

Press release: International Development Secretary welcomes Call to Action on modern slavery

At the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday 19 September, the Prime Minister announced new domestic measures and an investment of £20 million in the new Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. In total the UK will double its development spending on modern slavery to £150million, enabling more work in collaboration with source and transit countries.

Speaking at an event hosted by Alliance 8.7 at the General Assembly, immediately after the Prime Minister's announcement, International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, joined in the call for further action to tackle modern slavery.

Priti Patel also welcomed the "wake-up call" provided by new global estimates, which show that if all enslaved people were brought together in a single country, it would be the 34th most populous country in the world, ahead of Poland and Canada.

International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

The UK's call to action is on behalf of some of the most victimised, brutalised, exploited people in the world.

I recently met young female victims of trafficking at a safe house in Lagos, and heart-breaking testimonies like theirs vividly demonstrate that modern slavery is a scourge that needs to be eradicated.

In Nigeria, as well as many places around the world, we are stepping up our efforts and rising to this challenge – we will not accept a world where human beings are bought and sold.

Notes to editors:

- Pictures and B-Roll: Please see [video](#) and [picture](#) content from DFID modern slavery programmes in Nepal, as well as [personal testimonies](#) from victims and vulnerable people supported through UK aid.
 - For photo credit, AD is Anna Dubuis/DFID and SM is Steph Moor/DFID.
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News story: Defence Minister welcomes London Stock Exchange's commitment to Armed Forces

After opening the day's trading in Central London, Mr Ellwood co-signed the agreement which sees the London Stock Exchange Group join a number of FSTE 100 companies who are already signatories to the Covenant, including BAE Systems, Marks & Spencer and Vodafone.

By signing, the London Stock Exchange Group commits to upholding the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, pledging to support reservists and create career pathways through the MOD's Career Transition Partnership (CTP).

As part of the agreement, the London Stock Exchange Group will promote that they are an armed forces-friendly organisation, advocating the armed forces to their business networks and encouraging support for the military community.

Defence Minister Tobias Ellwood said:

This signing is a significant step for the London Stock Exchange Group, which is set to be a strong advocate for the benefits of employing our talented Defence people in businesses across the UK.

These pledges will seek to open the door to new career pathways for veterans and provide flexibility for reservists – ensuring the Armed Forces community is not disadvantaged by their service and sacrifice for our country.

To celebrate the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant, the London Stock Exchange Group hosted a special market opening ceremony in London this morning. The event was attended by existing and prospective signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant at a networking breakfast for small and medium enterprises.

London Stock Exchange Group's pledges include:

- Being an armed forces-friendly organisation which values the skills that military training and experience can bring to their diverse talent base.
- Seeking to support the employment of veterans, of all ages, by linking the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) to their careers website.
- Endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for

Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment, subject to operational requirements.

To date the Covenant has been signed by more than 1,800 organisations, including businesses and charities, all of which have set out their support for members of the armed forces community employed by them or accessing their products and services.

Press release: International Development Secretary calls for vital reform of the United Nations.

The International Development Secretary, [Priti Patel, has warned](#) that the United Nations system is simply not adapted to the challenges of today, in the face of unprecedented humanitarian challenges, protracted crises and mass displacement.

This frank warning came at the UN General Assembly, at a UK-led event on reforming the development system. At the event, Priti Patel supported the strong reform agenda of the new Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and urged him to be bold in demanding changes to ensure the organisation better delivers for the worlds' poorest.

The International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

Against the backdrop of unprecedented humanitarian crises, the international system is, frankly, not coping – it's not fit for purpose.

While the objectives and goals of the UN are timeless, the structures and system we have today was cobbled together over years, and it is time for change.

Nothing emphasises these problems like the sickening and atrocious sexual abuses carried out under the UN flag – it will not be tolerated.

The UK is putting our money where our mouth is, and to ensure these critical reforms are not ignored, a third of our spending will be dependent on UN agencies making the changes needed to remain relevant in the 21st century.

The current UN system is hampered by a multiplicity of agencies,

organisations, funds and programmes, unable or unwilling to collaborate, share resources or embrace innovation. Worst of all, despicable child rape, sexual exploitation and abuse has been carried out under the UN flag by peacekeepers and in peace operations.

The International Development Secretary announced that from next year almost a third of DFID funding to UN agencies will be dependent on improved results and progress on reform priorities:

- UN agencies will have to demonstrate effective collaboration, greater transparency and accountability.
- For all major emergencies, agencies will have to demonstrate that effective accountability and feedback mechanisms are in place.
- We will demand more effective and efficient delivery of assistance to the vulnerable – including greater use of cash transfers. Cash, rather than flying in food and other supplies, is more efficient, it enables those in need to choose how to support themselves. Crucially, it helps build local markets.
- We are also calling on the UN to collaborate more closely with the private sector, the engine of job creation around the world.

The International Development Secretary also made a stark call to put the stamping out of child sex abuse and child rape at the top of the UN's agenda. This followed confirmation by the UN Secretary General in March that UN peacekeepers and civilian staff faced allegations of over 140 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse this year.

She stated in no uncertain terms that UN agencies must be fully transparent about any and all accusations made against their staff, contractors and implementing partners.

The British government puts the protection of children from rape, sexual abuse and sexual crimes at the top of its priorities. Any agency that receives funds from the UK must have the strongest possible measures in place to protect vulnerable populations, especially children, and to ensure the prevention, detection and prosecution of abusers.

[News story: Parsons Green terrorist](#)

[attack](#)

You can [apply](#) to the [Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority](#) (CICA), if you were injured as a result of this incident. You can also call the CICA helpline on 0300 003 3601. We will consider your application under the [Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012](#).

You do not need a paid representative, such as a solicitor or claims management company, to apply to CICA for compensation. [Our Guide](#) provides information about free independent advice that may be available from local support services or other charitable organisations.

Further information about support was published by the [Home Office](#) on 15 September 2017.

[News story: Update on the Culture Secretary's consideration of the proposed merger between 21st Century Fox Inc. and Sky Plc.](#)

Culture Secretary refers proposed merger between Sky Plc and 21st Century Fox to the CMA

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has today referred the proposed merger between Sky Plc and 21st Century Fox to the Competition Markets Authority (CMA) for a Phase 2 investigation on the media plurality and genuine commitment to broadcasting standards media public interest grounds. The CMA have 24 weeks in which to report back (extendable by up to eight weeks in certain circumstances).

The terms of reference of the formal referral and related letters are available [here](#).

Correspondence between Sky and 21st Century Fox and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the proposed merger are also published today.