

Home Office staff deployed to migrant camps in northern France

Border Force and Immigration Enforcement officers have been deployed to northern France to support French immigration and law enforcement agencies as a migrant camp in Dunkirk is cleared today (17 September 2019).

The deployment has been made at the invitation of the French authorities and is part of the UK's ongoing work with France to tackle the number of people attempting to reach the UK illegally by small boat.

Immigration Minister, Seema Kennedy, said:

People thinking about making the perilous journey across the English Channel in a small boat are taking a huge risk with their lives and the lives of their children.

We are determined to put an end to this reckless and illegal activity by stopping boats from leaving French shores. We are working closely with French authorities at all levels and the deployment of UK officials to Dunkirk is part of our ongoing joint commitment to tackling this.

Over the weekend Home Office staff were deployed to the camp to inform people about the harsh realities of crossing the Channel in small boats and entering the UK illegally, as part of Operation Focal. The initiative sees officers countering the misinformation being spread by other sources, including organised crime groups, about making the journey and what life is like for migrants who reach the UK.

Alongside this work, people who live and work near the UK's coastline are being encouraged to report suspicious activity as part of Project Kraken. This is a national Home Office-led initiative that supports the operational activity Border Force is engaged in every day to protect the UK from all forms of maritime crime.

The Home Office is dialling up the campaign in Kent by asking stakeholders to support the project, working with partners such as Kent Police to promote it.

Suspicious behaviour could include boats arriving at unusual times or to isolated locations, people making attempts to sign or guide boats offshore, boats showing signs of unusual modification or minor damage and people making large cash payments for maritime equipment.

People can [report suspicious activity online](#) or by calling the local police on 101. Information will be shared with the relevant agency and investigated. Anyone in Kent is also encouraged to use Kent Police's Country Eye app to report border crimes.

UN Human Rights Council 42: Item 4

General Debate

The United Kingdom would like to refer to interventions elsewhere on Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. The United Kingdom is concerned about States' use of arbitrary detention and the number of political prisoners being held around the world, and calls on all States to protect human rights, and uphold the rule of law.

We remain deeply concerned by the wide range of systematic human rights abuses in Xinjiang as described in the recent joint letter to the Human Rights Council President. UN experts should be granted immediate unfettered access. In addition, China should immediately cease arbitrarily detaining Chinese and foreign nationals, which constitutes a breach of human rights and China's international obligations.

We also remain extremely concerned by Iran's deplorable human rights record. Justice should be transparent and we urge Iran to cease arbitrarily detaining ordinary Iranians, foreigners and dual nationals.

Russia must uphold the human rights of all its people, including LGBT people in Chechnya and protect all freedoms including freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. We call on Russia to grant international human rights monitors access to illegally annexed Crimea and release all Ukrainian political prisoners.

We have grave concerns about widespread human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and call on the authorities to work with relevant human rights actors to address the situation.

Continued human rights violations and abuses in Libya are deeply worrying; the international community must consider all options to hold accountable those who are responsible.

In Egypt, prison conditions and restrictions on media freedom remain of concern. We hope that the new NGO law will allow civil society to operate more freely.

We are deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Venezuela, as documented in the OHCHR's July report. We call for the restoration of democracy and the release of all political prisoners.

Finally, following severe human rights violations in Sudan, we welcome political progress and the opportunity this provides to make positive advances on longstanding human rights challenges.

Campaign launch targets increased UK-China partnership

Today (Tuesday 17 September) the UK's Department for International Trade and the British Embassy Beijing held National Day at the UK Garden and Pavilion at the Beijing Expo 2019.

British Ambassador to China Barbara Woodward opened the day, launching the Green is GREAT campaign. The launch is the latest commitment made by the government to promote climate change initiatives across the world. It follows the news that Britain will host the UN's climate change conference, COP26, in Glasgow in December 2020.

The campaign will focus on three opportunities for the UK and China to work together to achieve more sustainable growth:

- Raising the Green Finance needed to sustain levels of investment in green technologies and infrastructure
- Developing innovative technologies and delivering projects in renewables and electric vehicles
- Forming new UK-China partnerships in business, research and policy to tackle the challenge of marine plastic pollution

The first phase of the campaign consists of over 40 UK-China events in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Wuhan and Hefei.

Secretary of State for International Trade, Elizabeth Truss said:

I'm proud to see the launch of the Green is GREAT campaign at the Beijing Expo during our National Day celebrations. This Expo has offered us a chance to show our commitment to sustainability as well as our strong trade relationship with China.

We've already hit 830,000 visitors on site, an incredible achievement and a great acknowledgement of our horticultural expertise, and the events and businesses that have represented the UK at the Expo.

To demonstrate the commitment of UK business to sustainable development at the Expo, Jaguar exhibited their first all-electric five-seater sports car, British Airways demonstrated the future of sustainable flights and Pearson hosted a STEM workshop with students to design and build a mini green house and learn about the impact of climate change.

Barbara Woodward, British Ambassador to China said:

On our National Day at the Beijing Expo, I'm delighted to launch Green is GREAT, a programme of 40 events in 10 Chinese cities to spur action to clean our rivers and lakes, accelerate switches to low carbon energy and provide green finance.

Our garden at the Expo celebrates Britain's vibrant horticultural heritage, and is an example of how we can grow sustainably and protect our planet.

Come and visit!

During the day thousands of visitors visited exhibits on clean energy as well as UK culture, heritage and creativity. These included a viewing of David Attenborough's Blue Planet documentary, a sustainable British sparkling wine tasting, and stories of some of the UK's most iconic animated characters such as Peter Rabbit and Paddington Bear.

UN Human Rights Council 42: **Interactive Dialogue on Burundi**

The United Kingdom thanks the Commissioners for their work and welcomes the report. We strongly support the renewal of the Commission's mandate for another year, especially during this crucial pre-electoral period.

It is clear that there has been no progress in preventing serious human rights violations. We urge the Government of Burundi to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights, and to hold perpetrators to account. We encourage the government to engage with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, which could help find a way for Burundi to set a course towards human rights protection and to pave the way towards peaceful elections in 2020.

We are concerned by trends and risks which could signal possible atrocity crimes linked to the 2020 elections. It is vital that the international community, and UN mechanisms, including the UN Security Council, remain focused and committed to resolve this crisis.

We also want to see Burundian refugees able to return home and live in safety and dignity, without the risk of further displacement in the future. To this end, UK aid supports refugees in neighbouring countries, voluntary returnees to Burundi, and the communities to which they are returning. However, we are clear that any returns must remain informed and voluntary. We would also

encourage the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi to further work on issues of refugee management through the established Tripartite Process.

Mr. President,

We would welcome the Commissioners' views on what can be done by the international community to support the Government of Burundi in the implementation of the report's recommendations.

IP2.1 D2N2 Fuller Working Lives **(0C08S19P1532)**

Call to run a project to address the skills needs of employed people in the D2N2 LEP area.