

# Joint Statement on UK-Colombia trade dialogue

News story

Joint Statement in London for the second United Kingdom – Colombia Trade Dialogue, on 19 May 2022



1. The President of the Republic of Colombia, HE Ivan Duque, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena MP, and the Government of Colombia's Minister for Trade, Maria Ximena Lombana, agree the following statement:
2. The United Kingdom and Colombia welcome the President's announcement that Colombia has ratified the United Kingdom-Andean Countries Trade Agreement and is ready to play a full part in implementing the agreement. This will support new trade opportunities for companies and investors in both countries.
3. We aim to boost entrepreneurship and secure greater exports for micro-businesses and SMEs, that in turn, will help some of the most marginalised communities and hard-working individuals, boosting inclusive economic growth.
4. Colombia aims to position itself as a key partner for the United Kingdom in agri-business and other non-traditional exports (such as value-added services and life sciences), as these sectors benefit millions of families and communities in Colombia. In turn, the United Kingdom wishes to expand British exports to Colombia in the life sciences, fintech, renewables and infrastructure sectors.
5. Taking advantage of the ratification of the agreement and Colombia's strategic positioning in the middle of the Americas, British exporters

are invited to see Colombia as a hub for logistics, production and distribution of their goods and services aimed at the wider Americas. Colombia offers its free trade zones, ports and privileged maritime access as a means to boost exports to the wider region.

6. We recognise the importance of trade ministers in supporting the delivery of COP 26 objectives and accelerating the transition to net zero, noting our ambitious national targets, and investment plans for clean energy.
7. We ask officials and business to work to address barriers with the aim of propelling further investment and trade between both nations. We welcome officials' progress in improving the security of data exchange between the two countries and ask that they continue this work. Finally, we urge continued bilateral collaboration across sectors, including:
  - Renewable Energy: We applaud the work to support the development of offshore wind energy and green hydrogen solutions in Colombia, and encourage them to continue to share British expertise and investment in the field.
  - Agri-business: We welcome the efforts of both countries to increase trade in agri-business products and maximise the potential of the sector.
  - Life Sciences: We recognise the efforts to increase research, collaboration and knowledge sharing, and encourage work to deepen ties in this field, including commercial partnerships.
  - Financial Services: We welcome recent progress on the Colombian regulatory framework in this field and recognise the potential to promote further initiatives to increase knowledge and interest in commercial and investment opportunities on both sides.
  - Tech and Creative Industries: We welcome the potential for sharing the United Kingdom's experience in other value added services and increasing trade between both countries.

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## [Two Irish WW1 soldiers' graves rededicated in Belgium](#)

The graves of Captain (Capt) Hugh Mortimer Travers DSO and Serjeant (Sjt) Frederick Cardy, who were killed on the Western Front whilst serving with Irish regiments, have been rededicated in Belgium more than a hundred years after they died.

The services, which were organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), also known as the 'MOD War Detectives', were held at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) New Irish Farm Cemetery and White House Cemetery, near Ypres.

Rosie Barron, JCCC case lead said:

"It is always a privillage to work with The Royal Irish Regiment to organise these services and to discover more of Ireland's unique experience of the First World War. Both Capt Travers and Sjt Cardy paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of freedom and justice and it is as vital today as ever that their sacrifices are not forgotten."

Capt Travers, aged 41, was a veteran of the Boer War. For his service in South Africa he received The Queen's South Africa Medal with five clasps and The King's South Africa Medal with two clasps. He also received The King George V Coronation Medal. Capt Travers was wearing these medal ribbons at the time of his death, which assisted with the identification of his grave.

The Adjutant of the battalion described Capt Travers as having 'died the death of a soldier and a very gallant gentleman.' Another member of the battalion stated that Captain Travers' actions were 'the coolest deed' he had ever seen. 'It was gloriously brave.' As Capt Travers was recorded as missing he was commemorated on the Menin Gate.

The rededication service at New Irish Farm Cemetery was attended by members of Capt Travers' family. Guy Travers, Capt Travers' great nephew said:

"I am very happy that a service has been held for my Great Uncle, Captain HM Travers, after so many many years. I believe my grandfather, his brother, had no luck in finding him. This service is also for him. And of course Hugh's fallen comrades. His stone is magnificent, I can't thank the Commonwealth War Graves Commission enough."

The final resting places of Capt Travers and Sjt Cardy were discovered after researchers submitted evidence to CWGC hoping to have located them. Further research conducted by CWGC, the National Army Museum and JCCC, agreed with their findings and the identifications were confirmed.

The services were attended by representatives of the British and Irish Embassies as well as serving soldiers of The Royal Irish Regiment. They were conducted by the Reverend Dr Isaac Thompson MBE, TD, DL, HCF, Chaplain to The Royal Irish Regiment.

The Reverend Dr Thompson said:

"Hugh Travers, born in India into a family where his father and both of his grandfathers were Army officers, joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers in South Africa in 1893. Bravery appears to have oozed from this young man's veins. As a forty-one year old he arrived in France in October 1914 but by November 1914 he was killed near Ypres. Those who witnessed his bravery said, "He died the death of a soldier and a very gallant gentleman."

Capt Travers was a member of 5th Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers but on the outbreak of the First World War was attached to 2nd Battalion The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. He was killed during a bayonet charge near Gheluvelt on 8 November 1914, when the battalion was ordered to retake trenches on the northern side of the Menin Road. He received the Distinguished Service Order for the part he played in this action. The citation for the gallantry medal read:

'For conspicuous gallantry and ability on the 8th November 1914, near Ypres, in organising an attack and re-capturing a trench from the enemy, and subsequently for leading a second attack and capturing another position 50 yards further to the front. Captain Travers was killed whilst maintaining his post on this occasion.'

Sjt Cardy was serving with 7/8th Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers when he was killed during the Third Battle of Ypres. At around midnight on 10 August 1917 his battalion moved into the frontline north of Frezenberg. They were relieved at midnight on 12 August. It was during this time in the frontline that Serjeant Cardy was killed although the exact date is unknown. Sjt Cardy was buried and a wooden cross was erected over his grave. In 1919, his remains were concentrated into White House Cemetery, but it appears the original grave marker was damaged and he could not be identified. As Serjeant Cardy was missing he was commemorated the Menin Gate.

The Reverend Dr Thompson added:

"Frederick Cardy, a native of Suffolk, must have had his heart strings tugged to the limit when he learned of the birth of his son, Ralph back in England in July 1916. Within a year, in August 1917, this brave Royal Irish Fusilier, gave his life in the service of others, reflecting the motto of his regiment, "Faugh a Ballagh" (Irish for "Clear the Way"), a rallying cry that had inspired "Faughs" since 1811 and still today in their successors, The Royal Irish Regiment; young Cardy had cleared the way for his young son to grow up in a land free of war for another two decades."

The headstones over their graves will now be replaced by the CWGC, who will care for their final resting places in perpetuity.

CWGC Commemorations Officer, Fergus Read, said:

"Having both been commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial until now, we are moved and honoured to be able to mark these brave men's graves today. Thanks to the effort of many, the Commission will proudly care for their graves, and their memory, in perpetuity."

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# Places of Worship Protective Security Fund open for applications

Mosques and Muslim faith schools have been given access to £24.5 million for security measures to protect their places of worship and schools and make our streets safer, the security minister has announced today (19 May).

Muslims continue to experience an increased threat of hate crime. In 2020/2021, 45% of religious hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales were targeted against Muslims.

From today, places of worship can bid for funding to put in place security measures to help tackle this threat. This could include the installation of CCTV cameras and perimeter fencing to ensure that adequate measures are in place to protect worshippers. Muslims will be also able to register their interest in security guarding services at mosques, to ensure that their communities can worship safely and without fear.

In addition, £3.5 million is available for other faith communities through the government's [Places of Worship Fund](#). Applications are now open and all places of worship who feel they are vulnerable to hate crime are encouraged to apply. This scheme runs alongside the Jewish Community Protective Security grant, which provides protective security for the Jewish community and was recently renewed for this year.

This latest round of funding marks the government's ongoing commitment to protecting people's right to practise their faith without fear and to making our streets safer.

Security Minister, Damian Hinds said:

It is a fundamental right to be able to practise your faith in your community.

This new round of funding will cover the costs of security measures for places of worship to deter and prevent hate crime attacks on vulnerable communities, making our streets safer.

I encourage any place of worship which feels vulnerable to hate crime to apply for funding through the Places of Worship fund.

Director of Tell MAMA, Iman Atta said:

The additional support from this government to ensure security support through guarding services is warmly welcomed and much needed.

Tell MAMA has regularly called for additional support to Islamic institutions and mosques and in line with the national anti-Muslim hate crime monitoring and support services that Tell MAMA provides on an ongoing basis. Collectively, this support from the government should be welcomed and applauded.

The Places of Worship Fund is part of the government's commitment to ensure that faith communities in England and Wales are protected from the threat of hate crime attacks by providing funding to places of worship such as churches, mosques, gurdwaras, temples and associated faith community centres in order to improve physical security.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales shows a long-term decline in overall hate crime. Increases in police recorded hate crime in recent years have been driven by improvements in crime recording and a better identification of what constitutes a hate crime.

As part of this increased package, the government is introducing a new scheme for Muslim faith schools to provide additional protection that will be rolled out later in the year.

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## **Commission orders the winding-up of charity funding TV programmes which encouraged hate speech and violence**

The Charity Commission has found misconduct and/or mismanagement by the trustees of Islamic Research Foundation International (IRFI). This includes their decision to continue to fund Peace TV channels despite several breaches of Ofcom's Broadcasting Code.

IRFI was registered in 2007, with the aim of advancing the faith and religious practices of Islam. Its principal focus and expenditure had been to support Peace TV channels.

The Commission opened an inquiry into IRFI in April 2020, after engagement with the trustees about the charity's governance and their report of a serious incident regarding the media regulator Ofcom's investigation into Peace TV channels.

Ofcom's investigation found that since 2009, Peace TV channels repeatedly broadcast programmes that breached the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. This included programmes that incited violence and murder, and programmes containing hate speech and abusive treatment.

The inquiry found that the trustees mismanaged the charity and did not act in its best interests. This included their decision to continue funding for Peace TV.

The inquiry also concluded that the trustees repeatedly failed to consider changes or alternatives for applying charitable funds and did not learn any lessons, following Ofcom's adverse findings.

Between 2015 and 2020, 96% of the charity's expenditure, amounting to around £3.6million, was granted to Universal Broadcasting Company, the parent company of the Peace TV channels' two licence holders. Some of the charity's trustees had been directors of companies within this group structure whilst also acting as trustees of the charity. The inquiry saw no evidence that conflicts of interest were appropriately identified and managed.

Prior to the inquiry opening, the Commission disqualified by Order the charity's founder and one of its trustees, Dr Zakir Naik, from acting as a trustee and from holding senior management functions in any charity in England and Wales. This was appealed to the Charity Tribunal which ruled in its decision of 4 December 2020 that he should be disqualified for 7.5 years.

In July 2020, the Commission appointed an interim manager to take over the management and administration of the charity to the exclusion of its trustees and to make a determination as to the charity's viability. The interim manager concluded that the charity was no longer viable. The Commission issued an order to direct the interim manager to wind-up the charity, which was removed from the register on 11 May 2022. The charity's remaining funds of £57,950 have been transferred to three charities with similar objects.

Tim Hopkins, Assistant Director, Investigations and Inquiries at the Charity Commission, said:

This charity was mismanaged by its trustees, including through their failure to manage the charity's relationship with Peace TV channels following Ofcom's findings. These and other repeated governance failures rendered the charity unviable, and the Commission's intervention has secured its dissolution.

As part of our intervention into this charity we determined that Dr Naik's conduct makes him unfit to act as a trustee or hold senior management positions in any charity in England and Wales. Our order protects charities by prohibiting him from acting.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.

2. The inquiry report can be seen [here](#).
3. The Charity Tribunal's judgment on Dr Naik's disqualification can be seen [here](#).

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## [Quintet of Attorneys General Statement of Support for the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and Investigations and Prosecutions for Russian War Crimes](#)

News story

Statement from the Quintet of Attorneys General in support of Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova and the Ukrainian people



The Quintet of Attorneys General have issued the following statement of support for the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and investigations and prosecutions for crimes committed during the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

The Attorneys General of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand join in support of Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova, her Office, and the Ukrainian people in ensuring accountability for war crimes committed during the Russian invasion.

We support the pursuit of justice by Ukraine and through other international investigations, including at the International Criminal Court, the United Nations, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in our own jurisdictions, in order to ensure prompt, fair and effective investigation and prosecution of such offences under Ukrainian, domestic or



international law.

We join in condemning the Russian Government for its actions, and call upon it to cease all violations of international law, to halt its illegal invasion and to cooperate in efforts to achieve accountability.

We look forward to working together with the Prosecutor General and her Office to ensure every perpetrator faces justice.

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