

Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Foreign Secretary's statement on the 26th anniversary

News story

The Foreign Secretary has given a statement on the anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Today, on the 26th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has reiterated the UK's ongoing commitment to supporting reconciliation across the Western Balkans.

The genocide claimed the lives of over 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys and led to the displacement of over 20,000 women and children who were forcibly expelled from their homes.

The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab said:

Today, we pause to remember the victims and honour the survivors of the Srebrenica genocide. The United Kingdom continues to play a vital role in ending impunity for these horrific crimes as we have shown by agreeing to provide the prison cell so Radovan Karadzic can serve his life sentence for the genocide.

Further information:

- The Foreign Secretary has urged political leaders in the region to reject hate speech, to condemn any glorification of the perpetrators of genocide and war crimes, and to respect the verdicts of international and domestic courts.
- Two international courts, the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former-Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Court of Justice, after exhaustive legal processes, have ruled that Srebrenica was a genocide.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to date, a total of 57 individuals have

been tried at the BiH State Court for crimes committed in and around Srebrenica in July 1995. A further 20 individuals have been tried at the ICTY for crimes related to Srebrenica over the course of 12 cases. (ICMP, 2020).

- Over the past 26 years, the UK has provided millions of pounds to support projects relating to the Srebrenica genocide, including support for the victims' families and survivors.
- We have an ongoing project with the Srebrenica Memorial Centre to develop its operational capacities and establish a globally relevant centre for genocide research, prevention, and reconciliation.
- The UK has maintained a long standing focus on reconciliation work and projects in the Western Balkans, including:
 - Being one of the key donors to the construction and setting up of the Court of BiH;
 - Providing political, financial and logistical support to the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals; and
 - Funding the work of the International Commission for Missing Persons.
- In 2018 at the Berlin Process Western Balkans Summit in London, the UK negotiated the signing of three Joint Declarations focusing on War Crimes, Missing Persons, and Good Neighbourly Relations. All the Berlin Process Leaders signed. These were reconfirmed on 5 July 2021 at the latest Berlin Process Summit.
- The UK supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration. Reconciliation and good neighbourly relations remain central to achieving this aim and to maintaining stability in the region.

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[Prime Minister to set out plans to level up the country](#)

- Prime Minister set to make a speech next week on plans to level up and unite the country
- Great British high streets to be central to new strategy to regenerate local communities and turbocharge new opportunities across the UK
- Renewed focus on boosting local businesses with permanent al fresco dining, support for grassroots football, and takeaway pints to continue for 12 months

The Prime Minister will set out the steps the government will take to deliver on the central purpose of his premiership – to level up and unite the United Kingdom.

The regeneration of the great British high street will form a key part of the Prime Minister's speech next week, with a new High Streets Strategy to revolutionise local communities and support them to thrive.

Al fresco dining will become the norm, with pavement licences to be extended and then made permanent, making it easier and cheaper for pubs, restaurants and cafes to set up tables outside and serve more customers.

Takeaway pints will continue for another 12 months as the temporary permissions for off-sales of alcohol are extended. This will give a further boost to the hospitality industry as local residents enjoy a great British summer together outdoors.

As England faces Italy in the Euro 2021 final, the government has renewed its commitment to support local sports teams as a central part of levelling up opportunities for all.

£25 million has been committed to build new grass roots sports facilities, equivalent to 50 new artificial pitches, to ensure that all football fans have the chance to play their favourite sport.

In his speech next week, the Prime Minister will vow to tackle the inequalities and divisions that the pandemic has entrenched and make sure not to repeat the mistakes of the recovery from the financial crash of 2008.

He will talk about creating a more balanced economy with great jobs in every part of the UK; levelling up between generations; increasing access to opportunity no matter where you live; investing in infrastructure and skills; strengthening community and local leadership; restoring pride in place; and putting local needs at the heart of the government's approach.

The speech will kick off a summer of engagement seeking views and input ahead of publication of the White Paper in the Autumn.

A Government spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister is determined to level up the UK and deliver a fairer, stronger society – one where whatever your background and wherever you live, everyone can access the opportunities they need to succeed.

While talent and potential is distributed evenly across this country, opportunity is not.

That's why as we emerge from the pandemic, it's vital that we do not make the mistakes of recovery from the financial crash and seize this moment to ensure a better quality of life for people in every part of the UK.

[Prime Minister's letter to Gareth Southgate, Manager of the England men's football team](#)

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[COVID-19 vaccines highly effective in most people in clinical risk groups](#)

The [study from Public Health England](#) (PHE) included more than 1 million people in at-risk groups.

Within these clinical risk groups, there will be people with more severe forms of illness – particularly in the immunosuppressed group – who may not respond as well to the vaccines, and we recommend they seek advice from their specialists.

The study found:

- overall vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease in risk groups is approximately 60% after one dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer-BioNTech, with little variation by age
- after 2 doses, vaccine effectiveness is 81% with AstraZeneca in people in risk groups aged 16 to 64. No data is available for Pfizer-BioNTech
- in people in risk groups aged 65 and over, vaccine effectiveness with Pfizer-BioNTech is 89% and 80% with AstraZeneca
- for those who are immunosuppressed, vaccine effectiveness after a second dose is 74%, with similar protection to those who are not in a risk group. This rises from 4% after a first dose

Although age is the greatest risk factor for adverse outcomes following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, certain health conditions also increase the risk of severe disease.

Diabetes, severe asthma, chronic heart disease, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, neurological disease, and diseases or therapies that weaken the immune system – such as blood cancer, HIV or chemotherapy – have all been linked to an increased risk of hospitalisation or death with COVID-19.

People with these conditions who are at highest risk were initially advised to shield during the peak of the pandemic and all risk groups were then prioritised for vaccination. The government announced the dose interval would be brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the clinically vulnerable on 14 May, and everyone in these groups should now have been offered a second dose.

Data on vaccine effectiveness among people in clinical risk groups was previously limited. Though more data is needed, protection against hospitalisation and death in risk groups is expected to be greater than protection against symptomatic disease, as has been seen in studies of the general population.

Dr Mary Ramsay, Head of Immunisation at PHE, said:

This real-world data shows for the first time that most people who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 still receive high levels of protection after 2 doses of vaccine.

It is vital that anyone with an underlying condition gets both doses, especially people with weakened immune systems as they gain so much more benefit from the second dose.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that those living with immunosuppressed adults should be prioritised for vaccination to help limit the spread of the virus to people in this group.

If the planned booster programme goes ahead, the JCVI has recommended that immunosuppressed adults and their household contacts should also be among the first to be offered a third dose of vaccine in September.

PHE estimates that 30,300 deaths and 8,151,000 infections have been prevented as a result of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, up to 25 June. This is based on modelling analysis from PHE and Cambridge University's MRC Biostatistics Unit.

PHE also estimates that 46,300 hospitalisations have been prevented in people aged 65 or older in England up to 27 June (approximately 7,000 admissions in those aged 65 to 74, 18,000 in those aged 75 to 84, and 21,300 in those aged 85 and over).

Chancellor welcomes milestone G20 progress on global tax reform

News story

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak today (10 July) has welcomed milestone progress on international tax reform during two-day meetings of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Venice.



- Rishi Sunak welcomes milestone progress on global tax reform at G20 in Venice
- G20 Finance Ministers fully endorse global tax agreement and call for swift action to finalise outstanding detail by October
- G20 also pledged to promote implementation of climate-related financial disclosures

The foundations for the historic agreement on global tax reform were laid at the G7 in London, and now 132 countries and jurisdictions representing 95% of world GDP have signed up to the deal within the OECD.

Following two days of G20 meetings in Venice, including an informal breakfast meeting of the G7 chaired by Mr Sunak, Finance Ministers pledged their full support for the deal and called for outstanding issues to be swiftly addressed at OECD level along with a detailed implementation plan by October. The group also called on countries who have yet to sign up to do so.

The seismic global tax deal will change the international rules so that large multinationals pay their fair share of tax in the countries they do business and introduce a global minimum rate that ensures multinationals pay tax of at least 15% on profit in each country they operate.

Speaking in Venice, the Chancellor said:

I'm delighted that the full weight of the G20 is behind this historic tax deal – which will make sure our global tax system is fit for purpose in a digital age and crucially is fair.

We must continue to build on this momentum over the coming months and work together as an international community to create a fairer tax system, which cracks down on tax avoidance and levels up our high street.

The G20 also reiterated the need for urgent action to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.

The group encouraged international financial institutions to step up their efforts to align their activities with the Paris Agreement and called on the private sector and markets to play their part to support the transition to net zero.

Just over seven months after the UK led by example by committing to make climate related disclosures mandatory at home, the G20 committed to promoting implementation of consistent and comparable climate-related financial disclosure and welcomed the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation's work to develop global baseline sustainability reporting standards.

The G20 also committed to continue supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries as they address the health and economic challenges associated with COVID. G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors supported a general allocation of IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) totalling USD \$650 billion and urged swift implementation by the end of August.

The group also called on the IMF to quickly present options for countries to voluntarily channel a share of their allocated SDRs to help vulnerable countries finance more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic recoveries.

Further information

- Read the full G20 communique via the Italian Presidency [here](#)
- Read more about the G7 agreements [here](#)
- Further information on the continuing international tax reform negotiations [can be found here](#)
- The G20 comprises of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea,

Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union

- Italy holds the G20 Presidency this year
- Photographs of the meetings will be available from [HM Treasury's Flickr page](#)

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