

# G7 Ambassadors in Tunisia issue joint statement: 6 September 2021

World news story

G7 Ambassadors in Tunisia reaffirm their commitment to partner with Tunisia and to ensure that shared democratic values remain central to our relationships.



## UK Government

We, the Group of Seven, reaffirm our commitment to partnership with Tunisia as it develops the political and socio-economic structures needed to respond to the legitimate demands of its people for a better standard of living and honest, effective and transparent governance. We urge a swift return to a constitutional order, in which an elected parliament plays a significant role. We underline the urgent need to appoint a new head of government to form a capable Government able to address the immediate economic and health crises facing Tunisia. This will create space for an inclusive dialogue about proposed constitutional and electoral reforms.

As this process takes shape, we call for continued public commitment to and respect for all Tunisians' civil, political,

social and economic rights, and to the rule of law. The sooner that President Kais Saied can convey a clear sense of the way forward that responds to the needs of the Tunisian people, the sooner Tunisia can focus on tackling the economic, health and social challenges facing the country. The Group of Seven remains committed to ensuring that shared democratic values remain central to our ongoing relationships.

Published 20 September 2021

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## [New Chief Regulator at Ofqual](#)

News story

Dr Jo Saxton has taken up her post at England's independent qualifications regulator.



Ofqual's new Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Saxton, has taken up her post at England's independent qualifications regulator.

The former Ofqual board member and government education policy adviser took up her role on 18 September, following interim [Chief Regulator Simon Lebus](#).

Dr Saxton said:

"I believe in the power of education to transform life chances, which is why I'm so passionate about qualifications.

"As chief regulator, pupils and students will be at the heart of every decision we make at Ofqual: their best interests will be my compass.

"The Ofqual kitemark gives confidence to learners choosing their next step and to employers making recruitment decisions.

“I am looking forward to building on the work of my predecessor Simon Lebus and the team at Ofqual.”

Dr Saxton has led inner-city and coastal schools, and during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was adviser at the Department for Education, working on a range of policies from academies and regulation through to qualifications and the establishment of Oak National Academy.

Interim Chair of Ofqual Ian Bauckham CBE added:

“I’m thrilled to welcome Dr Saxton to Ofqual, as we settle in to a new academic year.

“As a former educator and Ofqual board member, I have no doubt that she will provide insightful leadership to Ofqual.”

Before working with academies and schools, Dr Saxton taught and examined at universities in England and the United States of America. She holds a PhD from New York University and an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge.

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## [Greenwashing: CMA puts businesses on notice](#)

- “Green Claims Code” is published today to help businesses comply with the law.
- CMA to carry out a full review of misleading green claims early next year and stands ready to take action against offending firms.

To help businesses understand how to communicate their green credentials while reducing the risk of misleading shoppers, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has published the Green Claims Code. This focuses on 6 principles which are based on existing consumer law. It is clear that firms making green claims “must not omit or hide important information” and “must consider the full life cycle of the product”.

The Code is part of a wider [awareness campaign](#) which the CMA has launched today ahead of COP26.

The CMA is concerned about people being misled by environmental claims and also wants to ensure that businesses feel confident navigating the law in this area.

Following an initial bedding-in period, the CMA will carry out a full review

of misleading green claims, both on and offline (e.g. claims made in store or on labelling), at the start of 2022.

The CMA will prioritise which sectors to review in the coming months, which could include industries where consumers appear most concerned about misleading claims – textiles and fashion, travel and transport, and fast-moving consumer goods (food and beverages, beauty products and cleaning products). However, any sector where the CMA finds significant concerns could become a priority.

Where there is clear evidence of breaches of consumer law, the CMA may also take action before the formal review begins.

Andrea Coscelli, Chief Executive of the CMA, said:

“More people than ever are considering the environmental impact of a product before parting with their hard-earned money. We’re concerned that too many businesses are falsely taking credit for being green, while genuinely eco-friendly firms don’t get the recognition they deserve.

“The Green Claims Code has been written for all businesses – from fashion giants and supermarket chains to local shops.

“Any business that fails to comply with the law risks damaging its reputation with customers and could face action from the CMA.”

Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Greg Hands, said:

“Millions of UK households are rightly choosing to switch to green products as they look to reduce their carbon footprint. But it’s only right that this commitment is backed up by transparent claims from businesses.

“The competition regulator’s new code will help to ensure this with advice on how best to communicate and understand environmental claims.

“Government is also currently reviewing green energy tariffs to ensure consumers can be confident they are choosing companies that make a conscious choice to invest in renewable energy.”

Last year, the CMA announced that it was [investigating the impact of green marketing on consumers](#), in line with its annual plan commitment. Working alongside other global authorities, it found that [40% of green claims made online could be misleading](#) – suggesting that thousands of businesses could be breaking the law and risking their reputation.

The Green Claims Code has been published following [extensive consultation](#) with businesses of all sizes and consumer groups. Businesses should check their green claims against the Code and seek legal advice if they are unsure whether their claims comply with the law.

More information can be found on the [misleading environmental claims](#) case page.

## Notes to editors

1. The key piece of consumer protection legislation relevant to the CMA's guidance is the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs). The CPRs contain a general prohibition against unfair commercial practices and specific prohibitions against misleading actions and misleading omissions.
2. For relevant figures and statistics, please read the CMA's ['Making environmental claims: a literature review'](#).
3. Examples and case studies can be found in the CMA's [The Green Claims Code: Environmental Claims on Goods and Services](#).
4. To read more about the CMA's campaign, please visit: [gov.uk/green-claims-code](https://gov.uk/green-claims-code)
5. Read more about how the CMA is supporting the transition to a low carbon economy in its [2021/22 Annual Plan](#).
6. Media enquiries should be directed to [press@cma.gov.uk](mailto:press@cma.gov.uk) or 020 3738 6460.

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## **Foreign Sec Liz Truss to meet Iranian Foreign Minister to discuss detained British Nationals and nuclear deal**

- She will press Iran on ongoing consular cases including the arbitrary detention of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe
- The Foreign Secretary will also call on Iran to return to the nuclear deal negotiating table before it is too late

The Foreign Secretary Liz Truss will meet a number of her international counterparts for the first time at the United Nations General Assembly in New York today (20 Sep) – including Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian.

With the meeting coming within her first week in the role, Liz Truss will say that a reset of bilateral relations between our countries should be a shared interest, but Iran's continuing nuclear non-compliance and escalating nuclear programme is blocking important progress.

The Foreign Secretary will call for Iran to immediately release Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Anoosheh Ashoori, Morad Tahbaz and all UK nationals unjustly trapped in Iran.

As the 2000th day of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's arbitrary detention approaches this week, she will ask the Iranian Foreign Minister to end her suffering, allowing her to return home to be reunited with her daughter and husband in the UK.

## **Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:**

I will be asking Iran to ensure the immediate and permanent release of all arbitrarily detained British nationals in Iran, and to begin working with us to mend our fractured relations.

The UK, US and our international partners are fully committed to a nuclear deal, but every day that Iran continues to delay talks whilst escalating its own nuclear programme means there is less space for diplomacy.

The Foreign Secretary will reiterate the US offer to lift sanctions in exchange for Iran returning to full compliance with its nuclear commitments. She will call on Iran to return to the Vienna talks over the nuclear deal (JCPoA), and once again return to compliance with its nuclear commitments, which is in the best interests of all parties.

Foreign Secretary Truss will also meet India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar at the UN General Assembly on Monday. The Ministers will take the opportunity to evaluate the 2030 Roadmap published earlier this year, as a vision of UK-India relations over the next ten years.

She will highlight our shared interests over Afghanistan, how the UK wants to work with India to prevent Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for terrorists, and limit terrorist groups' access to resources.

## **Notes to editors:**

- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) participants (Iran, UK, France, Germany, Russia, China, the EU) and the US began negotiations in Vienna to restore the JCPoA on 6 April 2021.
- There were six rounds of negotiations over ten weeks until Iran paused talks on 20 June, shortly after their Presidential election.
- Iran has not committed to return to Vienna, although other JCPoA participants and the US have said many times they are ready to do so.
- In parallel, Iran continues to escalate its nuclear programme. The latest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports confirm that Iran has produced uranium metal enriched up to 20% for the first time, and significantly increased its production capacity of uranium enriched up to 60%. Iran has never been this close to having the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

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**[Iraq, call for bids: John Bunyan Fund](#)**

# for Freedom of Religion or Belief

World news story

The British Embassy in Baghdad is pleased to announce a call for bids for the financial year 2021 to 2022 under the John Bunyan Fund for Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Fund.



The purpose of this fund is to support British Embassy areas of interest mentioned below.

Specific areas of focus are:

Bidders should have significant understanding of religious persecution. An understanding of government programming would be an advantage. The organisation will be able to demonstrate a strong track record of financial management and internal governance.

We are looking for creative and original project ideas which could help us achieve any of the above goals.

Successful bids will be for innovative activities that will have the greatest impact and deliver real change on the FoRB agenda in Iraq. We are less interested in proposals which focus purely on seminars, workshops or the production of research reports that end in themselves. Instead, proposals

should include action-oriented ideas which will bring about concrete outcomes.

## **Budget**

Project activity must be completed before 31 March 2022. The total amount of funding available is 30,000 GBP. We are unable to fund multiple-year projects. The successful implementer is required to issue quarterly reports.

## **Projects not eligible for funding**

Projects focused on service delivery or projects that support military, religious affairs, construction activities, capital costs, or mainly staff salaries are ineligible.

## **Assessment**

Bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- alignment with the above mentioned priorities and outcomes
- clear practical focus leading to tangible next steps
- outcomes are achievable within the funding period
- clear monitoring and evaluation procedures
- strong risk and financial management, including consideration of safeguarding risks
- overall value for money

## **How to apply**

Interested implementers are invited to submit their Proposal and Activity Based Budget, with approximate expected value of fund, to the embassy by 03 October 2021.

For further information, write to: [HRDP.Bids@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:HRDP.Bids@fcdo.gov.uk).

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