

Joint Statement by Embassies of the UK, USA, Germany, France, the EU Del on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

World news story

UNGA announced 2 November as the “International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists” to condemn attacks and violence against journalists.



UK Government

Today, on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, we express our respect and support to all media workers. Journalism is a form of freedom of expression, which is a fundamental right.

Journalists inform the public and provide access to a wide range of views. Only an independent and diverse media can help provide citizens with the information they need to hold their governments accountable. A free media is essential to a functioning society, ensuring transparency and democratic development.

Therefore, it is essential for governments around the world to promote and

create a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently without undue pressure.

Independent journalism supports the Kyrgyz Republic's ambitions to develop and strengthen its democracy and economy. Freedom of the media, and its right to freedom of expression, is protected under the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. We call upon the Kyrgyz Government to protect and nurture this basic human right.

In 2013, The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2 November as the "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists" in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/163. The Resolution condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers. It also urges Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability, bring to justice perpetrators of crimes against journalists and media workers, and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies. It further calls upon States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists.

This joint statement is issued by embassies of the UK, USA, Germany and France in Kyrgyzstan.

Published 2 November 2022

[PM call with Prime Minister Rutte of the Netherlands: 1 November 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte, this afternoon.



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte,

this afternoon.

The Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister Rutte for his warm congratulations on his appointment, and said he looked forward to working closely with the Netherlands.

The leaders highlighted how as transatlantic facing countries, they both faced a unique set of challenges and opportunities.

Discussing illegal migration, the leaders reflected on the difficulties posed by people smuggling gangs and discussed how the UK and the Netherlands could work with partners on a joint approach.

Both agreed on the need for deeper cooperation on shared challenges.

The leaders agreed to stay in close touch in the coming weeks.

Published 1 November 2022

[#CommsForEquality programme](#)



The [#CommsForEquality](#) event takes place next Thursday 17 November 2022 remotely via Zoom. No previous registration required.

The UK is committed to defending and promoting LGBTQ+ rights internationally. In this context, the UK Government will host the virtual conference #CommsForEquality, an event focused on Latin America and the Caribbean with the aim of building capability and understanding about the role of communications in strengthening LGBTQ+ rights.

Audiences

Comms professionals and content creators.

Programme

[Convert to your local time here.](#)

Session details

How can communications support positive change for the LGBTQ+ communities? Keynote session

Objective: to discuss what is the role of business as usual comms towards LGBTQ+ rights.

Speaker:

1. Hugo Greenhalgh, Thompson Reuters Foundation, editor of [Openly](#)

[Join here.](#)

Visibility Roundtable

Objective: to discuss how comms can provide visibility to the LGBTQ+ community through business as usual.

Speakers:

1. Andrea Rivas, leader of Asociación Familias Diversas de Argentina, Argentina. [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn, part of Top Voice 2022](#)
2. Tamara Adrian, Venezuelan 2015 National Assembly, Venezuela
3. Alberto Moscoso, Executive Director ADESPROC Libertad, Bolivia . [Twitter](#)

[Join here.](#)

Now and then Keynote session

Objective: to reflect and compare how comms were around LGBTQ+ matters 10 years ago and how they are now.

Speakers:

1. [Nicole Davison](#), British High Commissioner to Belize.
2. [Anjourn Noorani](#), British Consul General, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

[Join here.](#)

Tackling disinformation Roundtable

Objective: to discuss how comms can counterbalance anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-gender narratives which are widespread online.

Speakers:

1. Matías Trujillo, [Todo Mejora](#), Chile.
2. Pia Bravo, Director of [Presente NGO](#), Peru.
3. Yendri Velásquez, Amnesty International, Venezuela. [Twitter](#)

[Join here.](#)

Achieving balance Roundtable

Objective: to discuss how comms can provide visibility not only to the negative side (such as violence or lack of rights) but also to success stories (equal marriage legislation, etc.).

Speakers:

1. Mildred Pérez, [Homosensual](#), Mexico. [LinkedIn](#).
2. Gianna Camacho, defender of Human Rights and correspondent for Presentes Latam, Peru.
3. Ramón Gómez, [Movilh NGO](#), Chile.

[Join here.](#)

Inclusive comms workshop for Spanish language

Objective: to understand and use inclusive language in business as usual comms wording and visual assets.

Speaker:

1. [Eugenia Mitchelstein](#), Director of the Social Sciences Department at Universidad de San Andrés. Argentina. [Twitter](#)

[Join here.](#)

Inclusive comms workshop for Portuguese language

Objective: to understand and use inclusive language in business as usual comms wording and visual assets.

Speaker:

1. Michelle Horovits, FCDO comms team Brazil

[Join here.](#)

Join the conversation in social media with [#CommsForEquality](#)

Enquiries

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1. 11 November 2022

Additional translation to Spanish added

2. 1 November 2022

Added translation

Secretary of State holds talks with party leaders after restoration of Executive deadline passes

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP spoke with NI party leaders following the failure to restore the NI Executive.

Following the meetings in Belfast, he stressed that he was now under a legal duty to call an election as set out in the New Decade New Approach agreement.

Mr Heaton-Harris also highlighted the serious situation that the lack of an Executive has left the people of Northern Ireland facing, including rising cost of living challenges, growing pressure on health services and a concerning financial overspend situation with no clear strategy for balancing the budget.

He expressed particular concern about the state of Stormont's finances, which half way through the financial year are forecasting a £661m overspend.

Mr Heaton-Harris also discussed MLA pay, and how he would be looking at taking action on this should the Executive fail to re-form. Since the election in May, MLAs have been paid more than £3 million, despite not being able to conduct business.

He met Vice President of Sinn Féin Michelle O'Neill, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, leader of the Alliance Party Naomi Long and leader of the Ulster Unionist Party Doug Beattie. He will meet Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney on Wednesday.

Commenting after the meetings, Heaton-Harris said:

"I had conversations with party leaders today and expressed how disappointed I am that under current legislation the legal duty now falls on me to call an election. I listened to the party leaders' various views on calling that election."

“There are important issues of government to be dealt with due to the absence of ministers.

“I am particularly worried that the Executive has an enormous black hole in its budget, which potentially has serious implications for the delivery of many of Northern Ireland’s public services. Measures to set a budget will be required in the short term.

“I will provide a further update on next steps in due course.”

[Energy bill support for Northern Ireland households launches](#)

- Energy Price Guarantee launches in Northern Ireland today – cutting energy costs for households
- the UK government scheme will reduce energy bills until the end of March 2023 to help consumers this winter – providing equivalent support to that being delivered in Great Britain
- it comes in addition to wider support including a £400 discount on bills and scheme to protect businesses from surging energy costs

From today (Tuesday 1 November) households in Northern Ireland will receive money off their energy bills, shielding them from soaring energy costs as the UK government’s Energy Price Guarantee launches.

The scheme reduces the price suppliers charge customers for units of gas and electricity, with support running until 31 March 2023 – providing crucial help to households who might otherwise face very significant increases in their energy bills.

It offers support equivalent to help already being delivered in Great Britain, which is expected to save consumers who use both gas and electricity around £700 this winter.

Households will see the discount on their energy bills from this month, with savings for October’s energy use seen in bills from November. To make this as easy as possible, there is no need for consumers to apply for the scheme with support delivered automatically.

Business and Energy Secretary Grant Shapps said:

Getting this support to households across Northern Ireland will help ease the pressures facing families this winter, with consumers seeing a discount on their bills from this month.

We've worked at pace to deliver this support, including introducing new powers so the UK government can get it to households as soon as possible, with a further £400 discount on bills due later this winter.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Heaton-Harris said:

This is vital support for households across Northern Ireland, providing relief for many families in the face of high energy bills.

It is disappointing that this support has had to be delivered in the absence of a functioning Executive, but the government has been clear in its commitment to help Northern Ireland households through this challenging time.

Only this week the UK government put into law support to help households with their energy bills through the Energy Prices Act. This gives the UK government powers to ensure support can get to households, businesses and public-sector organisations in Northern Ireland this winter in the absence of a fully functioning devolved government.

It comes in addition to the previously announced £400 energy bill discount for all households through the Northern Ireland Energy Bills Support Scheme. This also offers the same level of support as households in Great Britain, with the UK government working at pace to deliver a solution which accounts for differences in the Northern Ireland energy market so it can get to households as soon as possible.

John French, Chief Executive of the Utility Regulator said:

The Utility Regulator welcomes the delivery of both the Energy Price Guarantee scheme and the Energy Bill Relief Scheme in Northern Ireland, the first schemes to go live from the UK government's energy support package. This support is desperately needed to help households and businesses in Northern Ireland with their energy bills this winter.

We have worked hard to assist the UK government with the delivery of these schemes and we will continue to provide proactive support to get the additional schemes rolled out in Northern Ireland. Specifically, we are currently working with the UK government to ensure that the £400 Energy Bill Support Scheme payment is paid to Northern Ireland consumers as soon as possible.

Under the Energy Price Guarantee, energy suppliers will reduce bills in Northern Ireland by up to 20p/kWh for electricity and 4.8p/kWh for gas. The discount for households in Northern Ireland has been set to account for

energy use covering October.

For pre-payment meter customers in Northern Ireland, the Energy Price Guarantee will be applied to the rate you pay for each unit of energy at the same rate as for all other customers (20p/kWh for electricity and 4.8p/kWh for gas), so the money put on the meter will last longer than would otherwise have been the case this winter.

Those not on the main gas grid and therefore use alternative fuels like heating oil to warm their homes will instead receive a one-off £100 payment. This has been calculated to ensure a typical customer using heating oil does not face a higher rate of growth in their heating costs since last winter, in comparison to those using mains gas who are supported by the Energy Price Guarantee. The government will set out the timing of this payment soon.

Support with energy bills is also available for businesses, public and voluntary sector organisations across Northern Ireland through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme. It works in a similar way as the Energy Price Guarantee, providing a discount on the wholesale cost of gas and electricity and could see wholesale energy costs reduced by half for some businesses.

Whilst the scheme applies to energy use from 1 October, savings applied to October bills are typically received in November – meaning businesses across the UK will start to feel the benefits this month.

Government support with energy bills will deliver substantial benefits to the economy – boosting growth and curbing inflation by 4 to 5 points, reducing the cost of servicing the national debt.

Households who are eligible for but who do not receive Alternative Fuel Payment, because they do not have a relationship with an electricity supplier for example, will receive the £100 via the Alternative Fuel Payment Discretionary Fund which will be provided by a designated body.

Details of when this payment will be made and how the UK government will identify eligible households will be confirmed shortly. The UK government is committed to delivering this support to customers as fast as possible. There is no central register, either in Great Britain or Northern Ireland, of people who do not use the gas grid for their heating; therefore, we are working rapidly with stakeholders on the best way to identify those who are eligible for support.

[See full details of government energy bills support.](#)