

PM call with President Macron: 9 August 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to French President Emmanuel Macron this afternoon.



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The leaders thanked one another for their friendship and comradeship over the last few years. They agreed that UK-French cooperation on the world stage has made a difference on a huge range of global issues, as they had discussed at the recent G7. They were both convinced that the bilateral relationship would continue to grow stronger in the years ahead. The Prime Minister and President Macron discussed preparations for the upcoming UK-France Summit as clear evidence of that fact.

The Prime Minister thanked President Macron for his efforts to help resolve border disruption and tackle the scourge of illegal people trafficking. The leaders expressed their shared confidence that deeper cooperation between the UK and France will be central to further progress in this area, and help to dismantle more smuggling networks.

On Ukraine, the Prime Minister and President Macron both stressed the importance of the international community continuing to support the people of Ukraine in their struggle. They agreed that UK and French efforts to train and equip Ukrainian troops were making a significant difference in the war, and that western war fatigue cannot be allowed to set in. President Macron praised the Prime Minister's leadership on Ukraine.

On Taiwan, the leaders shared their concerns at China's actions and risk of unnecessary escalation. They welcomed clear G7 unity on this issue.

The Prime Minister expressed his firm belief that the great friendship between the UK and France will continue to be incarnated by the leaders of our countries.

Continuing our support to the fight against Daesh as it expands to new theatres

President,

I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Voronkov, Acting Executive Director Chen and Martin Ewi for their informative briefings.

We remain indebted to the UN Sanctions Monitoring Team, UNOCT and CTED for their important work in analysing the ever-changing terrorist threat.

We heard today how Daesh continues to pose a significant threat to global stability. Counter-terrorism pressure has constrained the group over the last few years, but gains are vulnerable and uneven, with the group still able to expand in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, as Mr Ewi has outlined today.

Recent events in Afghanistan have demonstrated the very real security challenges we face. Daesh Khorasan continue to target innocent Afghans, particularly minority communities, while Al Qaeda has caused the suffering of thousands. We all have a shared interest in using every lever at our disposal to counter Al Qa'eda, Daesh and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

Despite its territorial defeat and recent successful operations against its leadership, Daesh remain a serious threat in Iraq and Syria, its strategic heartland. This demonstrates the continuing importance of the Global Coalition to Counter Daesh, and the need to work together to ensure Daesh's lasting, global defeat. The UK hosts the Global Coalition's Counter Daesh Communications Cell that is tackling Daesh's propaganda and its destructive and hateful messages.

In the month we commemorated the 8th anniversary of Daesh's crimes against the Yazidi community, the UK also underlines its support for UNITAD and international efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of Daesh violence.

President, we continue to support the fight against Daesh as it expands to new theatres.

As we heard today, Daesh's African affiliates continue to grow and account for an ever-increasing proportion of Daesh-claimed violence. Interconnectivity between branches also represents a worrying trend and amplifies the threat they pose, including to neighbouring countries. Daesh is opportunistic and will continue to take advantage of pre-existing grievances,

and target those most susceptible to joining their cause: the young, the marginalised, the disenfranchised.

Hard security interventions will therefore only take us so far. We must work to build resilience within communities, in partnership with civil society, against terrorist propaganda and other influencing efforts.

And finally, when countering terrorism, we must all ensure that we protect and promote human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law through a gender sensitive approach if our collective efforts are to be truly effective.

Thank you.

[Applications for the Chevening Scholarships are open until 1 November 2022](#)

Applications for a Chevening Scholarship to study in the UK are open between 2 August and 1 November 2022, with applications to be submitted online via <https://www.chevening.org/venezuela>.

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive changes in their communities, and can show how a UK master's degree will help them achieve their professional goals in strategic areas for their home country.

The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study an eligible master's degree at any UK university, whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Since the programme was created in 1983, Chevening has provided over 50,000 professionals with the opportunity to thrive academically in the UK. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2023/2024 academic year, demonstrating the UK's ongoing commitment to international development and to the next generations of leaders that can tackle the main global challenges.

In the case of Venezuela, since 1983 over 450 scholarships have been awarded to professionals in the country. For the 2021/2022 academic year, a group of nine Venezuelans were selected to study a fully funded master's degree in the UK through a Chevening scholarship, in diverse areas such as microbiology, women's health, public policy, social development, sustainable architecture, leadership and innovation.

For the 2022/2023 period, the priority areas of the British Embassy in Caracas include human rights (encompassing freedom of expression, gender equality and democratic governance), humanitarian affairs, anti-corruption, sustainable development and climate change.

The Chargée d’Affaires a.i. of the British Embassy in Caracas, Becks Buckingham, said:

Chevening scholarships are one of the main cooperation programmes of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. It uses the academic quality of British universities to train talented individuals in strategic areas for the development of their home countries.

We are looking for candidates that not only have an excellent academic background, but who also possess the potential and the willingness to achieve positive changes and become leaders in their respective areas of expertise. Since I arrived in Venezuela, I have been able to meet tens of Chevening alumni, who are working in diverse areas such as climate change, human rights and the prevention of infectious diseases. All of them have amazed me with their discipline, intelligence, creativity and commitment to Venezuela.

Visit chevening.org/venezuela for detailed information about the eligibility criteria, the conditions and the timeline to apply to the scholarships. You can also follow our social media channels [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for further information. Successful candidates have been sharing their experiences through the hashtags [#ChosenForChevening](#) and [#CheveningVE](#).

[Implementation of the Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022](#)

News story

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April this year. It is planned to come into effect on Monday 27 February 2023.



The Act will raise the age of marriage and civil partnership to 18 in England and Wales to protect children from the scourge of forced marriage.

This means that 16 to 17-year-olds will no longer be able to marry or enter a civil partnership under any circumstances, including with parental or judicial consent from 26 February 2023. It will not be possible for anyone under 18 to marry or enter a civil partnership after this date.

Currently forced marriage is only an offence if the person uses a type of coercion, for example threats, to cause someone to marry, or if the person lacks capacity to consent to marry under the Mental Capacity Act. The Act will therefore also expand the criminal offence of forced marriage in England and Wales to make it an offence in all circumstances to do anything intended to cause a child to marry before they turn 18. It will therefore now be an offence to cause a child under the age of 18 to enter a marriage in any circumstances, without the need to prove that a form of coercion was used. The forced marriage offence will continue to include ceremonies of marriage which are not legally binding, for example in community or traditional settings.

For full details of the provisions of this Act, see [Marriage And Civil Partnership \(Minimum Age\) Act 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk). This early announcement will help provide sufficient time for arrangements to be made where necessary.

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[Discover robots of the future and fusion](#)

Press release

A robotics expert will bring to life a fascinating future where intuitive

machines are deployed to go where humans can't in a free public talk.



Robotics at UKAEA's RACE, Culham Science Centre

Free public talk, 7 September, Examinations School, Oxford

A robotics expert will bring to life a fascinating future where intuitive machines are deployed to go where humans can't in a free public talk in central Oxford next month.

"Essential robotics: a guide to our shared future" will be presented by Professor Rob Buckingham OBE, who leads a team of 300 roboticists at Culham Science Centre's world-leading fusion robotics centre, RACE (Remote Applications in Challenging Environments).

The September 7 (18.00-19.30) public event at the Examinations School in Oxford is part of the UK Atomic Energy Authority's (UKAEA) outreach programme.

Rob Buckingham, Director, UKAEA's RACE, said: "I'm looking forward to sharing our exciting vision of how the world will be supported by robots. They will help make fusion energy – based on the same processes that power the sun and stars – economically viable."

His talk will focus on case studies from record-breaking fusion energy machine JET (Joint European Torus) and will then turn to the future highlighting how autonomous machines will change lives, both at work and play.

Sign-up for the free public talk here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/essential-robotics-a-guide-to-our-shared-future-sponsored-by-the-iet-tickets-394333320577>

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