

Press release: Foreign Secretary statement on resignation of Robert Mugabe

I will not pretend to regret Mugabe's downfall: but this can now be a turning point, a moment of hope for this beautiful country, full of potential. The immediate priority is to ensure that Zimbabwe has a legitimate government, appointed through free and fair elections in accordance with the constitution.

That's what the UK wants to see and together, with our international friends and partners in the region, we stand ready to support Zimbabwe in this goal.

Speech: "Let us stand together in our commitment to end the exploitation of human beings and safeguard the dignity of those who are most vulnerable"

Thank you Mr President. The United Kingdom welcomes this debate and resolution 2388. They are further steps towards more robust Security Council action against trafficking. And thank you, too for your presence Minister at the debate, and thank you to all of our briefers.

It was just last week that we discussed the security challenges in the Mediterranean and their consequences, and the trafficking of humans is one of those most devastating of consequences, not only to those involved, but also to all of us who value the most basic of human rights. It was also last week that so many of us were outraged by that shocking video footage on CNN of modern slavery in Libya.

As we know too well, the nature of today's conflicts has encouraged the growth of armed groups, terrorists and powerful criminal networks. They all thrive in the absence of the rule of law, and they profit on an unprecedented scale from the chaos of ungoverned spaces. These groups prey on the most vulnerable, many of whom have already lost their families, their homes, their livelihoods, to steal the one thing they have left: their freedom. Such exploitation takes on many forms in conflict zones, including child labour, slavery and slavery-like practices, forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Two issues Mr President raised in Secretary-General's recent report on

trafficking in conflict stood out to me.

The first, as others have noted, was the call for improved data gathering, evidence collection and information sharing. Improved data is central to deepening our understanding of the problem, evidence gathering allows us to prosecute perpetrators more effectively, and information sharing means victims are identified and supported faster.

The second issue was the report's call for a more coordinated UN response. Human trafficking cuts across all of the UN's pillars: it is a security threat, a human rights violation and a development problem. So, rather than competing with one another over resources or territory, we need UN agencies coordinating and each working to their comparative advantage. We strongly support the Secretary-General's efforts to resolve this persistent challenge.

After several debates, the Security Council is now well informed of the problem of trafficking in conflict situations. And with resolutions 2331 and 2388, we are now well equipped to act. I'd like to draw your attention to three issues that merit greater attention.

First, violent extremists profit financially from this trade in human misery. It is vital that we integrate this understanding into efforts to combat terrorism. Without the robust use of the full range of existing mechanisms to counter-terrorist financing and impose sanctions, it will be impossible to eradicate the use of slavery as a means to resource, and further the aims, of terrorist groups.

Second, we must act to ensure that global supply chains, which often reach into conflict zones, do not fuel the crime of trafficking. We welcome that resolution 2388 calls on the UN to enhance transparency in its procurement and supply chains. The whole international community can go further in this area.

And third, just as we understand how trafficking drives conflict, we should acknowledge how efforts to address trafficking contribute to peace. Measures to address trafficking by field missions – whether through human rights monitoring or capacity building of police – should not be seen as “add-ons” but as core to efforts to build stability. More broadly, we should consider how anti-trafficking features in the Sustaining Peace agenda, which is all about using a cross-section of UN tools to prevent conflict and build peace.

Finally Mr President, let us not lose sight of who it is that we are working for – the victims and the survivors. Those images on CNN shocked because they showed that this most degrading form of exploitation is tragically not a thing of the past. It is happening today, and it is happening on our watch. No matter how we choose to describe it – human trafficking, modern slavery, forced labour – let us stand together in our commitment to end the exploitation of human beings and safeguard the dignity of those who are most vulnerable.

It is only by doing so that we can hope to succeed in the maintenance of international peace and security.

News story: Review finds PHE a 'public health agency that rivals any in the world'

A [peer review](#) of Public Health England (PHE) by the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) has concluded that:

In less than 5 years PHE has, under strong and visionary leadership, transformed a geographically and functionally siloed group of 129 bodies into a strong, capable, coordinated, united and efficient public health agency that rivals any in the world.

IANPHI is a membership organisation of over 100 national public health institutes and agencies and they were asked to assess progress in 3 major areas focusing on:

- leadership, strategy and delivery
- whether we are set up effectively and efficiently
- if we have the necessary impact and influence we need to fulfil our mission

The review singled out and praised in particular PHE's response to:

- Ebola
- immunisation programmes
- work on obesity and alcohol harm and smoking cessation programmes

We were also recognised for our excellent local knowledge and intelligence services and the value they bring to those making decisions on the front line.

With changes to public health budgets, the panel reflected that making the economic case for prevention needs to form part of local plans at the outset and PHE should continue to encourage an improved focus on prevention within the NHS, including general practice and primary care.

It recommends that public health ambitions and targets should be a part of all NHS activities, including sustainability and transformation partnerships, where prevention outcomes should or could be included in each plan.

Commenting on the review Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of PHE, thanked the panel for their time and commitment in delivering this comprehensive review of PHE. He said:

Inviting an external body to give a frank assessment has provided us with both food for thought and reason to celebrate. As ever, there is more to do but so much to be proud of too.

Press release: PM statement on resignation of Robert Mugabe: 21 November 2017

The resignation of Robert Mugabe provides Zimbabwe with an opportunity to forge a new path free of the oppression that characterised his rule. In recent days we have seen the desire of the Zimbabwean people for free and fair elections and the opportunity to rebuild the country's economy under a legitimate government.

As Zimbabwe's oldest friend we will do all we can to support this, working with our international and regional partners to help the country achieve the brighter future it so deserves.

News story: Do you receive an Armed Forces Pension?

Have HM Revenue & Customs used the correct primary source of income to calculate your Tax Code?

Veterans UK have seen an increase in member's calls to the Armed Forces Pension Payment provider (Equiniti Paymaster) querying individual tax codes. Where members are in employment and in receipt of a pension HMRC may have incorrectly based the tax code on an individual's pension rather than their main salary.

What is my tax code used for?

Individual tax codes are used by your pension provider to work out how much Income Tax should be taken from your pay and pension. The code is calculated against an individual's main salary.

What should I do if I think my tax code is wrong?

If you believe your tax code is wrong you can use the Income Tax online checking service – <https://www.gov.uk/check-income-tax-current-year> to tell HMRC about a change in your circumstances.

If you are unable to use the online service you can also contact HMRC on 0300 200 3300.