

Press release: Troika statement on South Sudan

The members of the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States) reiterate their strong support for the combined efforts of the African Union (AU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and United Nations to end the conflict in South Sudan, and join in their recent calls on all armed parties, including the Government of South Sudan, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition, and other armed groups, to commit to a ceasefire. The Troika welcomes the recent commitment by President Kiir to IGAD leaders to announce a unilateral ceasefire by government forces, and it calls upon him to ensure that his order is carried out immediately and in full effect.

The Troika underlines that the dire humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is the direct result of the conflict and demands that all parties cease violence against humanitarian workers and obstruction of humanitarian assistance. Military offensives and the obstruction of lifesaving assistance must stop immediately in order to end the suffering and severe food shortages inflicted upon millions across South Sudan.

The Troika reiterates that there is no military solution to this conflict and that a durable end to the conflict will require a political process involving all the principal parties. An inclusive national dialogue, deemed credible by the South Sudanese people, could provide a means to redress root causes of conflict and build a true national consensus. As President Kiir committed in announcing the planned national dialogue, it should supplement, and not replace, the core elements of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.

The Troika endorses the ongoing efforts of AU High Representative Alpha Konaré and UN Special Envoy Nicholas Haysom to encourage all parties to end fighting and engage in peaceful dialogue. It also fully supports Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission Chairperson Festus Mogae's work towards a truly inclusive and effective process to implement the Agreement. In addition, the Troika endorses the work of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, and the deployment of its Regional Protection Force. Lastly, the Troika notes the importance of breaking the cycle of impunity, and encourages further progress by the AU toward the rapid establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.

Further information

Staggering that Grayling thinks the growing revolving door scandal around HS2 is 'not a massive issue' – McDonald

Andy

McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on the Government's refusal to set up an inquiry into the cancellation of HS2 Ltd's £170 million contract with engineering firm CH2M, said:

"I'm staggered Chris Grayling thinks the growing revolving door scandal over HS2 Ltd, CH2M and a £170m contract is 'not a massive issue.'

"The fact both HS2 Ltd's Chief Executive and his predecessor previously worked for CH2M and a former HS2 Chief of Staff worked on the winning bid for CH2M should have rung alarm bells at the Department for Transport

"Now HS2's Director General has resigned and Phase 2 could be delayed even further.

"This whole business stinks to high heaven, and the Department for Transport must urgently address the key questions. When did it know about these substantial conflicts of interest and what due diligence did it do on the bid?"

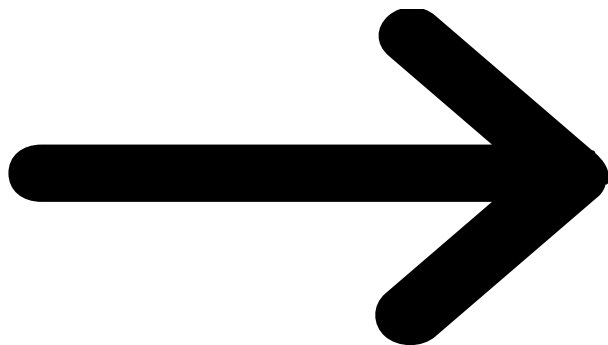
Ends

Your SNP team for the 2017 council elections

This May people across Scotland will go to the polls to elect their local council.

Mesh implant report a 'whitewash'

30 Mar 2017



The Scottish Conservatives have described the Scottish Government report into mesh implants as a 'whitewash'.

This was after the report claimed that the procedure was an appropriate procedure for women despite the many cases of severe suffering that it has caused.

It comes after several sufferers and an expert clinician resigned from the review as they were concerned about evidence being buried.

Scottish Conservative deputy leader Jackson Carlaw MSP said:

"This final publication which bears little if any resemblance to the interim review published last year, and it is now clear why some of those involved felt that they had to resign from the review.

"It is a whitewash of the damning evidence that was received by the Parliament, and is a disservice to the many women who are still suffering as a result of these implants.

"It is certainly not a justification for lifting the suspension on mesh implants, and we need to ensure that the procedures are still banned until further evidence is taken.

"What is especially disappointing is that the SNP have chosen to hide the publication of this report in the final day before recess amongst a string of other announcements.

"They seem to be determined to bury bad news rather than allow parliament to properly scrutinise this report."

Scottish Conservative shadow secretary for health Donald Cameron MSP said:

"Today's statement will have done little to reassure the many women who have suffered as a result of mesh implants.

"Given that the effects of the treatment cannot occur until years after the

procedure, we need to ensure that we closely track all of those patients who undergo it.

“That is why we’re calling for the Scottish Government to commit to using a comprehensive and independent database, to allow a wider range of medical professionals to report adverse incidents and concerns.

“Only then will we be able to fully understand the true extent of the damage being done by mesh implants.”

[Mental Health Strategy a ‘missed opportunity’](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- [Mental Health Strategy a ‘missed opportunity’](#)

30 Mar 2017



The Scottish Conservatives have described the Scottish Government’s new Mental Health Strategy as a ‘missed opportunity’ after the details of it were announced in Holyrood today.

In his response, Scottish Conservative mental health spokesman Miles Briggs called for far greater investment in services than what the SNP is proposing.

Scottish Conservative mental health spokesman Miles Briggs MSP said:

“Like many of the organisations involved in delivering mental health services and supporting those with mental health problems, I do not believe this strategy will make the transformative change we all want to see.

“This mental health strategy simply doesn’t live up to the promises the First Minister has made on rights, resources and reforms.

“It is clear that the mental health sector is not satisfied with the strategy and increasingly feel they have not been listened to and included.

“If the Mental Health Strategy is going to signpost the development of better mental well-being in Scotland for the next decade, then we need to see a far greater investment in services and vision than what the SNP is proposing.

“We also need guarantees that the Scottish Government will be able to deliver it, especially as no report card was ever produced for the last strategy.

“The Mental Health Strategy is a missed opportunity and is simply not good enough to deliver a new approach to mental health in Scotland. SNP Ministers need to think again.”
