

# Foreign Office Statement on Hong Kong – 18 November 2019



An FC0 spokesperson said:

The UK is seriously concerned by the escalation in violence from both the protestors and the authorities around Hong Kong university campuses. It is vital that those who are injured are able to receive appropriate medical treatment, and that safe passage is made available for all those who wish to leave the area.

We need to see an end to the violence, and for all sides to engage in meaningful political dialogue ahead of the District Council elections on Sunday.

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## Call for evidence: UK Resettlement Schemes for Vulnerable Refugees

I would like to invite anyone with knowledge and experience of the UK's resettlement schemes for vulnerable refugees to write to me with their views and evidence regarding how these schemes are working.

I am particularly interested in hearing about the reception and integration in the UK of those individuals and families resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), and those resettled through the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

This invitation is aimed at NGOs, academics, think tanks, faith groups and

representative bodies, as well as resettled refugees.

If you wish to contribute, please email or write to me by 13 December 2019.

Please note that my remit does not extend to investigating individual cases. This remains a Home Office responsibility. However, I am keen to hear about individual cases, insofar as they serve to illustrate particular points, issues or trends.

Before responding, you may wish to read my 2018 inspection report of the [Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme \(VPRS\)](#). While the planned inspection is not intended as a reinspection of VPRS it is likely to pick up on a number of the themes from the earlier report.

Please note: in providing information to ICIBI you are acknowledging that we will process it in accordance with the terms of the GDPR. It may be quoted in the final report, but it is the ICIBI's practice not to name individual sources and to anonymise as much as possible any examples or case studies. After publication of the inspection report, your information will not be retained unless you have given your consent for this.

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## [New Roots Limited Gradings under review](#)



The Regulator of Social Housing reports that New Roots Limited has been placed on its Gradings under review list today (18 November 2019).

New Roots does not have a current published grade. The regulator is currently investigating a matter which may impact on its compliance with both the governance and financial viability element of the Governance and Financial Viability Standard.

The outcome of the investigation will be confirmed in a regulatory judgement, once completed.

The regulator's [Gradings under review list](#) is available on the website.

## Further information

For press office contact details, see our [Media enquiries page](#). For general queries, please email [enquiries@rsh.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@rsh.gov.uk) or call 0300 124 5225.

## Note to editors

1. The GUR lists providers being investigated for an issue that may result in non-compliant grades for the regulator's Governance and/or Financial Viability Standard.
2. The [regulatory standards](#) can be found on the [RSH website](#).
3. RSH promotes a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver homes that meet a range of needs. It does this by undertaking robust economic regulation focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money that maintains lender confidence and protects the taxpayer. It also sets consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants.

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## [Operation to tackle FGM and forced marriage honoured at awards](#)

A joint operation between police and Border Force has been highly commended at the World Class Policing Awards.

Operation Limelight focuses on raising awareness of forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) at the border and safeguarding potential victims.

This summer, Operation Limelight focused on flights between the UK and destinations where there is a high prevalence of forced marriage. The operation involved engaging with airport staff and the general public on how to spot potential signs of abuse and how to report their concerns. Intelligence was also used to identify potential victims entering or leaving the country.

As part of the operation, the UK worked closely with counterparts in the United States to run corresponding operations at US airports.

The judging panel said that Operation Limelight was 'a major safeguarding operation that has warned (and possibly deterred) many thousands of suspects and victims and has now been replicated across multiple US cities'.

Tim Kingsberry, Regional Director at Border Force said:

We are naturally delighted with this award which recognises the progress that we have made through joint working between Border Force and the Metropolitan Police.

FGM and forced marriage are abhorrent crimes which we are committed to tackling both here in the UK and also through our ongoing work with overseas partners.

The joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit provided support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,764 cases in 2018. The cases dealt with came from 74 different countries.

As at June 2019, 2149 Forced Marriage Protection Orders and 418 FGM Protection Orders have been made since their introduction (2008 and 2015 respectively) and in February the first person was convicted of FGM in the UK.

Following operations in the UK, the USA adopted Limelight as an intervention tactic, delivered in 14 US cities in 2019. This led to the development of the Proclamation of Interagency Support for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Investigations Between UK and US Law Enforcement, signed at the US Embassy on 30 August 2018, a far-reaching agreement for US and UK law enforcement to share intelligence to enhance our knowledge of, and response to FGM.

Inspector Allen Davis, Metropolitan Police lead for Operation Limelight, said:

Harmful practices such as FGM and forced marriage are global issues that have considerable local impact.

Operation Limelight seeks to raise awareness of harmful practices, identify vulnerability and safeguard those at risk and I am extremely pleased that it has been recognised by the World Class Policing Awards.

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# British Embassy exhibits at the International Education Fair in Ashgabat



Deputy Head of Mission Mr David Pert with Turkmen students

Despite being one of many exhibitors at the Education exhibition that took place on 14 – 15 November 2019, the Embassy's booth dedicated to the education opportunities in the UK was always busy with students and pupils.

British Embassy booth at the Education Fair in Ashgabat

Following a traditional opening ceremony and senior government officials' visit to the exhibitors' booths, the staff of the Embassy took every opportunity to brief the Vice Premier Mr Agamyradov and Minister of Education Mr Geldiniyazov about the opportunities that await for talented Turkmen students at the highly reputable British universities throughout the UK.

In addition to the UK government's fully funded [Chevening scholarship programme](#) that several Turkmen students receive every year, UK universities may also become one of the key study destinations for the recipients of the scholarship awards from the government of Turkmenistan. As noted by the Vice Premier Mr Agamyradov, the number of Turkmen students going to study in the highly ranked British universities under the Turkmen government scholarship scheme may increase in the coming years.

Vice Premier Mr Agamyradov visits the British Embassy stand

During the two-day education fair in the Turkmen capital, hundreds of enthusiastic students from a number of education institutions in Ashgabat learned detailed information about the British education system and Chevening scholarship programme.

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