

UK marks Armed Forces Day with over 300 events nationwide

Towns and cities across the UK will mark Armed Forces Day with more than 300 events planned nationwide. The annual event is a chance for the whole country to celebrate the work of service personnel, reservists, veterans, cadets and their families and friends.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, will take the salute during a parade of more than 1,300 service personnel, cadets and veterans at the Armed Forces Day National Event in Salisbury.

Nine members of the Armed Forces celebrating Armed Forces Day.

This year's host city will also treat thousands of visitors to military displays, with a flypast by the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows and an aerial display by the British Army's Parachute Regiment.

Military musicians including bands from the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force will entertain crowds during the parade. Salisbury will end the day's celebrations with a concert including a performance by the Kaiser Chiefs. Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt will also visit Salisbury to watch the parade and visit serving personnel in the military village.

Defence Secretary, Penny Mordaunt said:

On Armed Forces Day we celebrate the exceptional contribution our service personnel, regular or reservist, veterans and their families make to our security and prosperity. The Armed Forces protect us and defend us around the world and serve communities throughout our country. With more than 300 events taking place across the UK, it's incredible to see people coming together to show their support for the Armed Forces.

Members from all three services celebrate Armed Forces Day.

The Armed Forces and Salisbury hold a close and historic relationship and the national event will give the people of Salisbury and the public as a whole the chance to thank the Armed Forces for their tireless support towards the city's recovery following last year's Novichok attacks.

Currently our Armed Forces are part of 35 operations in 30 countries across the globe, from counter-poaching exercises in Africa, to training allies in Ukraine and helping to ensure the territorial defeat of Daesh in Syria. While families at home celebrate Armed Forces Day at events across the nation, troops will be working around the clock in many time zones to keep us safe and protect the UK's interests.

PM statement at the G20 Summit: 29 June 2019

Prime Minister Theresa May's statement at the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

PM statement at the G20 Summit: 29 June 2019

I would firstly like to thank Prime Minister Abe both for hosting this summit and for his friendship over the past three years. I have no doubt that the strong relationship between the UK and Japan will continue to grow in the years ahead.

I firmly believe in the importance of international cooperation and compromise. In Osaka this week we have worked hard to bridge differences between G20 countries on some of the biggest challenges our nations face.

That has not been easy but we have made progress. I continue to believe that we are stronger when we work together.

Genuine collaboration and dialogue are particularly critical now as we confront serious threats to global stability.

The UK has never been afraid to stand up for the global rules that underpin our values and our way of life.

Over the past two days, leaders have discussed some of the most pressing challenges facing our nations.

In recent months we have heard hundreds of thousands of young people urge us – their leaders – to act on climate change before it's too late.

I am proud that the UK has now enshrined in law our world-leading net zero commitment to reduce emissions. And I have called on other countries to raise their ambition and embrace this target.

As we have set out in Osaka, the UK remains committed to the global rules-based trade system and to trade that is fair as well as free.

And we believe that all nations must be encouraged to uphold these rules and to open their markets if we are to build economies that truly work for everyone.

The UK has consistently called for further and faster progress to reclaim the internet from those who want to destroy our values and our way of life. This means stronger action on the misuse of live-streaming to stop terrorists from broadcasting their atrocities in real time.

And I am pleased that all G20 leaders have agreed a joint statement that commits us to doing more – in partnership with industry – to protect our citizens from the spread of vile terrorist propaganda online.

With tensions rising in the Gulf we must all stand together. Escalation is in no-one's interest. We need engagement on all sides to find a diplomatic solution to the current situation and to counter Iran's destabilising activity.

At the same time, the UK will continue to work with our JCPoA partners to do all we can keep the Iran nuclear deal in place. We believe the deal makes the world safer and I want to see Iran uphold its obligations.

More broadly in the Middle East I have discussed with UN Secretary-General Guterres and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman the need to continue to make progress in the UN-led peace process in Yemen towards a political solution that is the only way to end the conflict.

Yesterday I told President Putin that there can only be a normalisation of our bilateral relationship if Russia stops the pattern of irresponsible activity that threatens the UK and its allies – such as the use of a deadly nerve agent on the streets of Salisbury.

We remain open to a different relationship, but for that to happen the Russian government must choose a different path.

This is my final G20 Summit as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

We have always understood that our success as a nation is tied to our collaboration with other countries and the relationships we build.

And I have no doubt that Britain will retain the same strong spirit of international cooperation and compromise that has long characterised our engagement with the rest of world.

Because this is the only way that we can protect and promote our interests and ensure the prosperity and security of our citizens for years to come.

[New UK aid support to fight AIDS,](#)

tuberculosis and malaria

Since 2002, the Global Fund has helped save more than 27 million lives and reduced deaths from three killer infectious diseases – AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – by more than a third in the countries which it invests in.

The UK's new three-year funding pledge, announced today, Saturday 29 June, will help:

- provide life-saving antiretroviral therapy to more than 3.3 million people with HIV;
- provide TB treatment and care for 2.3 million people;
- provide 120,000 people with treatment for multidrug-resistant TB;
- distribute 92 million mosquito nets to protect children and families from malaria; and
- strengthen health systems and promote global health security.

International Development Secretary, Rory Stewart said:

We're deeply proud of our efforts with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, but far too many people still die from these diseases.

We're going to continue to invest in controlling and ultimately ending these diseases, and we will be making sure other countries contribute generously.

These diseases cross borders. Therefore, our support is something that helps the poorest people in the world, but is also something that keeps us safe here at home.

British expertise is at the heart of global efforts to tackle AIDS, TB and malaria.

The new pledge will average £467 million a year.

Yesterday (Friday, 28 June) Rory Stewart visited ViiV Healthcare in Hertfordshire – a UK business at the heart of tackling one of these diseases.

ViiV Healthcare has developed a new antiretroviral drug to treat HIV and is voluntarily licencing it. This means the Global Fund can negotiate lower prices and supply the drug in large volumes to developing countries, improving the lives of children and adults living with HIV.

ViiV Healthcare CEO, Deborah Waterhouse, said:

We strongly welcome the UK Government's renewed pledge to support the Global Fund.

At GSK and ViiV we use our scientific expertise to help fight all three diseases covered by the Fund: HIV, TB and malaria. We recognise the value of partnership in achieving our ambitions to bring sustainable access to innovative treatment and prevention options for people affected by these diseases across the developing world.

We welcome the leadership from the UK Government today and encourage other Governments to follow this lead.

The UK's investment is crucial as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria continue to blight the lives of people and communities around the world:

- in 2017 more than 2.5 million people died from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria;
- every day nearly 1,000 adolescent girls and young women across Africa become infected with HIV;
- TB is now the leading cause of death from an infectious disease; and
- a child still dies of malaria every two minutes.

Through the new pledge, the UK government will encourage stronger private sector engagement in the fight against malaria by doubling the value of up to £100 million of investment from private sector organisations.

The British government is determined to spend aid where it is most needed and deliver the best value for money.

As part of the new funding agreement, the UK will set out [performance expectations](#) around key priorities such as:

- improving health systems;
- preventing new infections;
- helping the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised, including women and girls; and
- tackling antimicrobial resistance.

Executive Director of the Global Fund, Peter Sands, said:

The UK's pledge is a strong message to the world that we must all step up the fight to end epidemics.

An increase of 16 percent is a tremendous show of leadership.

Confronting diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is an essential part of supporting a stable and prosperous world. The UK's ongoing effort on global health will promote development and ensure we achieve Global Goal Three: good health and well-being for all people by 2030.

PM commits to greener aid spending and sets out bid to host international climate summit in 2020

Theresa May has today put the UK at the forefront of climate action at the G20, by committing that all UK aid spend will support the transition to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

This makes the UK the first major economy to combine a legally binding 0.7% aid target with a commitment to align support for developing countries with the Paris Agreement.

This will mean that every penny we spend on support for developing countries – whether for education, job creation, or infrastructure – will be compatible with our shared climate change goals.

For example, when building roads or developing energy infrastructure, we will consider the greenest way to do this and use the best materials and design to manage the impacts of climate change that people are already feeling.

This will future-proof our spending, to help people, communities and businesses to better cope with the shocks and stresses of climate change.

In taking this step, the UK will be joining leading development financing institutions such as the Multilateral Development Banks and we will encourage other major donors to take similar action.

This comes as the UK's new target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 becomes law this week. The secondary legislation was approved by both MPs and peers after receiving a broad welcome from business leaders, climate experts and environmentalists. This makes the UK the first G7 country to legislate to end its contribution to climate change.

The PM will use her leading role at today's climate change session in Osaka to call for other G20 nations to take similar action on climate change. She is expected to say:

The facts, which are clear, should guide us: we are running out of time to act. We need a fivefold increase on existing 2030 commitments to remain below 1.5 degrees of warming.

In addition to stronger national commitments, we need determined implementation, and a change in how we invest. And we need to build resilience, both in our own societies and economies, and in the most vulnerable countries.

We can only tackle this crisis, and fully reap the benefits of the transition, if we act together. So I urge everyone here to push for ambition and consider setting their own net zero targets.

On our joint bid with Italy to host COP26 in 2020, she will say:

These next few years are critical. This is why tackling this crisis has become such a high priority for the UK. And it is why we have offered to preside over COP26, in partnership with Italy.

As the first real test of our collective commitment at Paris to continually scale-up our emission reduction efforts over time, COP26 will be a critical moment. We will need to see both a significant ramping up in our existing medium term targets at the country level, and credible plans for what we are doing now to meet existing targets.

Our citizens – and our youth in particular, whose lives will be shaped immeasurably by climate change – demand action. We will be judged by history on how we act in the next few years.

Next year's COP26 summit will be the largest ever gathering of world leaders to drive international progress towards the goals set in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

A total of 30,000 delegates including up to 150 world leaders would be expected to attend the summit.

The UK has the world's most concentrated grouping of scientific, civil society, and business expertise on climate change that would help develop the programme and objectives for the summit.

Alongside the main summit, the UK hopes to coordinate a wide-ranging youth programme, working with Italy. This will ensure that young people can make their voices heard and inform global climate policy.

On the UK's commitment to align aid spending with the Paris Agreement, Tim Wainwright Chief Executive of WaterAid said:

It is encouraging to see the UK government recognise that all investment must be resilient against the growing number of severe droughts, flooding and storms that threaten health and livelihoods.

The poorest communities are being hit hardest by climate change and they are paying for it increasingly through negative impacts on clean and safe water supplies. These communities, are the least resilient to climate events and must be prioritised. Without this, the significant development gains made over the last few decades will be rolled back, leaving hundreds of millions more people

without the basic services of clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.