

We urge UN member states to condemn the largest forcible annexation attempt since the Second World War: UK at UN General Assembly

Mr President, Excellencies,

In February, the General Assembly met in an Emergency Special Session to condemn Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

And today, we meet again to condemn Russia's sham referenda and attempted illegal annexation of the Ukrainian regions of Kherson, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk and Donetsk: the largest forcible annexation attempt since the Second World War.

Putin is trying to take Ukraine's land, its resources, its identity. In so doing, he is overturning the most sacred principle in the international system: that borders cannot be redrawn by force.

Over seven months into the war, the whole world understands the terrible cost of Russia's invasion.

In Ukraine, families count that cost in the bodies exhumed from mass graves, in the rubble of flattened towns and the lost education for millions of innocent children, and in the growing list of friends and relatives detained or forcibly deported through Russia's filtration process. Even this morning, millions across Ukraine awoke to the sound of air raid sirens as Russia carried out one of the largest bombardments of civilian areas and infrastructure of the war.

Around the world, people and governments are suffering from the unaffordable cost of higher food and energy prices. As a result of Russia's invasion, everyone's lives have been made more difficult – and more insecure. Here in New York, we also see the cost in terms of damage to the UN Charter. The UN Charter enshrines the principle that no threat or use of force shall be made against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

We have no way to resolve disputes or achieve the fundamental goals of the UN if we concede this principle – if any rogue head of state can by force or fiat change the borders of another UN member.

This Assembly's call on Russia since the start of its illegal invasion has been simple: end this war and withdraw from Ukraine.

For the sake of Ukraine, Russia and the entire UN membership, we reiterate this call today. We call on Russia to end the war and honour the UN Charter.

Colleagues, at the end of this debate, we will have an opportunity to vote on a resolution to condemn Russia's so-called referenda and illegal annexation. We urge everyone here to vote in support of international law, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and the UN Charter.

We urge all members to vote "yes" on the resolution.

I thank you.

We must ensure that our efforts to promote and protect the rights of children leave no child behind: UK Statement at UN Third Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The UK is committed to the promotion, protection and realisation of the rights of all children. Disparities between children continue to grow, and we must ensure that our efforts to promote and protect the rights of children leave no child behind.

Following the COVID pandemic, this work is now more urgent than ever. As the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Violence against Children noted in her annual report, violence against children increased during the pandemic while also becoming less visible. We also know that normal prevention and response mechanisms were disrupted – leaving many children without vital support networks. These challenges illustrate the critical importance of strong, pre-existing child-sensitive and gender-sensitive systems as a basis for effective responses.

In the recent Secretary General's report on the issue of Child, Early and Forced Marriage highlights how COVID is likely to lead to an additional 10 million child brides ahead of 2030, particularly those from poor households and rural areas. To help protect our collective hard-won gains, the UK pledged £18 million of funding to accelerate efforts through the UN Global Programme to End Child Marriage, last year.

But it is not just the impacts of COVID. We are also deeply concerned by the impact of conflict and humanitarian crisis on children's rights, safety and wellbeing. According to the Secretary General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, cases of sexual violence and abduction have increased significantly, by over 20%. The abduction of girls has also increased by 41%. We recognise that protecting children from the effects of armed conflict is a moral, legal and strategic imperative and an essential element to break the

cycle of violence.

As I've said in other sessions, tackling sexual violence in conflict remains a top priority for the UK. We will host an international Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative Conference next month. And in November last year, the UK launched the Call to Action to Ensure the Rights and Wellbeing of Children Born of Sexual Violence in Conflict. This call was a first step in galvanising international action to support tens of thousands of children who are marginalised and stigmatised by families and communities. Since then, we have also been collaborating with experts and children born of conflict-related sexual violence to develop a detailed framework, called the Platform for Action. We are calling upon Governments to formally endorse the Call to Action and develop their own concrete commitments under the platform to support this vulnerable group.

Finally, threats to children online continue to grow and evolve at a horrifying rate. At any given moment 750,000 people are looking to connect online with children across the globe for sexual purposes. The UK is proud to have recently been identified as a global leader in tackling all forms of child sexual exploitation and abuse and to have led a UN resolution recognising the role of the private sector and robust, coherent regulation in protecting children from sexual abuse online.

Mr. Chair, protecting the rights of children is a central part of the UK's work at home and overseas. We remain steadfast in our commitment to protecting children everywhere, hearing their voices, and ensuring that no child is left behind. Thank you.

[Steve Oldfield to leave DHSC](#)

News story

Steve Oldfield has decided to step down from his role as Chief Commercial Officer and Director General for Life Sciences at the Department of Health and Social Care.



Steve Oldfield has decided to step down from his role as Chief Commercial Officer and Director General Life Sciences, and will leave the Civil Service later this month to continue his successful career in the wider public and private sectors.

Steve joined the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in October 2017, having previously held senior executive positions in the UK and globally in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors, with companies such as Procter and Gamble, Sanofi and Teva.

During his time at DHSC, Steve successfully created an innovative pricing arrangement with the pharmaceutical industry, managed multiple healthcare supplies challenges, and led the [Office for Life Sciences](#).

Second Permanent Secretary, Shona Dunn said:

Steve's contribution during his 5 years in government has been fantastic and he leaves behind a legacy of strong collaboration between industry and government. We are of course very sorry to see him go, but wish him the very best in his future endeavours and his ongoing commitment to the life sciences sector.

Steve Oldfield said:

I have loved my time in government and consider myself privileged to have played a part in navigating the country's healthcare and commercial challenges of recent years. I have learnt what dealing with true complexity and uncertainty really means; I have been grateful for the tremendous collaboration from colleagues and industry partners. I have also worked with some of the most talented, dedicated and lovely people I've ever met.

My passion for the life sciences is stronger than ever, and I look forward to continuing to bring my energy to the sector, in the UK and globally.

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[PM call with President Zelenskyy: 10 October 2022](#)

Press release

Prime Minister Liz Truss spoke to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy this afternoon.



The Prime Minister spoke to Ukrainian President Zelenskyy this afternoon.

She strongly condemned Putin's appalling attacks on civilian areas in Kyiv and elsewhere today. The Prime Minister said that these are a sign of Ukrainian success and increasing desperation by Putin in response.

The Prime Minister stressed that the UK stands wholeheartedly behind President Zelenskyy and Ukraine. Putin's destructive rhetoric and behaviour will not diminish our resolve. The leaders welcomed the deliveries of British military aid which continue to arrive in Ukraine.

The Prime Minister and President Zelenskyy looked ahead to tomorrow's virtual meeting of G7 leaders, which President Zelenskyy will join. They agreed it offers an important opportunity to reemphasise the unity of opposition to Putin's despicable campaign.

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[Environment Agency starts work in spring on Severn Stoke flood scheme](#)

- The village has flooded several times in recent years including during storms in February
- Works will also protect nearby A38, an important trunk road for the area

The Environment Agency is preparing to begin work on a £1.8 million flood embankment scheme. It will protect homes and businesses in the historical Worcestershire village of Severn Stoke.

The flood mitigation embankment scheme will provide protection from the devastating impact of flooding to 18 homes and businesses. This includes the Grade II listed, 14th century St Deny's Church, the 500-year-old Rose and

Crown pub and the village hall.

The scheme is being developed in partnership with Worcester County Council and Malvern Hills District Council. It will also protect the nearby A38, preventing disruption to the busy trunk road.

Planning permission for the scheme has now been granted and materials are being moved onto site where they will be stored over the winter before work starts in the spring. The first delivery will see reused material from the southern link road in Worcester that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

Soil being delivered to Severn Stoke to be used for a flood embankment

The work will also include environmental enhancements including a tree replacement scheme. This will increase both the number and diversity of tree species. It will also incorporate a pollinator corridor along the 'dry side' of the embankment and place bird and bat boxes throughout the scheme area.

Marc Liddeth, Environment Agency place manager for Shropshire and Worcestershire, said:

The community of Severn Stoke has suffered from significant flooding from the River Severn, most notably in 2007, 2012, February 2020 and again this year. This scheme is part of the Environment Agency's investment in flood protection for the area and we are pleased to be able to begin work on it in early 2023.

David Harrison, portfolio holder for Planning, Infrastructure and Flooding at Malvern Hills District Council, said:

We are very pleased at the progress of the Severn Stoke flood alleviation scheme which has come a long way since it was brought to a public meeting at Severn Stoke Parish Hall in 2014.

We are proud to support this project, as well as to assist with funding supplied from the council's Priority Reserve Fund. Thanks to the ongoing effort of everyone involved, the project will enter the next stage. It will see the material moved to the village over the next few weeks ready for the construction of the flood embankment next year. This an important next step in protecting the village and its community.

The Environment Agency provides a flood warning service for Severn Stoke. Please contact the 24-hour Floodline service on 0345 988 1188 for any ongoing flood related queries or advice. Sign up for flood warnings [here](#).

The best way to protect yourself from flooding is to know what to do in advance. Download and save a simple Prepare, Act, Survive plan so you'll know

what to do when there's a flood warning in your area.

Across the country, the Environment Agency has led projects to deliver flood schemes that see 314,000 homes better protected since 2015. Yet the Environment Agency is delivering more. Earlier this year the Government announced a record £5.2 billion investment in flood and coastal defences to build around 2,000 new flood and coastal defences and better protect 336,000 properties by 2027.

Make sure you are prepared for flooding by following these tips:

- Prepare a bag that includes medical and insurance documents
- Check the [latest flood situation online](#)
- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water
- Check your insurance to make sure you are covered for flood damage. If you rent your home, it is your responsibility to have insurance for your belongings
- If you are flooded, call 999 if in immediate danger and follow advice from emergency services