

# UN Human Rights Council 47: Joint statement on the human rights situation in Iraq under Item 2 – Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of 28 countries.

Madam President,

The signatories of this Joint Statement wish to acknowledge the efforts of the government of Iraq to improve the protection of human rights. This is essential for long-term stability and prosperity in Iraq and we stand ready to continue to assist.

We commend the Iraqi government for its decision to hold very important early elections in a few months after peaceful demonstrations of young Iraqis in 2019 calling for political reform, genuine economic opportunities and improved government services. These protests of 2019 unfortunately escalated into violence which led to at least 487 demonstrators being killed .

The government of Iraq made a clear commitment to hold perpetrators accountable for the violence. We commend Prime Minister Kadhimi for his engagement in this regard. However, while acknowledging the complex environment with armed actors operating outside of state control, we note that progress has been limited so far. We therefore urge the Iraqi government to renew its commitment and further intensify its current efforts for accountability, in conformity with international standards of fair trial and due process.

We are very concerned about recent reports of increased intimidation and targeted attacks, including against protestors, human rights defenders, journalists, media workers and electoral candidates. The rights of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression and media freedom are essential in democratic societies and for the protection of human rights. The government of Iraq needs to enhance its efforts to create a safe public environment for all Iraqis.

We also encourage the Office of the High Commissioner and UNAMI to further strengthen the human rights based approach in Iraq, and to provide all necessary assistance to the Iraqi authorities to fulfill Iraq's international obligations to respect fundamental freedoms, such as the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly for everyone.

Thank you.

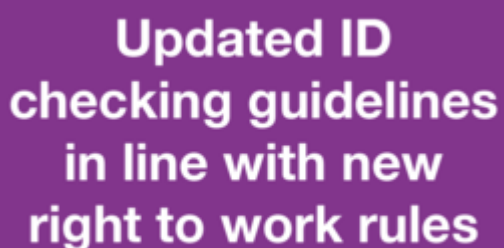
List of cosponsors: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

---

## [Updated ID checking guidelines in line with new right to work rules](#)

News story

The new guidelines come into effect from 1 July 2021.



Updated ID  
checking guidelines  
in line with new  
right to work rules

From 1 July 2021, new rules for right to work checks will apply. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will need to provide evidence of a lawful immigration status in the UK.

In response to these changes, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has updated the ID checking guidelines for:

- Basic DBS checks, submitted through a Responsible Organisation
- Standard and Enhanced DBS checks

The updated Basic DBS check ID guidelines can be found [here](#).

The updated ID guidelines for Standard and Enhanced DBS checks can be found [here](#).

The changes to the guidelines are as follows:

- In the 'UK national' route, reference to 'EEA' has been removed
- Additional detail for the primary documents has been added for the 'international' route
- An updated link to the right to work guidance has been included

The new guidance comes into effect from 1 July 2021, however we are aware that some Registered Bodies and Responsible Organisations may require a period of time to make technical changes to their online systems.

In light of this, the existing ID checking guidelines will remain on GOV.UK alongside the new guidelines, until 1 October 2021, and either version can be used up until this date.

The [temporary changes](#) that were made to the ID checking guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are not affected by the above changes, and you can continue to operate in line with these.

Published 22 June 2021

---

## [Stealth jets fight Daesh in first combat missions from HMS Queen Elizabeth](#)

Stealth jets of the renowned 617 Squadron RAF (The Dambusters) carried out operational sorties for the first time from HMS Queen Elizabeth in support of Operation Shader and US Operation Inherent Resolve.

### **Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:**

The ability to operate from the sea with the most advanced fighter jets ever created is a significant moment in our history, offering reassurance to our allies and demonstrating the UK's formidable air power to our adversaries.

The Carrier Strike Group is a physical embodiment of Global Britain and a show of international military strength that will deter anyone who seeks to undermine global security.

For the task group, which has spent previous weeks in the Mediterranean working with NATO allies and partners, it marks a change of emphasis. From exercises and international engagements, the Carrier Strike Group is now delivering its full might of naval and air power, putting the "strike" into Carrier Strike Group and contributing to the UK's fight against Daesh – Operation Shader, which forms part of the Global Coalition against Daesh.

**Commodore Steve Moorhouse, Commander United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group, said:**

HMS Queen Elizabeth's first missions against Daesh will be remembered as a significant moment in the 50-year lifespan of this ship.

It also marks a new phase of our current deployment. To date we have delivered diplomatic influence on behalf of the UK through a series of exercises and engagements with our partners – now we are ready to deliver the hard punch of maritime-based air power against a shared enemy.

The involvement of HMS Queen Elizabeth and her Air Wing in this campaign also sends a wider message. It demonstrates the speed and agility with which a UK-led Carrier Strike Group can inject fifth generation combat power into any operation, anywhere in the world, thereby offering the British Government, and our allies, true military and political choice.

CSG21, led by HMS Queen Elizabeth, is the largest concentration of maritime and air power to leave the UK in a generation and this is its first operational deployment, which is joint between the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

In an era of persistent competition, the Carrier is already proving its worth. As the recent Integrated Review and Defence Command Paper underlined, our adversaries pose a growing threat to the international order and the values that underpin our security and prosperity.

There are 18 UK and US F35B jets on board HMS Queen Elizabeth, which is the largest number to ever sail the seas. The aircraft are next generation multi-role combat aircraft equipped with advanced sensors, mission systems and stealth technology.

**Captain James Blackmore, Commander of the Carrier Air Wing, said:**

The Lightning Force is once again in action against Daesh, this time flying from an aircraft carrier at sea, which marks the Royal Navy's return to maritime strike operations for the first time since the Libya campaign a decade ago.

With its fifth generation capabilities, including outstanding situational awareness, the F-35B is the ideal aircraft to deliver precision strikes, which is exactly the kind of mission that 617

Squadron has been training for day-after-day, night-after-night, for these past few months.

This is also notable as the first combat mission flown by US aircraft from a foreign carrier since HMS Victorious in the South Pacific in 1943. The level of integration between Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and US Marine Corps is truly seamless, and testament to how close we've become since we first embarked together last October.

---

## [Fisheries and Seafood Scheme Update](#)

News story

The Marine Management Organisation is making some important changes to the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS).



The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is today pausing funding under the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) for replacement pots.

We remain committed to supporting sustainable fishing through FaSS, and originally opened the £6.1 million scheme [earlier this year](#) to support England's seafood sector, coastal communities and marine environment. This included the replacement of active pots with more sustainable models.

However, recognising the potential for misuse, funding for replacement pots will be paused temporarily to allow further evidence to be gathered and to find a solution to ensure that FaSS funding will not contribute to the risk of overfishing. Please note this pause applies only to new applications for funding; those already submitted will be processed in line with the [scheme guidance](#).

We will continue to work closely with industry to utilise their expertise and

find a solution that works for the sector, while ensuring the sustainability of stocks is not compromised.

If you have any questions concerning this funding pause, you can reach the MMO Grants Team on 0208 026 5539 or by email to [FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk).

Published 22 June 2021

---

## [UN Human Rights Council 47: Joint statement on the human rights situation in Xinjiang](#)

Madame High Commissioner, I have the honour of delivering this cross-regional joint statement on behalf of more 40 than countries.

We are gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Credible reports indicate that over a million people have been arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang and that there is widespread surveillance disproportionately targeting Uyghurs and members of other minorities and restrictions on fundamental freedoms and Uyghur culture. There are also reports of torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, forced sterilization, sexual and gender-based violence, and forced separation of children from their parents by authorities.

We also share the concerns expressed by UN Special Procedures in their March 29 statement on alleged detention, forced labour and transfers of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities and in a letter published by UN experts describing collective repression of religious and ethnic minorities.

We urge China to allow immediate, meaningful and unfettered access to Xinjiang for independent observers, including the High Commissioner, and to urgently implement the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's 8 recommendations related to Xinjiang, including by ending the arbitrary detention of Uyghurs and members of other Muslim minorities.

Finally, we continue to be deeply concerned about the deterioration of fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong under the National Security Law and about the human rights situation in Tibet. We call on Chinese authorities to abide by their human rights obligations.

Thank you.

List of countries: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United States