

UN Human Rights Council 50: UK Statement for the Interactive Dialogue on Health

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Health.



Thank you, Mr President.

The UK thanks the Special Rapporteur for her report on 'Violence and its impact on the right to health', including on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

As highlighted in the report, outdated discriminatory legislation continues to affect the lives of many people today, criminalising consensual same-sex relations, gender identity and expression, and failing to protect women and girls and the most vulnerable people.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 2018, the UK Government recognised that these laws were often put in place by our own country, and expressed regret at the legacy of discrimination, violence and even death

that persists today. These laws were wrong then, and they are wrong now. Nobody should face persecution or discrimination because of who they are or how they express themselves.

The United Kingdom remains committed to continuing its work with governments and civil society to repeal and reform discriminatory legislation and introduce new laws and policies to protect all individuals from violence and persecution.

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UN Human Rights Council 50: UK Statement for the Interactive Dialogue on the independence of judiciary and lawyers

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary and lawyers.



UK Government

Thank you, Special Rapporteur.

An independent judiciary and legal profession are vital to the proper functioning of a democracy. They are essential to ensuring equality before the law and delivering independent and impartial justice.

We support the report, in particular the focus on protecting legal professionals and their ability to safely offer legal advice. We share your concerns on the increasing trends of interference with and attacks against the legal profession. The UK recognises the importance of safeguarding legal professionals, which is why we are a strong advocate for a binding Council of Europe instrument on the profession of a lawyer.

The UK fully respects the constitutional position of judges and the judiciary. The separation of powers between the executive and judicial branches is underpinned by our constitutional and statutory framework. Regardless of our strength in this space, the UK fully supports the identification of ways to further improve the independence of the judicial branch and the legal profession.

Special Rapporteur,

What can States do internationally to promote and encourage compliance with the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers?

Thank you.

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[UN Human Rights Council 50: UK Statement during Interactive Dialogue on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association](#)

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.



UK Government

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes the Special Rapporteur's report. We agree that access to funding, including across borders, is crucial to creating an enabling environment in which civil society can thrive. We are deeply concerned that the trend for funding restrictions continues to escalate.

The ability of civil society to share ideas, elevate concerns and mobilise resources is crucial to its effectiveness and – as we have seen during the Covid 19 pandemic and more recently in Ukraine – to the resilience of society in times of crisis.

Too often, security concerns are used inappropriately as cover to restrict civil society. While states have a duty to protect their citizens, it is not credible to imply that foreign funding to civil society is innately threatening, or that those receiving it are any less legitimate.

The UK works closely with our international partners to promote freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association.

Special Rapporteur,

What steps can be taken to promote a more proportionate, risk based approach to the regulation of civil society and its funding?

Thank you.

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[British Chargé speech at the Queen's Birthday Party in Kinshasa](#)

Good evening

I will try to keep my remarks short. This is a party and I want you to have fun.

I would first like to thank our friends for their assistance in making this evening so special. I'd also like to thank my own wonderful team.

For the UK, this is an important year. It is 70 years since her Majesty the Queen came to the throne – it is her platinum jubilee year. I hope you were able to see some of the pictures of the UK celebrating as it was a marvellous spectacle. It's also a reminder that London is a wonderful holiday destination!

Tonight I want to talk about three aspects of our monarch. Her role in leading our country from war to peace. The nature of her leadership. And, finally, the commitment of her, and her family, to climate and nature.

The Queen's reign is founded in the UK's experiences of the First and Second World War. Her earliest experiences were of seeing our country, and our people, fighting in defence of our land and our future. We fought alongside

our allies to protect our values and way of life.

As the Queen has got older, she has remained our link to that history of defending our homeland. However, she has not remained locked in that past, but she has determinedly helped move her country forward to peace.

Her Majesty has overseen a period in which our enemies have become our closest friends. She herself has shaken the hands of those who killed her cousin during the troubles in Northern Ireland. In doing so, she didn't listen to the haters or to those who had no interest in taking the risks needed to secure new friendships. As a result, she helped build a new future and the prosperity the UK enjoys today.

The Queen has also moved with her people from a period of colonialism, during which the UK did many nations wrong, to a period in which we celebrate the vibrant diversity of our nation as our strength. A period during which we reach out to friends around the world with respect and sisterhood.

The history the Queen represents means that the UK knows how hard the fight for peace is. We know how precious peace is. It is for that reason that the UK is so angered by the destruction of Ukraine. And, even more importantly standing in Kinshasa, it is the reason we are horrified by recent events in the East of DRC. People across the Great Lakes region deserve leadership that is committed to constructive dialogue and that delivers long-term peace and prosperity. The UK has called on all sides – in public and in private – to de-escalate and immediately take the decisions needed to end the fighting around Bunagana. As the people of this region struggle to find the path from the brutality of the last 30 years of war, the UK stands with all those who truly seek peace.

The second aspect I wanted to touch on was the nature of the Queen's leadership. The Queen has always been clear that she put the interests of her people before her own. Indeed she has made her interests indivisible from those of the country – this is the reason British people say "Queen and country" in one breath. On the first day of her reign, 70 years ago, her majesty said:

"I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service...Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust"

She made it clear that she, as a leader, was accountable to the people not the people to her. She then continued to highlight the principles that continue to sit at the heart of British values, when she said:

"Parliamentary institutions, with their free speech and respect for the rights of minorities, and the inspiration of a broad tolerance in thought and expression – all this we conceive to be a precious part of our way of life and outlook."

As we look ahead to elections in this country, we hope that DRC also enjoys leadership of the kind the Queen embodies – in which people can be confident they are fully empowered to choose their leaders and that, as a result, this

country's democracy goes from strength to strength. The UK will remain a supporter and friend in that effort.

Finally, I wanted to talk of the Queen's commitment to climate and nature. In this she has been supported by her late Husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, as well as by her son, the Prince of Wales, and Grandson, the Duke of Cambridge. A notable case of powerful men following, and supporting, an even more powerful woman!

Before COP26, Her Majesty was reported to have said it was "really irritating when people talk, but they don't do." For a British person, and certainly for the Queen, to be "irritated" is the ultimate expression of anger. And given the threat climate change presents, she really has a point. We should all be "irritated" at a failure to act – and we must all work with renewed determination to see further progress at the pre-COP27 meeting here in DRC later this year, as well as at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

When she spoke at COP26 in Glasgow, the Queen said

None of us underestimates the challenges ahead: but history has shown that when nations come together in common cause, there is always room for hope." She continued "It has sometimes been observed that what leaders do for their people today is government and politics. But what they do for the people of tomorrow – that is statesmanship."

Here in the DRC, not only the UK, but many partners stand ready to support this amazing country in protecting its precious natural environment. This is an issue not just of national but global importance. We have appreciated the statesmanship this country has already shown on climate, and we stand ready to deepen our partnership in the years ahead.

In concluding, I would like to thank you all for coming to the British Residence in this special year for our Queen. We appreciate your friendship, and the hard work we do together, in the interests of both our peoples.

May I ask you to join me in raising a glass to her Majesty in celebration of her Jubilee. "The Queen"

Bankrupt abuses government support scheme

Salih Ozhot, from Southgate, North London, petitioned for his bankruptcy before being made bankrupt on 13 October 2021.

The Official Receiver was appointed as his trustee in bankruptcy before uncovering the former café manager had falsely applied for a £50,000 bounce

back loan.

Salih Ozhot applied for the loan on behalf of Kangaroo Courier Services, claiming the business had been set-up in November 2019. However, the business never traded and was ineligible for government support.

Enquiries found that out of the £50,000, Salih Ozhot used £15,000 towards setting up a website for Kangaroo Courier Services. In interviews with the Official Receiver, Salih Ozhot claimed he thought he could invest the bounce back loan into the business.

Due to the risk he posed to creditors, the Official Receiver applied for Salih Ozhot to be placed under additional years of bankruptcy restrictions.

On 11 May 2022 Salih Ozhot accepted an 8-year bankruptcy undertaking, which restricts him from being able to borrow more than £500 without disclosing his bankrupt status. He also cannot act as a company director without the court's permission.

Mitzi Mace, Official Receiver, said:

Salih Ozhot cynically applied for government support, intended to help viable businesses during the pandemic, for a business that didn't even exist. At best, it was an idea for a business and investment in a potential venture's website was not a legitimate reason to receive the loan.

Salih Ozhot's actions indicated a cavalier approach to business and a risk to future creditors. His 8-year ban should serve as a warning that the Insolvency Service will take action to tackle such financial wrongdoing.

In their capacity as Salih Ozhot's trustee in bankruptcy, the Official Receiver is assessing assets available in order to recover the bounce back loan.

Salih Ozhot is from Southgate, North London, and his date of birth is 7 July 1982.

Details of Salih Ozhot's Bankruptcy Restrictions Undertaking are available on the [Individual Insolvency Register](#).

Bankruptcy restrictions are wide ranging. The effects are the same whether you are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or to an undertaking. Guidance on the main statutory consequences flowing from a [bankruptcy restrictions order or undertaking](#).

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct.](#)