and I recognise the pain they must have felt reliving events during the inquests.

As Home Secretary, it's my duty to ensure we do everything possible to keep our country safe. Our response to the terrorist threat is constantly evolving and since 2017 we've made substantial improvements.

These inquests present further opportunities to reflect on our practices and ensure we are best placed to counter the terrorist threat.

What's clear is that in responding to the attack we saw the very best in people – from members of the public to our emergency workers.

I would also like to pay tribute to the professionalism and tireless dedication of our intelligence and security agencies and counter-terrorism police – who often have to make difficult decisions in extremely complex circumstances.

This attack, and the others we have seen in recent years, have only strengthened our resolve to unite against those who seek to use violence to attack our way of life.

[Vaccine update: issue 295, June 2019](#)

Help us improve GOV.UK

To help us improve GOV.UK, we'd like to know more about your visit today. We'll send you a link to a feedback form. It will take only 2 minutes to fill

in. Don't worry we won't send you spam or share your email address with anyone.

Email address

Send me the survey [Don't have an email address?](#)

[UK commitment to European security unconditional, Defence Secretary reaffirms](#)

In a three day visit that underlined the UK's unwavering commitment to European security, Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt travelled to NATO HQ in Brussels for the first time. She then travelled to Lithuania to visit Baltic Protector, the Joint Expeditionary Force's first large-scale maritime deployment.

At the NATO Defence Ministers' meeting, Ms Mordaunt met with a number of key allies for the first time including French counterpart Florence Parly.

Speaking from NATO Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

Whilst our relationship with Europe is changing, our commitment to the continent's security is not. For the last 70 years, we have been a leader in the most successful military alliance the world has ever known, and we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Allies discussed a range of topics such as NATO's new Military Command Structure in which the UK is playing a leading role in the design. The UK is on track to fulfil its pledge of 1,000 British personnel to the new Command Structure and will be the third largest contributor.

Ms Mordaunt also announced that the UK will take on two new leadership positions within the new Military Command Structure. Later this year, the UK will provide a 2* Deputy Commander to the newly formed Joint Force Command in Norfolk, Virginia, and will fill the Director for Policy and Capabilities' role for NATO's International Military Staff in 2020. She also discussed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, reaffirming the assessment that that Russia has violated the terms of agreement, whilst noting that it still has a short window to come back into compliance.

Following NATO, the Defence Secretary travelled to Klaipėda, Lithuania, where

she spoke alongside her Lithuanian counterpart Raimundas Karoblis at a ceremony on board HMS Albion to mark the first anniversary of the JEF since it was declared fully operational in London last year.

The Royal Navy ship has been leading the JEF Maritime Task Group on the Baltic Protector deployment. Baltic Protector, the first deployment of the UK-led JEF Maritime Task Group, marks a key milestone in preparing the Joint Expeditionary Force for action. It featured 3,000 military personnel and 17 vessels from nine nations exercising across Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea region.

[£770,000 awarded through Building a Stronger Britain Together](#)

More than 30 groups across England have received £770,000 between them to support their local community and build resilience to extremist activity.

The money, awarded through the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, is the fourth round of funding since the programme began in 2015.

Projects being funded in this round include:

- working with children on anti-racism workshops
- support for Muslim women who have experienced anti-Muslim hatred to produce a video to increase the understanding of Islam
- support newly settled eastern and central European communities adapt to live in modern Britain and build resilience to far-right extremism
- innovative workshops to tackle female genital mutilation
- commemorative arts projects to unite diverse communities which extremists attempt to exploit

Minister for Countering Extremism, Baroness Williams, said:

Through the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme we have built a passionate network of local groups, who do amazing work in uniting their communities.

I'm delighted that this funding can go towards helping so many people and support some fantastic projects that promote fundamental values.

I am proud of the incredible work organisations are doing and we will do all can to ensure more people can make a positive local impact.

The projects will cover Birmingham, Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, London, Luton, Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland.

Building a Stronger Britain Together, set up as part of the government's Counter Extremism Strategy, is a network of more than 230 groups, which supports civil society and community organisations in efforts to stand up to extremism and bring communities together.

Adrian Packer, chief executive of CORE Education and Founder of Echo Eternal, said:

We are proud and excited to be part of Building a Stronger Britain Together – Echo Eternal gives children from different backgrounds a common focus of paying tribute to British Holocaust survivors' testimonies. This creates an unstoppable force for good by bringing communities together through creative endeavour.

To date, 5,000 young people from across the West Midlands have been part of the Echo Eternal movement, and by 2022 more than 15,000 children, young people and their families from across the UK will have joined our network – both listening to the echoes of the past, and in turn creating their own echoes for the future.

Through Echo Eternal, these individual sparks of light are creating a beacon of civic hope, promoting a happier, healthier and safer world.

Dr. Daniela Varley, director of Recre8now, said:

We are overjoyed to have received funding which will enable us to creatively explore with pupils how the human mind can be shaped by misinformed ideologies. Being immersed in first hand experiences created through the use of drama techniques enables young people to develop their skills of empathy.

It enables young people to safely explore the nature of this contentious issues providing them with both a better understanding and increased resilience.

Heather Nelson chief executive officer of Black Health Initiative (BHI), said:

BHI is delighted to have received funding to raise awareness on FGM amongst all citizens within Leeds. Building a better understanding around the issue. Leeds is aiming to become a city of zero tolerance, highlighting the impact mentally and physically this has on girls and young women and this funding enables us to do this.

Some of the behaviour BSBT programmes look to tackle can include far right extremism, hate crime, Islamophobia, female genital mutilation, honour-based violence and forced marriage.

More than £9 million has been awarded to groups since the programme started in 2015.

[A full list of groups who are funded through BSBT is available on GOV.UK.](#)

Prize-linked savings pilot participants announced

Under the scheme individuals who save will be entered into a draw to win cash prizes. Following a competitive application process, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, announced in Parliament that 15 credit unions across Great Britain would pilot the scheme. They are:

- 1st Alliance (Ayrshire) Credit Union
- Bradford District Credit Union
- Central Liverpool Credit Union
- Clockwise Credit Union in Leicester
- East Sussex Credit Union
- Lewisham Plus Credit Union
- London Capital Credit Union
- Merthyr Tydfil Borough Credit Union
- Nottingham Credit Union
- Riverside Credit Union in Liverpool
- South Manchester Credit Union
- Westcountry Savings and Loans in Portishead
- Commsave Credit Union
- Plane Saver Credit Union
- Police Credit Union

HM Treasury are working with a fintech Incuto to deliver the scheme. We are aiming to open the accounts to savers later this year.