

# Speech: “This cannot become the new reality of warfare.”

Thank you Mr. President for holding this debate, for ensuring that this chamber hears the voices of civil society, and for your own speech. It's quite rare to get a round of applause from this audience. And thank you too to the Secretary-General, to the ICRC, and to Human Rights Watch for excellent contributions, and I pay tribute to them and their teams' work.

The UN Charter is clear, protecting civilians is supposed to be at the heart of what we do. When governments fail to protect, people look to this Council, for safety from the scourge of war. But for civilians in Syria, South Sudan, so many other places, this isn't about words in the Charter or a debate once a year, it is a horrific daily reality.

The sheer scale of the need is unprecedented. 2016 saw record numbers of people needing assistance and protection, so many of them victims of conflict and of the flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. So many of them becoming victims of sexual violence, trafficking, or other modern forms of slavery.

As our briefers made clear, that suffering has been made worse through cruel, unconscionable attacks on medical facilities. Look at the fall of Aleppo last year. Time and again, the regime and its backers bombed that city until all the hospitals were out of action, so that the city could not even care for its injured.

Sadly, the trend is spreading. As the Secretary-General pointed out, the urbanization of conflict in Aleppo, Mosul, Juba, has increased the risk of destruction of hospitals, schools, water systems, and power supplies.

This cannot become the new reality of warfare. Fifteen years on from this Council's first formal commitment to protect civilians in armed conflict, it's clear that we need a new approach.

So I welcome the Secretary-General's call to reinvigorate a global campaign which would take practical steps to minimize civilian harm, protect those that are displaced, ensure peacekeepers perform their best, and deliver accountability for those who flout compliance with international law.

In support, we should all do four things. First, we need to take practical steps to mitigate impacts on the ground. For instance, work is ongoing to fortify healthcare facilities in Syria and to promote access to mobile clinics in Yemen. In South Sudan, UK peacekeepers are helping strengthen the security and accessibility of the UN's Protection of Civilian Sites.

Second, we should share best practice. That means the full participation of women in efforts to protect civilians. It also means full compliance with international humanitarian law by all. In the UK, we train our military on

international humanitarian law throughout their careers, including with country-specific courses before they deploy. And we're sharing our expertise to help other governments and their armed forces comply with international humanitarian law, and we're helping them to make their military justice systems more effective.

Third, we need to collect better and more systematic data on attacks on medical facilities and personnel. We support the Secretary-General's commitment to do this within the UN system, but it's not enough to collect data, we need to use it. So we call for more Council briefings from the whole UN family, including OCHA, OHCHR, and the Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict, whenever attacks on medical facilities and personnel occur.

Finally, this Council needs to take action when violations occur. When States fail to act, it's our responsibility to decide that these abuses will not be tolerated, that we will hold those responsible accountable.

In this chamber, we have a duty to shine a light on those who fail to comply with international law. We have a duty to collect the evidence that is so essential for timely legal action against those who attack medical personnel and facilities in violation of international humanitarian law.

But we are not fulfilling that duty, Mr. President, not yet. So today, let us all recommit to using this Council's authority, shouldering our responsibility to prevent conflict, to protect civilians, and to hold to account those who violate international humanitarian law, and those who violate and abuse human rights. The UK will continue to show leadership, including as part of the Secretary-General's global campaign.

Thank you.

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## **Press release: Generous public should make sure donations go to genuine charities supporting the victims in Manchester, says charity regulator**

The Charity Commission is encouraging people wishing to support the victims of this week's terrorist attack in Manchester to donate to a genuine charitable appeal.

It says that the great British public are always generous in their support for charities and this has already been reflected via the many giving sites set up to support the victims and families of the appalling attacks in

Manchester.

The Charity Commission, Greater Manchester Police, the British Red Cross, and the Lord Mayor of Manchester are urging people wishing to help to give to the [We love Manchester appeal](#), launched by the Lord Mayor of Manchester's Charitable Appeal Trust or to other registered charities.

The British Red Cross, which has been active on the ground in Manchester and has extensive experience of coordinating large fundraising operations, is supporting the appeal. Other genuine appeals launched to support people in Manchester are understood to now be pointing people towards the [We love Manchester fund](#). The Manchester Evening News, who launched the We Stand Together, have joined forces with the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund.

The fund will support people who have been injured or bereaved by the attack. Donations will help alleviate suffering and ensure victims and their families do not face short-term financial difficulties. The Commission is taking the unusual step of encouraging people wishing to give to donate to the [We love Manchester fund](#) to reduce the risk of fraud and ensure funds donated reach those they are intended for.

The Fundraising Regulator, which regulates charity fundraising, has joined calls for the public to give safely.

**David Holdsworth, Registrar of Charities for England & Wales and Chief Operating Officer at the Charity Commission said:**

The British public are incredibly generous, especially in response to supporting those at times of suffering and need. Sadly, during such periods of especially generous giving, there are a small minority of those who seek to exploit that goodwill for fraudulent, selfish purposes. That is why we are encouraging people who wish to donate to give to the We love Manchester fund, launched by the Lord Mayor of Manchester's Charitable Appeal Trust, to ensure that these funds reach those affected by the appalling attack in Manchester.

**The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Eddy Newman said:**

I have been overwhelmed by all the support coming from across the world to help those affected by this terrible tragedy. People across the globe have been struck by our city's defiance and resilience and want to help. It will make a real difference to those affected. Thank you.

**Mike Adamson, Chief Executive of the British Red Cross, says:**

The We Love Manchester appeal is being run in partnership by the British Red Cross and Manchester City Council. The funds raised will go to people affected by the devastating attack at Manchester Arena earlier this week. We have already seen a huge outpouring of support, and we encourage the public to keep giving generously to help ensure victims and their families get the help they need.

**Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive of the Fundraising Regulator, says:**

It is vital that the public has confidence their money is going where it's intended. That's why we are recommending that those who wish to give donate to the We love Manchester appeal, or to another registered charity.

In light of concerns about fraud, the Charity Commission is taking the unusual step of recommending people to give to a specific charitable appeal, supported by a number of charities. However, the Commission does not endorse individual charities. It reminds people that there are quick and simple ways of checking that an appeal is from a registered charity.

**Check before you give – Charity Commission advice:**

- If you do not wish to give to the recommended appeal, make sure you are still giving to a registered charity. Do to this, check for a charity registration number. You can verify this on the [online register of charities](#).
- Be more cautious about people collecting for general charitable causes, such as 'for sick children' – make sure you're giving to a registered charity.
- When approached by collectors, check whether they are wearing a proper ID badge and that any collection tin is sealed and undamaged.
- If in doubt, ask the collector for more information – a genuine fundraiser should be happy to answer questions and explain more about the work of the charity.
- Never feel under pressure by a fundraiser into making a donation immediately.

Ends.

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## Notes to editors

1. For more information about giving safely, visit the [Charity Commission's pages](#) on GOV.UK.
  2. Those concerned that they may have been targeted by a fundraising scam should report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).
  3. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
  4. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
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## [News story: Vacancy: Receptionist](#)

The AAIB is looking for someone who is highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic to work on the AAIB Reception, answering switchboard and dealing with visitors.

A full job description and role profile is on the [Civil Service Jobs Website](#). The deadline for applications is 8 June.

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## [Press release: Report 09/2017: Fatal accident involving a passenger near Balham](#)

### Summary

At about 17:24 hrs on Sunday 7 August 2016 a passenger, travelling on a Gatwick Express service from Gatwick Airport to London Victoria, suffered fatal injuries as a result of having his head out of a window and striking it on a signal gantry near Balham in south London. The train was travelling at about 61 mph (98 km/h) at the time of the accident.

The window concerned was on a door opposite a guard's compartment in the train; this door was accessible to passengers but it was not intended for passenger use. The RAIB has found no evidence to explain why the passenger put his head out of the window at that time.

The accident occurred because the passenger's head was out of the window, there was nothing to prevent passengers from opening the window or putting their head out of the opened window, and because there was less than the normal standard clearance between the train and the signal gantry. Although the clearance was compliant with standards for existing structures, it was less than an industry recommended minimum for new structures where there are trains with opening passenger windows.

An underlying cause was that the process for assessing the compatibility of this train on this route did not identify the risk of the combination of reduced structure clearances and opening windows.

## **Recommendations**

The RAIB has made two recommendations and identified one learning point. One recommendation is addressed to Network Rail, and seeks to improve the industry's management of the interacting risks between infrastructure and rolling stock. The second recommendation is addressed to relevant train operators with the intention of reducing the risk from people leaning out of opening train windows.

The learning point reinforces the need for regular monitoring and management of structure clearances when those clearances are reduced from normal.

## **Notes to editors**

1. The sole purpose of RAIB investigations is to prevent future accidents and incidents and improve railway safety. RAIB does not establish blame, liability or carry out prosecutions.
2. RAIB operates, as far as possible, in an open and transparent manner. While our investigations are completely independent of the railway industry, we do maintain close liaison with railway companies and if we discover matters that may affect the safety of the railway, we make sure that information about them is circulated to the right people as soon as possible, and certainly long before publication of our final report.
3. For media enquiries, please call 01932 440015.

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PDF, 5.01MB, 43 pages

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# Speech: 'We seek to align UK interests with ambitions of Karnataka'

It is with mixed feelings I welcome you here tonight. We are gathering to mark Her Majesty's 91st Birthday, but after the horrific incident in Manchester on Monday night, our hearts go out to the families and friends of all those killed and injured. This was a brutal act aimed at the softest of targets: teenagers and children. Such incidents are effective if they change the way we live our lives. For this reason I have decided to go ahead with our event tonight to honour our Queen and to show our resolve to stand up to those who wish to harm us. Can I request a minute's silence as a mark of respect to all those caught up in this tragedy.

I am joined tonight by His Excellency the Minister of Large & Medium Industries & Infrastructure R V Deshpande representing the Government of Karnataka. Minister Deshpande has championed UK-Karnataka links at many events across the year. I am pleased he joins us again tonight.

As many of you are aware Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II has two birthdays, her actual birthday in April, and her official birthday in June. In Karnataka neither month is ideal for an outdoor event. We chose today hoping that the weather would be kind. Sadly it looks as if the vagaries of climate change in Karnataka may have got the better of us.

Tonight I would like to focus on three areas:

- I want to honour Her Majesty on her 91st birthday
- I want to share with you the highlights of a year of UK-Karnataka partnership
- I will look forward to a memorable UK-India Year of Culture.

## **The Queen**

In February, Her Majesty the Queen celebrated her Sapphire Jubilee commemorating 65 years of service to her country and the Commonwealth. The sapphire stone is believed to symbolise wisdom, virtue, good fortune and holiness. It is known as the 'Royal' stone. It gives us the colour 'Royal Blue' which many of you are wearing tonight. For our monarch this milestone could not be more appropriate.

The Queen has visited India 3 times. Her first visit was in 1961 when she visited Bengaluru and the Lal Bagh Gardens. She returned in 1983 for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and then again in 1997. Her experience of world affairs and world leaders is unmatched. Her enduring appeal, however, lies in the straight forward way she interacts with those she meets, however important, on her royal duties.

In her role, she has been supported by her husband Prince Philip who we honour too. In March, Prince Philip announced his retirement from public

duties at the grand old age of 95. Prince Philip in his own indomitable way quipped that he was 'stepping down, not sitting down'.

## **A year of UK-Karnataka partnership**

I'd like to turn now to a year of UK-Karnataka partnership. To put it succinctly, this year has been an 'interesting' one. Two weeks after our Queen's Birthday Party (QBP) in 2016, the UK went to the polls to decide whether, or not, to leave the European Union. You all know the outcome of that vote. That decision has set the UK on a new direction with a destination that is still unclear.

BREXIT brings with it challenges, but also opportunities as the UK forges a new role for itself in the world. It also brings opportunities for a new relationship with India. It was not by chance the new UK Prime Minister chose to visit India on her first bilateral visit outside Europe. In November, Theresa May held talks with Prime Minister Modi in Delhi before flying on to Bengaluru. Why Bengaluru? It's India's city of the future, an innovation hub, and India's start up capital. It is also home to over 100 UK companies who have chosen Karnataka as the base for their country operations – I am pleased many of you have joined us tonight.

The scope of the prime ministers programme underlines the range of UK interests. She met with Chief Minister Siddaramiah and later with UK and Indian companies to discuss trade and investment in the UK and Karnataka. She visited a government school to learn about STEM skills in education and new careers for women. With pupils she welcomed an Indian Air Force flypast highlighting our close defence links. She learnt about innovative UK-India models of advanced manufacture in Pinya and explored our common heritage with a visit to the Sri Someshwara Temple.

Relations are not built on one visit. It is the day-to-day, year-on-year interactions that matter. In November, the UK was India's official partner for the TECH Summit in Delhi. This huge event set out to highlight the strength of UK-India technology ties. Large UK delegations in the areas of precision medicine and advanced manufacturing came on from Delhi to meet with potential partners in Karnataka.

At the British Deputy High Commission (BDHC) we seek to align UK interests with the ambitions of the state. We were able to do this in February when the UK Minister of Defence Procurement Harriet Baldwin, joined eminent local dignitaries to speak on the advanced manufacturing panel at the 'Make in India Conference' in Bengaluru. The minister highlighted the historical aerospace ties between the UK and Bengaluru linking HAL, BAe Systems, and Rolls Royce. During the visit Cranfield University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Central Manufacturing Technologies Institute to strengthen advanced manufacturing cooperation. As the minister made clear 'Make in India' is a concept at the heart of UK-India collaboration and has been so for many years.

UK experts have also been working with local state partners on:



- urban governance
- energy storage and green finance
- the affect of climate change on water systems
- prosthetic technologies
- waste water management (with a water recycling project at the Malleshwaram Dhobi Ghat)
- traffic management and urban security (with a visit by the State Home Minister Parameshwara, to the London Traffic Control Centre)
- disability and careers
- support for start ups and industrial clusters
- improving tax collection and land registration

All these issues are elements of our common prosperity agenda and key to a growing Karnataka economy.

I want to say a bit more about Europe. The UK is leaving the European Union and not the European continent. The UK remains committed to European collaboration on a range of issues. This year in partnership with our European colleagues in Karnataka we showcased British films as part of the European Film Festival, we celebrated the European Football Cup with a reception to watch Germany beat Northern Ireland, we organised a European Climate Action Day Conference in September and joined a European Symposium on Environmental Sustainability in March. This collaboration will continue.

I have talked many times this year about the importance of our living bridges. Living Bridges was a term coined by Prime Minister Modi on his visit to the UK in 2015 to describe the people-to-people ties that bind our two countries.

This year we have promoted our Chevening Scholarship Programme to encourage India's brightest and the best to come to the UK to develop new skills which they can then deploy on their return to India. The programme is now the largest UK country programmes in the world with 130 one-year masters and shorter fellowship programmes available. We have specialist programmes for scientists, engineers, journalists, cyber security specialists, design specialists, financial specialists and lastly for India's future leaders (our flagship Gurukul Programme). In Karnataka, the Chevening Alumni Chapter is 120 strong. This group meets regularly to discuss ways to build on their UK experience and to link the UK with local initiatives. Applications for the next round of the Chevening Scholarship Scheme open in the summer. Please check online for details and pass the word.

The BDHC has also worked with local UK alumni associations including: the London School of Economics, Oxbridge, Cranfield, Imperial College London, and Kings College London to strengthen UK graduate and post-graduate links with the UK.

The UK's TECH Rocketship and India Emerging 20 competitions were launched to encourage young entrepreneurs and to nurture and mentor new start-up talent as they begin their journey to internationalise their companies. We have three Bengaluru TECH Rocketship winners with us tonight. The winners of this year's India Emerging 20 will be announced in Bengaluru tomorrow.

The UK's Longitude Prize is encouraging novel innovation to tackle the global challenges of anti-microbial resistance particularly prevalent here in India.

In July, we brought 40 UK students to Christ and Jain Universities in Bengaluru to participate in a cultural immersion programme as part of our India-wide GenUK Programme to improve youth links.

To increase our geographical reach BDHC teams dealing with trade, investment, science and innovation, energy & low carbon, politics & economics and corporate services joined partners: the British Council, the Welsh government, the UK-India Business Council and the UK Visa Application Centre to set up an office for a day in Whitefield and then in Electronic City to meet local partners who are often unable to come into the centre of Bengaluru. BDHC teams have also made outreach visits to the West (Tumkur, Shimoga, Manipal and Mangalore), to the South (Mysore) and to the North (Belgaum) this year to promote our services. We cover the state.

## A Year of Culture

This year you are in for a treat. 2017 will see a blossoming of cultural events and activities in India organised by the British Council, and a similar programme in the UK organised by the Government of India. We believe that by experiencing the most innovative and exciting creative work from both countries and exploring our joint history, people will want to know more about each other's countries and build deeper connections.

The Year of culture was launched in February by Her Majesty the Queen and Finance Minister of India Arun Jaitley at Buckingham Palace. The peacock projection behind me was from that event and is the symbol of the year-long programme. The design was produced by Studio Carrom based out of the UK and Bengaluru.

This year in Bengaluru it will be possible to listen to the Brian Molley Jazz Quartet, and join the Wayne McGregor Dance Company and Attakalari for the launch of MixtheBody. Other events will emerge as the year develops. Our British Council colleagues are on hand to tell you more about what is planned for Karnataka and will even invite you to MixtheCity.

Tonight would not have been possible without the generosity of our sponsors.

Our Gold sponsors are:

- Dynamatic Technologies Limited is a Global Tier-1 Supplier to Airbus, Boeing, and Bell Helicopters. It is a major contributor to the growth of the aerospace industry in India. It has facilities in Bengaluru, Swindon and Bristol and is utilising the UK's competitive advantage to further its globalisation efforts.
- Lodha Group is India's No 1 real estate developer by sales and is also now one of the largest investors from India into UK. The group has

already invested close to £1 billion in the UK market is now looking to further expand its portfolio in London.

- Infosys is a global leader in technology services and consulting. It has been operational in the UK since 1995 with offices in London, Edinburgh and Swindon providing IT services to clients. It has strategic partnerships with 3 UK universities and has brought over 100 UK students to India for summer internships.
- Mindtree is a global IT services company head-quartered in Bengaluru with operations across the globe. Mindtree entered the UK in 2003. It runs a strong portfolio of UK clients and uses its London office to reach out to businesses in the EU.

Some of our Gold sponsors are exhibiting around the site. Please go and visit their stands.

Our Silver sponsor is:

Our Bronze sponsors are:

- Diageo
- Rolls Royce
- Twinings of London

I would also like to thank our sponsors-in-kind, our beer sponsor, UB as well as our 'Best of British' exhibitors showing their advanced engineering products here tonight.

Thank you.

Can I end with a round of thanks to:

- GREAT team who have designed this wonderland (despite the challenges of the weather)
- JW Marriott who have worked with us so closely to deliver our requirements
- QBP Committee at the Deputy High Commission who have put in months of work to bring you this event
- Bengaluru team and Indian network colleagues

Please could I lead you in a round of applause.

Thank you.

## Toasts

I would like to propose the following 3 toasts:

- Her Majesty the Queen

- stronger UK-Karnataka partnerships
- State of Karnataka.