

# Virtual Syria meetings show UK support for victims of brutal conflict

News story

Middle East Minister James Cleverly today held a series of virtual meetings with UK partners in Syria.



The Minister took part in discussions on several issues including humanitarian aid from the British Government, the need for a political solution to the country's conflict, and wider economic issues.

The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors to the Syrian crisis and the Minister was able to hear first-hand how UK aid is having a huge impact in the country, helping to change the lives of vulnerable people who need it most.

Mr Cleverly spoke with civil society activists and UK government partners working on projects that deliver life-saving assistance, empower women and help create the conditions for peace and security in Syria.

Partners showcased their achievements, made possible through UK support, such as increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Syria.

Minister Cleverly said:

Today, I was grateful to see how the UK is providing vital support to victims of the brutal Syrian conflict.

This series of virtual meetings has been a welcome opportunity to reaffirm UK commitment to Syria as a partner in peace and one of the largest donors to the appalling crisis, which is now in its tenth year.

Speaking with UN officials and others, the Minister reaffirmed the importance

of maintaining cross-border access in North West Syria to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe. A vote on the mandate for UN cross-border aid into North-West Syria, an area with over 1 million internally displaced people, will take place at the UN Security Council in the coming weeks.

He also stressed the urgent need for a political agreement in line with UNSCR 2254 to help end the brutal conflict.

### **Further information**

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