

UN Human Rights Council 41: Yemen

The UK remains deeply concerned by widespread human rights violations & abuses linked to the conflict in Yemen, and urges all parties to engage with the Special Envoy.

UN Human Rights Council 41: Yemen

Thank you, Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Yemen's continued engagement with the UPR process.

We welcome the Government of Yemen's commitment to promote and protect human rights, including freedom of expression. We are pleased that the Government is addressing gender equality, including the participation of women in public life.

However, the UK remains deeply concerned by reports of widespread human rights violations and abuses being committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen. We are particularly concerned by the lack of protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, cases of arbitrary detention and torture, religious persecution, restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, restrictions on freedom of movement, detention of migrants, restrictions on women's rights and girls' access to education, sexual and gender-based violence, and recruitment of child soldiers.

We welcome the Government of Yemen's acceptance of our recommendations, including for the protection of civilians, and access for humanitarian assistance. We urge all parties to continue engaging constructively with the UN Special Envoy to implement the Stockholm agreement and the UN-led peace process. We now encourage the Government of Yemen to take action to implement these commitments, and to investigate and prosecute human rights violations and abuses.

We are disappointed that the Government of Yemen has not accepted our recommendation to end arbitrary arrests and detention, including detention of migrants, enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, and to ensure detainees are treated in accordance with international law and norms. We urge the Government of Yemen to address these critical issues.

Thank you, Mr President.

Chancellor in Saudi Arabia: 6-7 July

The Chancellor Philip Hammond will have a series of meetings in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Chancellor in Saudi Arabia: 6-7 July

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond is travelling to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia tomorrow (6 July) for the first Economic and Social Pillar meeting of the UK-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

As part of the government's on-going support for economic and societal reform in Saudi Arabia, the Chancellor will have a series of meetings with business and political leaders, including the Minister of Commerce and Investment of Saudi Arabia, Dr Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, and the Minister of Finance, Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan.

The Chancellor will also be joined by the Minister for Investment, Graham Stuart, and a delegation including David Schwimmer, CEO of the London Stock Exchange Group, and Ken Costa, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 is Saudi Arabia's economic diversification programme.

Further Information

The full delegation accompanying the Chancellor to Jeddah:

- Graham Stuart – Minister for Investment
 - Ken Costa – Special Envoy for Vision 2030
 - Sir Ciarán Devane – CEO of British Council
 - Sir Anthony Seldon – Special Envoy for Education
 - Professor Duncan Selbie – CEO of Public Health England
 - Simon Penney – Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Middle East
 - David Schwimmer CEO of London Stock Exchange Group
-

Multi-million fund to revitalise country's high streets

Over 50 areas across the country are going through to the second phase of a multi-million fund that will transform their high streets.