

UN Human Rights Council 50: UK statement during Interactive Dialogue on trafficking in persons

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons.



Thank you Mr President.

The United Kingdom would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons for her continued work and welcomes ongoing discussion on this crucial issue.

We are grateful for the Special Rapporteur's latest report and we support her assertion that we must address the increase in child labour and significant risks of trafficking. During our G7 Presidency, we committed to work collaboratively to eradicate forced labour, protect victims and improve transparency in global supply chains. More recently, the UK pledged our support at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour and we are committed to taking forward priorities including working with businesses to eliminate child labour in global supply chains.

We expect all UK businesses to behave in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to comply with all applicable laws and meet their obligations through the UK Modern Slavery Act. This includes their management of supply chains in the UK and overseas.

Special Rapporteur Mullally,

What further steps can the international community take to accelerate progress towards SDG 8.7 to eliminate child labour?

Thank you.

Published 21 June 2022

Monkeypox vaccine to be offered more widely to help control outbreak

Although anyone can contract monkeypox, [data from the latest outbreak shows](#) higher levels of transmission within – but not exclusive to – the sexual networks of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

The virus is not currently defined as a sexually transmitted infection, but it can be passed on by close and intimate contact that occurs during sex.

In response, the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) vaccination strategy recommends offering the smallpox vaccine Imvanex, which is shown to be effective against monkeypox, to men considered to be at higher risk of exposure.

The strategy is endorsed by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which was consulted on the eligibility criteria for the vaccine.

An individual's eligibility would depend on a number of factors but would be similar to the criteria used to assess those eligible for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) – but applied regardless of HIV status.

The strategy states that a clinician may advise vaccination for someone who, for example, has multiple partners, participates in group sex or attends 'sex on premises' venues.

NHS England is due to set out details on how eligible people can get vaccinated shortly. People are advised not to come forward for the vaccine until contacted.

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

Our extensive contact tracing work has helped to limit the spread of the monkeypox virus, but we are continuing to see a notable proportion of cases in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. By expanding the vaccine offer to those at higher risk, we hope to break chains of transmission and help contain the outbreak.

Although most cases are mild, severe illness can occur in some people, so it is important we use the available vaccine to target groups where spread is ongoing. The NHS will soon set out details on how this will be delivered – so do not come forward for the vaccine yet.

In the meantime, everyone should continue to be alert to any new spots, ulcers or blisters on any part of their body, particularly if they've had close contact with a new partner. If you think you have these symptoms, avoid close contact with others and call NHS 111 or your local sexual health centre, though please phone ahead before attending.

Alex Sparrowhawk, Health Promotion Specialist at Terrence Higgins Trust, said:

This targeted vaccination programme is a positive move forward while the data still shows monkeypox is disproportionately affecting gay and bisexual men in the UK.

We encourage everyone, regardless of their sexuality, to be vigilant about new spots, ulcers and blisters. We are continuing to closely monitor the latest data in order to play our part in providing the latest guidance and health information on monkeypox, to empower the communities most affected to best protect their health.

Robbie de Santos, Director of Communications and External Affairs at Stonewall, said:

While we know anyone can catch monkeypox, we welcome the vaccine being offered to those gay and bi men who are eligible and currently at a higher risk of getting the virus.

It is important that gay and bi men get the vaccine when offered to protect themselves and others. Let's help get the outbreak under control so we can all have a safe and happy pride season.

Government helps prevent last-minute summer flight cancellations with “amnesty” on airport slots rule

- ministers have laid regulations to help airlines make sensible decisions about schedules, avoiding last-minute cancellations and providing passengers with more certainty
- airlines will be given a chance to hand back their take-off and landing slots ahead of the summer peak to help them plan a deliverable schedule
- takes advantage of UK’s new freedom from EU slots rules, to which we were previously tied

The government has today (21 June 2022) laid regulations before Parliament that will help airlines prevent last-minute flight cancellations during the summer peak.

The regulations will allow a one-off “amnesty” on airport slots rules, enabling airlines to plan ahead and deliver a realistic summer schedule that minimises disruption at the airports. This is being provided as an exceptional measure while industry makes progress in recruiting necessary staff.

A bit like parking spaces for planes, slots are used to manage capacity at the busiest airports. A slot gives permission to use the full range of airport infrastructure (runway, terminal and gates, for instance) necessary to operate an air service at an airport on a specific date and time.

Highly valuable commercial assets, airlines must use slots a certain amount of times each season in order to keep them. However, many parts of the sector have been unable to recruit enough staff in time to fly the number of flights they have planned for, leading to flights being cancelled at short notice.

The government will now give airlines a short window to hand back slots for the rest of the summer season that they are not confident they will be able to operate. This will help passengers find alternative arrangements ahead of time, rather than face the kind of last-minute cancellations seen over the Easter and half-term holidays.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the measure takes advantage of our new freedom to set our own slots rules after leaving the EU and comes after the Transport Secretary and Aviation Minister urged the industry to develop a deliverable and realistic summer schedule.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

The British people have made huge sacrifices over the pandemic and, for many, this will be well-deserved time away that they haven’t

had in years.

That's why it's crucial they don't face disappointing last-minute cancellations and chaos at airports when the system can't deliver. And I will do everything in my power to stop that.

Today's announcement aims to help airlines provide certainty to passengers and ensure the next few months are as smooth as possible.

Aviation Minister Robert Courts said:

This is a hugely challenging time for our recovering aviation industry, but we cannot have a situation where passengers arrive at the airport just to have their flight cancelled or face long delays.

Today's announcement follows the discussions that my officials and I have been having with airports and airlines to understand where we can help them and ensure that they can run realistic schedules and make this summer a great success for the British public.

Richard Moriarty, Chief Executive of the Civil Aviation Authority, said:

Providing passengers with certainty this summer is vital and this intervention will help to relieve the pressures we see being experienced by the aviation industry and its customers.

Short-term measures are welcomed, but a continued focus on the unplanned and inevitable operational challenges is crucial for consumer confidence this summer.

Tim Alderslade, CEO of Airlines UK, said:

This is a welcome step that will help build greater resilience into operations this summer, coming on top of measures already taken by the sector. We will continue to work with ministers and the whole aviation ecosystem to ensure the summer peak runs as smoothly as possible for our passengers.

Government is already supporting the industry where possible including:

- using our post-Brexit freedoms to provide the sector with more flexibility when training new employees
- working with Border Force to ensure preparations meet passenger demand
- allowing HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) employment history letters to be used as a suitable form of reference check

Slots that are handed back would be available for other airlines to use in the current season before being returned to the airlines that normally own them in the next season.

[Circular 005/2022: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#)

Published 17 June 2022

Last updated 21 June 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 21 June 2022

Corrected commencement dates of Section 76: Obstruction of vehicular access to Parliament and Section 78: Intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance to 28 June 2022.

2. 17 June 2022

First published.

[Planning Inspectorate governance](#)

News story

Chair of the Planning Inspectorate Board and Board Members contracts extended



The Minister for Housing, the Right Honourable Stuart Andrew MP, has reappointed [Trudi Elliott](#) as the Chair of the Planning Inspectorate board for

four years. Her term commenced on 1 April 2022 and will end on 31 March 2026.

The Minister has also extended the terms of [Stephen Tetlow](#) and [Sally Dixon](#) as Board Members for 12 months from 22 July 2022 until 21 July 2023.

Published 21 June 2022