

Delivering justice for the victims and survivors of ISIL atrocities

Thank you, Mr President. We welcome the Special Adviser's report on the very important work that he and his team are doing.

The world was shocked by the horrific crimes committed by ISIL – by its barbaric methods, its use of mass execution, torture and rape. We must maintain our collective determination to ensure accountability for all the suffering ISIL caused.

The UK therefore reaffirms its strong support for the work of UNITAD, and for the progress that it's making.

In particular, we strongly support UNITAD's efforts to contribute to the domestic prosecution of ISIL members in 15 Member States, including prosecutions in Sweden and Germany.

We also welcome UNITAD's thorough efforts to investigate the financing of ISIL's crimes – the "house of money" described by the Special Adviser. Detailed documentation of this house of money is vital if we are to establish accountability for the full scope of ISIL's activity, and for the full ISIL hierarchy.

We reiterate our support for UNITAD's work with the Iraqi judiciary to develop capacity to deal with the full range of these complex crimes. We hope to see this continue and strengthen, and we welcome the cooperation of the Iraqi government with UNITAD's work.

We applaud the focus UNITAD maintains on the welfare and experiences of survivors, as well as UNITAD's continued efforts in engaging with all affected communities across Iraq, including ethnic and religious minorities. As the Special Adviser said, the resilience of those survivor groups is inspiring.

In particular, ensuring that survivors of sexual enslavement and violence can have their experiences documented safely and effectively – women and girls from the Yazidi community, for example – is the first step towards achieving justice and accountability for these awful crimes.

This is why UNITAD's investigative experts contributed to the development of the Murad Code, a global code of conduct for gathering information from survivors, which we launched with Nadia Murad under our Presidency of the Security Council.

We have also supported the International Organisation for Migration in its work with the Directorate for Survivors' Care in Iraq, facilitating the design and implementation of an effective, accessible reparations mechanism.

Mr President, the UNITAD mission deserves this Council's full support.

UNITAD's close collaboration with the Government of Iraq is vital if we are to deliver the justice and accountability that the victims and survivors of ISIL atrocities deserve.

Thank you.

Blocking the UNSC's efforts sends a dangerous signal to states seeking to undermine international peace and security

Mr President,

The United Kingdom strongly regrets China and Russia's use of the veto to block a Security Council resolution on DPRK on 26 May – a resolution which enjoyed the support of every other Council member. Blocking the Council's response to repeated breaches of Security Council resolutions sends a dangerous signal to states seeking to undermine international peace and security. That is why we are here today in the General Assembly.

On 5 June, DPRK launched eight ballistic missiles. This is the highest number in a single day, and the 16th set of tests in 2022. The DPRK has tested six Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles this year. It has stated its intention publicly to break its nuclear testing moratorium. We know it is making preparations to conduct a nuclear test this year.

All existing UN sanctions against DPRK were agreed unanimously. The threat that its weapons present to international peace and security has only increased. It was right for the Council to take further action. We should continue to press for DPRK to return to its NPT commitments and IAEA safeguards. We again call on China and Russia to work together with other Council members toward this goal, and for all Member States to implement fully existing UN sanctions.

The United Kingdom remains deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in the DPRK, which is the result of the government's diversion of resources into its weapons programmes. After two years of COVID lockdowns, and with Pyongyang reporting its first "fever cases", the situation in the DPRK is deteriorating. We call on the DPRK to provide access for UN humanitarian workers to deliver urgently required aid.

UN sanctions are not targeted at the North Korean people. We fully support the delivery of humanitarian support to the most vulnerable. The vetoed draft resolution would have made it easier to provide humanitarian support,

including in response to the COVID situation.

Mr President, I must respond to remarks made by the Chinese and Russian Representatives about AUKUS. The trilateral cooperation between Australia, the US and the UK will be fully consistent with the three parties' respective non-proliferation obligations. It will be pursued in a manner that preserves the integrity of the non-proliferation regime.

Finally, Mr President, let me again call upon the DPRK to cease its provocations, engage meaningfully with dialogue, and take concrete steps towards denuclearisation. This must be done in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. In the long term, denuclearisation is the only way to create a more stable and prosperous future for the DPRK and its people.

Thank you.

[Prime Minister to promise a return to a strong, healthy UK economy](#)

The Prime Minister will tell the British public he is firmly on their side as he reaffirms his commitment to supporting them throughout this challenging period.

In a speech in Lancashire today [Thursday 9 June], he will set out a clear vision to continue to tackle the rising cost of living, while delivering on the government's overriding mission to unite and level up the country,

The fallout from the pandemic and the shock of Putin's aggression in Ukraine has caused global pressure on prices, leaving many people facing rising costs in their daily lives.

He will pledge further reforms in the coming weeks to make people's lives easier, boost UK productivity and increase growth – so the country can emerge from its current challenges with a strong and healthy economy.

In recognition that owning a home provides people with sanctuary and security in the most challenging of times, he will announce new measures that will support more people to get onto the property ladder.

The government is committed to reversing declining home ownership rates, which have seen the proportion of 25–34-year-olds who own their own home fall from 55% to 34% between 1996 and 2016.

Currently, too many people are spending huge sums of money in the private rental market when that money could be better spent on investing in their futures, in the form of mortgage payments on their own home.

The Prime Minister will confirm his ambition to unlock the opportunity of home ownership for more people through helping those in a position to buy, to access the mortgage finance they need, ensuring people are incentivised to save for a deposit no matter their financial situation, and improving the supply of housing across the country.

In a speech, the Prime Minister will say:

We have the tools we need to get on top of rising prices.

The global headwinds are strong. But our engines are stronger.

And, while it's not going to be quick or easy, you can be confident that things will get better, that we will emerge from this a strong country with a healthy economy.

He will add:

Over the next few weeks, the government will be setting out reforms to help people cut costs in every area of household expenditure, from food to energy to childcare to transport and housing.

As we continue to deal with the covid aftershocks, and the inflationary impact of the war in Ukraine, our strategy is clear.

We will continue to use our fiscal firepower to help the country through tough times – and concentrating our help where we should, on those who need it most.

We will continue with the agenda on which this government was elected, to unite and level up across the country, building the productivity of the UK with generational investments in infrastructure, skills and technology.

We will continue to support the NHS and to clear the covid backlogs, and to fund all other vital public services.

At the same time we will use this moment to accelerate the reforming mission of the government, to cut the costs that government imposes on businesses and people up and down the country.

With more affordable energy, childcare, transport, and housing we will protect households, boost productivity and above all increase the rate of growth of the UK.

Too much focus on a small minority getting to the top, warns SMC chair

The social mobility world is too fixated with a small minority of people from poor backgrounds getting into the best universities and elite professions, Katharine Birbalsingh will argue today (Thursday 09 June) as she outlines her new vision.

In her inaugural speech as Chair of the Social Mobility Commission, she will say that it's time for a radical shift in how the UK views social mobility. Too often success has been defined as a caretaker's daughter going to Oxbridge and becoming a top surgeon, she believes.

Birbalsingh, also headmistress at Michaela Community School, wants to challenge this traditional approach to social mobility. More attention should be given to those people taking small steps up the ladder – from the bottom and from the middle rungs, she argues. These could include: those whose parents were out of work getting a job; the son of a postman becoming a branch manager; the daughter of a care worker becoming a primary school teacher.

She intends to look at ways of creating more opportunities in the regions too so that not everyone feels they have to move to London or the southeast to get a good job. She supports the Levelling Up agenda and wants to ensure that education, skills training and routes into work are seen as priorities across the UK.

“We want to move away from the notion that social mobility should just be about the ‘long’ upward mobility from the bottom to the top – the person who is born into a family in social housing and becomes a banker or CEO,” Birbalsingh is expected to say.

“We want to promote a broader view of social mobility, for a wider range of people, who want to improve their lives, sometimes in smaller steps,” she will add. “This means looking at how to improve opportunities for those at the bottom – not just by making elite pathways for the few – but by thinking about those who would otherwise be left behind.”

Speaking at an [event hosted by Policy Exchange](#), she will emphasise there's not “a one size fits all model of social mobility” and there are many forms of success.

“If a child of parents who were long-term unemployed, or who never worked, gets a good job in their local area, isn't that a success worth celebrating? Would we really say that it doesn't count as mobility because they are not a doctor or lawyer?” she will ask.

Birbalsingh and Alun Francis, her deputy, intend to pose difficult questions and tackle uncomfortable truths head-on. For instance, they will argue that

widening access to university has not always brought the dividends hoped for and has diverted attention from the 50 per cent pursuing other routes.

“What can we do for those young people and adults who have not followed the higher education pathway but still need a route to high skills and good occupational opportunities?” she will ask.

“And what more should be done about those at the very bottom – particularly those with low levels of basic literacy and numeracy – who cannot therefore take advantage of higher learning and are unable to access higher paid work?”

Birbalsingh will also challenge the popular narrative that social mobility is getting worse. She will say the picture is complex but the latest analysis from the Commission shows that occupational mobility has been stable or slightly improving for decades. There is less consensus on other areas like income, housing and wealth. But the SMC will look at them more closely next year.

The SMC State of the Nation 2022 report, to be published later this month, will set out a framework to revise the way the Commission has traditionally measured social mobility. It will provide a more accurate view of who is moving up, down, or staying put.

The new social mobility index will track actual social mobility – comparing where people start and end, in their occupations, incomes, and other outcomes, all across the UK to show who is mobile, and where. “It means being clearer about where mobility is working well – and being clearer about the various factors which help make this happen.”

Birbalsingh also intends to set out the key priorities for the Commission:

- Education – Covering early years, schools and universities, but also other routes into work such as further education and apprenticeships. Birbalsingh wants to look at ways of helping families and parents to support their children to ensure they get a good start in life. She believes that parents are a child’s first teacher and we need to help parents know what is needed to boost their child’s development – such as reading books to them.
- Employment – The SMC will go beyond the large professional firms in the City, many of whom already have plans for more diverse workforces, to look at how small businesses can generate opportunity.
- Enterprise and the economy – The Commission will look at the creation of opportunities, their geographical spread and the role of enterprise in sometimes challenging social mobility hierarchies – all central to the Government’s levelling up agenda. It will focus on local neighbourhoods where educational and economic opportunities are poor across generations.

Birbalsingh believes that everyone should be given the opportunity to succeed and that key role models such as parents, teachers and employers can provide the support for that to happen. Nobody should be a prisoner of the circumstances in which they were born.

“We want to champion a fresh approach, which sees social mobility as the process of enabling everyone to find and apply their talents in ways that they enjoy and gives them purpose, and for our wider society and economy”, she is expected to say.

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[E3 and US welcome IAEA Board of Governors resolution](#)

Press release

The UK, France, Germany and the United States welcome the adoption of a resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors responding to Iran’s insufficient cooperation with the IAEA.



The E3 and US said:

We, the Governments of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, welcome the IAEA Board of Governors’ adoption of a resolution responding to Iran’s insufficient cooperation with the IAEA on serious and outstanding safeguards issues relating to Iran’s obligations under its NPT-required safeguards agreement. The overwhelming majority vote at the IAEA Board of Governors today sends an unambiguous message to Iran that it must meet its safeguards obligations and provide technically credible clarifications on outstanding safeguards issues. Today’s resolution

affirms the Board's support for the independent, professional and impartial efforts of the IAEA to uphold the international safeguards system, which is essential to all of our security.

We urge Iran to heed the call of the international community to fulfil its legal obligations, and cooperate with the IAEA to fully clarify and resolve issues without further delay. If Iran does this and the Director General is able to report that the unresolved safeguards issues are no longer outstanding, we would see no need for further Board consideration and action on these issues.

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