

## [Press release: Minister for Asia in Sri Lanka to discuss reconciliation and people-to-people links](#)

Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, arrives in Sri Lanka today (5 October) for a visit that will include meetings with government and opposition figures, civil society and trade organisations.

The Minister will hold discussions with government representatives including President Maithripala Sirisena and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tilak Marapana.

He will also meet Leader of the Opposition R. Sampanthan and Joint Opposition Parliamentary Group Leader Dinesh Gunawardena, with members of civil society and the Commissioners of the Office on Missing Persons, and visit the London Stock Exchange Group.

The Minister will discuss the UK's continued support for Sri Lanka in delivering meaningful and lasting reconciliation, as well as celebrating people-to-people links with the England Cricket Team.

Minister of State Mark Field said:

I am looking forward to visiting Sri Lanka for talks with the government across the full range of our bilateral issues.

I will offer the UK's continued support to help Sri Lanka make progress on its human rights and reconciliation agenda ahead of Geneva next March, and highlight our cooperation on areas such as bilateral trade and wildlife protection.

My visit coincides with that of the England Cricket Team – and offers the opportunity to celebrate our two countries' shared love for the sport and the qualities it represents, such as fair play and respect.

**Further information**

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[World news story: Reunión del G20](#)

# sobre salud: la Argentina y el Reino Unido organizaron un ejercicio de simulación conjunto

Los gobiernos del Reino Unido y la Argentina encabezaron hoy un ejercicio de simulación para evaluar con los países del G20 las estrategias necesarias para enfrentar un brote de una cepa resistente a los antibióticos. El objetivo de este esfuerzo conjunto de las autoridades sanitarias británicas y argentinas es generar una mayor conciencia y comprensión de los principales desafíos que plantea la resistencia a los antimicrobianos y de la importancia de que los gobiernos trabajen mancomunadamente con el objeto de minimizar su impacto en todos los sectores.

El ejercicio, dirigido conjuntamente por la Asesora Médica Principal del Gobierno del Reino Unido, Profesora Sally Davies, y el periodista Nelson Castro, tuvo como eje el abordaje de un hipotético brote global de *Escherichia coli* contra el cual no funcionaban los antibióticos. Este supuesto escenario ponía en riesgo no sólo la salud pública, sino también la ganadería, el comercio y los desplazamientos de personas.

Ministros de Salud del G20 y jefes de delegación, además de representantes de las principales organizaciones internacionales vinculadas a la salud, como la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y la Organización Mundial de Salud Animal (OIE), participaron todos ellos en la búsqueda de la solución a este urgente problema de alcance global. De esta manera, la actividad contribuyó a que gobiernos de diferentes partes del mundo se enfrenten al desafío de combatir la resistencia antimicrobiana, al reducir el abuso de antibióticos al tiempo que se garantiza el acceso a aquellos pacientes que de verdad lo necesitan.

Luego del ejercicio –realizado en el marco de la Reunión Ministerial de Salud del G20 en Mar del Plata–, los participantes reconocieron haber logrado un mayor conocimiento de las conexiones intersectoriales entre el medio ambiente, la salud animal, los sistemas alimentarios y la salud humana en el contexto de la resistencia a los antimicrobianos, así como también una mejor comprensión de las potenciales intervenciones basadas en el enfoque interdisciplinario de “Una sola salud” que podrían implementarse en cada país participante para combatir la resistencia a los antimicrobianos.

El Secretario de Salud Pública del Gobierno Británico, Steve Brine, dijo:

El Reino Unido está a la vanguardia de la acción global frente a la resistencia a los antimicrobianos, y si bien hemos hecho algún progreso tanto a nivel local como internacional, no podemos permitirnos ceder terreno. Las superbacterias no reconocen fronteras, y nuestra respuesta no debería estar tampoco limitada por ellas.

Abordar la resistencia a los antibióticos es una prioridad. Estamos comprometidos a trabajar con otros países, incluyendo aquellos que están hoy en la reunión del G20, para coordinar una respuesta conjunta. Apoyamos fuertemente la decisión de las autoridades argentinas de traer este tema crucial a la mesa bajo su presidencia del G20, junto con importantes discusiones sobre malnutrición, fortalecimiento de los sistemas de salud y respuesta a situaciones de crisis.

La Asesora Médica Principal del Gobierno del Reino Unido, Profesora Sally Davies, declaró al respecto:

La resistencia a los antimicrobianos es una amenaza global creciente, que demanda de acciones por parte de todos los países. Los líderes mundiales deben coordinar esfuerzos para abordar este desafío de salud.

Estoy muy satisfecha de haber co-dirigido este ejercicio hoy con el Dr. Nelson Castro, el cual va a fortalecer el entendimiento del riesgo que se corre por infecciones resistentes a los medicamentos, y permitirá a los líderes mundiales considerar sus respuestas a esta amenaza.

Este trabajo conjunto entre el Reino Unido y la Argentina tiene lugar en el marco del reciente acuerdo de cooperación científica firmado por los gobiernos de ambos países, conforme al cual el Reino Unido aportará 5 millones de libras a través del Fondo Global de Innovación contra la Resistencia a los Antimicrobianos (GAMRIF) a un programa de cooperación bilateral con la Argentina dedicado a la investigación en apoyo de la lucha contra la resistencia a los antimicrobianos en la agricultura y su impacto sobre el medio ambiente.

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## **Press release: Historical notes on Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff working in the Foreign Office published**

As part of Black History month, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has today published a new booklet which for the first time provides an insight

into the history of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff in the department over the last 70 years.

The booklet, entitled 'Black skin, Whitehall: Race and the Foreign Office, 1945 – 2018' reveals the challenges to ensure equal representation for non-white people in the British diplomatic service in the context of decades of political debates about Empire, immigration and racism and pressure from campaign groups.

The document, written by FCO Historian James Southern, also highlights the progress achieved in recent years, including this year's appointment of the first black female career diplomat being appointed into an Ambassadorial Post and in 2017, over 23% of the FCO graduate entry scheme intake coming from a BAME background, one of the highest levels across Whitehall.

The publication, part of a series of FCO historical notes, which included a document published last July entitled 'Homosexuality at the Foreign Office 1967 to 1991' shows how attitudes can change and these documents can be used to support the work of British diplomats around the world to promote inclusion and end discrimination.

Sir Simon McDonald, the FCO's Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of HM Diplomatic Service said:

The diversity of our staff and their heritage is a prime source of our strength. This historical note sets out the challenges faced by BAME staff working at the FCO over the last 70 years, but also the important progress achieved. It is essential we make further progress to ensure our modern Diplomatic Service reflects the best of the diversity of the UK.

James Southern, FCO Historian and author of the publication said:

This publication tells the story of non-white people at the Foreign Office. Like many similar British institutions, the FCO has a difficult history when it comes to race; it is hoped that this History Note serves as a basis for the beginning of a long overdue conversation aimed at building a more inclusive organisation.

Muna Shamsuddin and Fouzia Younis-Suleman of the FCO's network for BAME Staff and authors of the afterword, said:

We are more diverse on ethnicity than we have ever been, with a number of BAME Ambassadors, the first black career diplomat appointed into an Ambassadorial post, and one of the highest BAME Fast Stream intakes across Whitehall. Yet, as this report also shows, there is still a long way to go to ensure that we are bringing up the best of British diverse talent and supporting all

staff to meet their aspirations.

The report is available online [here](#)

**Further Information:**

- The publication of today's booklet was launched at an event hosted at the FCO today (4 October) for civil servants across Whitehall. This was the first in a series of internal events the FCO's network for BAME Staff have organised to celebrate Black History Month throughout October.
- FCO staff who come from a BAME background now represent the UK all around the world and at all grades. We have our first black career diplomat in Mozambique (Nnenna Iwuji-Eme), and over 23% of our graduate entry scheme intake came from a BAME background, one of the highest levels across Whitehall.
- Further information on the FCO Historians and their publications can be found here or on Twitter [@FCOHistorians](#).

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## **[Press release: Government to double £2 million of UK support to Indonesia Appeal](#)**

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, has today (Thursday, 4 October) announced that the UK will provide further assistance to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami, by aid matching the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal.

During a visit to the headquarters of DEC, Ms Mordaunt announced that the UK Government will match pound-for-pound the first £2 million raised by the generous British public to the [Indonesia Tsunami Appeal](#).

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

The British public have been very moved by the plight of so many people hit by these terrible events.

Aid Match is a chance for the British public to help directly to support people in desperate need. As well as our support through UK aid, the UK government will match pound for pound all public donations up to £2 million.

Your help will make a genuine difference, ensuring that lifesaving aid reaches those in dire need in Indonesia right now.

This new support will double the impact of the public's own donations and will ensure that charities working on the ground can reach the men, women and children who have been left homeless and are in urgent need of food, water and temporary shelter.

DEC Chief Executive Saleh Saeed said:

We are delighted that the next £2 million donated by the British public will be matched by the UK Government.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of people in the UK and we hope that this announcement will inspire even more people to give, knowing that whatever they donate will be matched pound for pound.

The situation in Indonesia is truly desperate. People have now gone several days without food, many are still believed to be trapped under the rubble, and we have heard stories of children becoming separated from their families.

DEC member charities are on the ground doing everything they can to help, but more funds are urgently needed to ensure we can reach as many people as possible.

The UK has been swift to respond to this crisis and this latest package of support comes less than 24 hours after the [Government increased its direct support by £1 million to a total of £3 million](#).

The Aid Match support to the DEC appeal takes the initial commitment to the disaster relief to-date to up to £5 million.

This is on top of substantial existing support that the UK is already providing through its core funding to partners on the ground, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

The Indonesia Tsunami Appeal brings together 14 leading UK aid charities all collectively raising money to reach those in need quickly.

## **Notes to editors**

Two charities under investigation by the Charity Commission, Save the Children and Oxfam, voluntarily withdrew from bidding for new funding for the duration of that investigation. The only circumstances where DFID would consider there to be an exception to this would be if due to the scale, remoteness and complexity of a humanitarian situation beneficiaries would suffer as a consequence of not using these organisations. Save The Children and Oxfam are members of DEC and have a considerable presence in Indonesia. Given the challenging nature of the relief effort following the tsunami the Secretary of State has granted an exception in this case. We have no concerns

about either organisations' ability to work to the standard we require in this crisis.

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## [Press release: International Trade Secretary in South Korea discussing how to boost our bilateral trade after Brexit](#)

International Trade Secretary, Dr Liam Fox is in South Korea this week to turbo charge talks on our future trading relationship after the UK leaves the EU – with or without a deal. As the 5th and 11th biggest economies in the world, he will also discuss with British businesses how the UK can boost its exports to South Korea, following the recent publication of the UK's Export Strategy.

Dr Fox is meeting with his counterpart, Trade Minister Kim Hyun-chong, to outline the UK's commitment to maintaining a strong trading relationship and trade continuity for British and South Korean firms after we leave the EU.

As part of this ambition, the Secretary of State will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), reaffirming our ongoing partnership and committing to working closely together on mutually beneficial business opportunities.

The ministers will also discuss how to break down non-tariff barriers to trade, which could help to further boost our exports.

Dr Fox is also meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Kim Dong Yeon, as well as with businesses including Hanwha, LG and Samsung.

Speaking ahead of the visit, the International Trade Secretary said:

The Asia-Pacific region will be a major engine of global growth in the 21st century and strengthening our established trading relationship with South Korea is high on our agenda.

I am delighted to continue discussions with Minister Kim Hyun-chong and Deputy Prime Minister Kim Dong Yeon and I want to see British and South Korean firms continue to trade as we do now after we leave the European Union.

The UK and South Korea are some of the best places to do business in the world. Trade between our 2 countries is growing rapidly and

will grow stronger in the coming months and years.

Total trade between the UK and South Korea was worth £13.3 billion last year, up by 15.2% on 2016, and British firms exported more to South Korea than to India.

The World Bank has rated the UK the 7th easiest country to do business in in the world and South Korea has been rated 4th.

South Korea is one of more than 70 countries, party to more than 40 trade agreements, currently in discussions with the Department for International Trade to achieve continuity of our trading arrangements after we leave the EU.

The government of South Korea has already expressed its desire to continue these arrangements, providing certainty and stability for businesses and consumers.