

[News story: Grenfell Tower fire response: what charitable grants are available](#)

Information about charitable grants for individuals and families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

A considerable amount of funds have been donated to help people that have been affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. Information can be found here about the initial [Grenfell charitable financial support](#) (PDF, 418KB, 1 page) that is available for those affected, along with how it can be accessed.

This information forms the basis of the initial distributions that have been made, however significant funds remain. Charities are now trying to work with the survivors and those affected to discuss how the rest of the funds should be distributed to meet the short, medium and long term needs of those affected by this awful tragedy.

We have also published [transparency information](#) about the total funds that have been raised and how much has been spent so far. This information will be updated on a weekly basis.

[Press release: Further chance to have your say on A358 proposals in Somerset](#)

Following the close of the recent consultation, Highways England has analysed feedback, listened to comments made and has taken the decision to gain further public opinion on its proposals for the A358 between the M5 at Taunton and West Hatch Lane.

A supplementary six-week public consultation will be held in the autumn, and dates for the public exhibition events will be announced shortly.

Project manager David Stock said:

We have listened to all the feedback received from the initial consultation and we feel that more work is needed to find the best option for the section of the scheme between West Hatch and the M5.

Details of the proposals to be consulted on will be made available when we launch the consultation, and we again invite everybody to

come along to the events and have their say.

The A358 is currently a mix of single and dual carriageway, carrying more vehicles than it was designed for, which leads to delays.

The plan is to improve the route to a dual carriageway as well as improved connectivity and access for local communities and vulnerable road users such as cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Speech: “Women have spent too long enduring and surviving these crises; it’s long past time for them to play their fullest part in solving them.”

Thank you Mr President, thank you Ambassador Tete Antonio and above all, thank you Deputy Secretary-General for sharing your analysis after your important visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to northern Nigeria.

I also commend the work of UN Women and of the Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict who also took part in the visit. Together, you’ve really brought home to us the horrific, disproportionate impact that both these crises are having on civilians and in particular on women and girls.

And it’s an impact that this Council knows only too well following our visit to the Lake Chad region in March. I’m sure that none of us who are on that visit will forget the stories of anguish that we heard there; so many of them from mothers or daughters who had lost everything – their children, their families, their homes, their hope – all to Boko Haram.

Sadly, it seems that these stories are still being told. Despite the efforts of the UN, and the AU and governments of the region, the suffering continues

– with over two million people still displaced in the Lake Chad region; over 96% of them because of the insurgency.

Similar stories can also be heard loudly and clearly in the DRC, which now has the highest displaced population in Africa. The reports emanating from the Kasai regions should make us all sick to our stomachs. They speak of mass graves, of brutal killing and maiming, including of women and children. They tell of rampant sexual violence; over 1,000 cases have been responded to since the crisis began last year, with the actual number of cases likely to be far higher. This has sparked a crisis that has left 400,000 children at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

These two situations – the DRC and northern Nigeria – are different in many ways, and yet they are the product of the same vicious cycle. It's a cycle of instability; one that breeds violence and leads to a breakdown of law and order. It's a cycle that allows groups like Boko Haram to flourish and to carry out these most heinous crimes.

Put simply Mr President, we need to break the cycle.

And by we, I mean all of us, including this Security Council, but responsibility must fall, first and foremost, to the governments affected.

The governments of the DRC and of Nigeria, have a duty to restore stability, because instability fuels crises. As they do so, they must respect human rights and international humanitarian law. You can't be part of the problem if you want to be part of the solution.

This means governments protecting civilians as they restore stability. It means them acting on allegations of human rights abuses, including sexual violence, irrespective of whether they are allegations against their forces or any other group. And that includes UN peacekeepers too.

It means governments holding to account those who have committed these crimes; showing that there can be really no impunity and no escape; that the rule of law applies to everyone.

And we need to help them in that effort. And that's why the UK, together with our UN and NGO partners, are supporting the Nigerian government to re-establish basic social services to areas they have stabilised. It's why we've pledged \$6 million to support the humanitarian response in the Kasais and why we support the Human Rights Council's unanimous decision to deploy a team of experts to look into the situation there.

It's why we provide training to the Nigerian Armed Forces and to African Peacekeeping contingents on protecting civilians and on preventing sexual and gender based violence. And it's why the UK is funding legal assistance in the DRC to help survivors of these crimes.

But ultimately, Mr President, these are all comparatively short term actions. To end the crises that afflict so many women and girls disproportionately in both the DRC and Nigeria, we need to see long term progress on the women, peace and security agenda.

And at its heart this means women's equality in all aspects of politics, government and society.

It's unacceptable that women continue to be so poorly represented in formal governance and peace processes when time after time studies show that women's participation in these processes aids their ultimate success.

In Nigeria, for instance, women's participation in the House of Representatives and Senate has fallen since 2011; it now stands at around 5%. And in the DRC, only two women were involved in discussions to reach a political agreement during the crisis last year – just one more woman involved and they would have matched the total number of women sitting round this table representing member states of the Security Council.

So whether in the DRC, in Nigeria, or indeed in the Security Council, let us all advocate for the full, active participation of women. Women have spent too long enduring and surviving these crises; it's long past time for them to play their fullest part in solving them.

Thank you.

[News story: London Seminar: Valuing the voluntary sector \(11 Sept, 2017\)](#)

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[News story: Bid to boost bilateral trade in Malaysia and South Korea](#)

International Trade Minister Mark Garnier visits 2 fast-growing Asian markets in a bid to boost trade and investment opportunities post-Brexit on his first trip to Malaysia and South Korea this week (6 to 11 August).

He will start his trip in Malaysia, where he will meet key figures from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss burgeoning trade in the technology and education sectors. Technology is one of top 5 UK exports to the country and represents

an opportunity to promote British goods and services.

He will also promote UK education expertise and position the country as the overseas investment destination of choice for Malaysian companies and investors.

He will end his trip in South Korea, where trade relations with the country have traditionally been strong, with trade worth in excess of £10 billion and a trade surplus in place since 2010. He is expected to focus on increasing collaboration in the automotive sector as the number of cars exported to South Korea has increased 5-fold, making it the UK's eighth largest export market outside of Europe.

He will also meet officials at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Senior Economic Secretary to the President to discuss future trade and investment opportunities, and the benefits of free trade.

Ahead of the visit, International Trade Minister, Mark Garnier said:

As we look towards our future outside the EU, it's important to strengthen existing trading links with thriving economies like Malaysia and South Korea and build new and mutually beneficial partnerships.

We know there is a wealth of opportunities out there and as an international economic department we are determined to help UK businesses seize these and make clear that the country is open for business.

Recent trade wins in Malaysia and South Korea

In December 2016, DIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation, a move that has led to significant interest from the UK technology and research sector in the huge opportunities available here.

Last year, UK mobile banking company, Monese, secured a major investment from the largest Korean venture capitalist company, Korea Investment Partners. Monese launched the first 100% mobile current account in the UK in September 2015 and is one of the leading Fintech players in the market.

UK-Malaysia and UK-South Korea trade relations

Key facts are:

- Malaysia is one of the world's top locations for offshore manufacturing and service based operations
- multinational corporations from more than 40 countries have invested in over 5,000 Malaysian companies
- the top 5 UK exports to Malaysia are infrastructure, defence, education

and technology

- overall bilateral trade totalled £4.4 billion in 2015, as it is our second largest export market in ASEAN
- foreign direct investment into Malaysia from the UK rose 6% from 2011 to over £3.4 billion in 2016
- UK-South Korea trade is worth in excess of £10 billion and since 2010, the UK has run a trade surplus with South Korea
- the top 5 UK exports to South Korea are crude oil, mechanical appliances, road vehicles and parts, aircraft and spacecraft and ,optical, photographic, cinematographic, medical equipment instruments

Further information

Contact the DIT Media and Digital Team on 0207 215 2000.

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