

UK denounces Russia's appalling attempts to legitimise war against Ukraine: UK statement to the OSCE

Thank you, Mr Chair. Since Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, week after week we have seen the brutality of Russia's actions.

The Russian Federation has attempted, in vain, to legitimise its war. This includes in the southern city of Kherson, where Russia has sought to assert its control of the city and surrounding areas through installing a pro-Kremlin administration. So far this administration has stated a return to Ukrainian control is "impossible" and announced a four-month currency transition to the Russian rouble from 1 May. These statements are likely indicative of Russian intent to exert strong political influence in Kherson over the long term.

We are further appalled by reports that Russia intends to stage a referendum in Kherson oblast, in an attempt to provide a pretext for consolidating its control over the area. We saw this in 2014, when Russia held an illegitimate referendum on the accession of Crimea into the Russian Federation to retrospectively justify its seizure of the Peninsula. This so-called referendum was conducted in a heavily militarised environment and was clearly illegal under the Ukrainian Constitution.

The international community refused to recognise the result in Crimea in 2014. We must continue to condemn any referenda Russia attempts to illegitimately conduct on Ukrainian soil. The people of Kherson have bravely demonstrated their sovereign will to resist and remain part of Ukraine. We remain fully committed to the Ukrainian people's right to determine their future.

[As my Foreign Secretary set out in her Mansion House Speech last week](#), we need a new approach, one that melds hard security and economic security, one that builds stronger global alliances and where free nations are more assertive and self-confident. As such, we must double down on our support for Ukraine.

As part of this, the UK will carry on supplying Ukraine, alongside our partners, with weapons, funding and humanitarian aid. We will continue to provide these in response to requests from the Ukrainian Government. [We have provided £220 million in humanitarian aid](#). To date we have also sent over 90,000 ration packs, over 10 pallets of medical equipment, more than 3,000 pieces of body armour, over 80,000 helmets and much more including communications equipment. We have also provided anti-tank missiles, Air Defence systems, and anti-structure munitions.

On 3 May, [the UK announced that we will be providing a new package of](#)

[military aid worth £300 million](#), to support Ukraine's ongoing defence against Russia's illegal invasion. The package includes electronic warfare equipment, a counter battery radar system, GPS jamming equipment and thousands of night vision devices.

[We are also sending a fleet of protective armoured vehicles to Ukraine](#), to safely evacuate civilians from shelled areas in eastern Ukraine. The vehicles will also be used to transport officials from Ukrainian ministries to temporary command posts set up for government work and the rebuilding of key infrastructure, such as energy supplies, in besieged areas. The Ukrainian police and the National Guard will also utilise the fleet to rebuild vital railway lines in the east of Ukraine.

Mr Chair, We provide this support because Ukraine's victory is a strategic imperative for all of us. Our collective security is under threat by Russia's actions. And we will continue to support Ukraine until we have achieved our long-term goal: to ensure that no-one will ever dare to attack it again.

[In the words my Prime Minister used when speaking to Ukraine's Parliament earlier this week](#), this is about Ukrainian democracy against President Putin's tyranny. It is about freedom versus oppression. It is also about right versus wrong. And that is why Ukraine must win.

Thank you. I kindly request that you attach this statement to the journal of the day.

[Government announces special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Volunteering Award](#)

- A special one-off addition to the annual Queen's Award for Voluntary Service created in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Government has today announced a special one-off addition to the annual Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Her Majesty has displayed a life-long commitment to public service throughout her 70-year reign, and the annual QAVS is the highest award given to small volunteer groups across the UK. Awardees cover a wide range of activities such as dementia support clubs, community theatres and therapeutic garden projects.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for Volunteering will now shine a spotlight on 20 national charities working to empower young people aged 16-25. The number 20 has been chosen to reflect 20 years of QAVS.

A special judging panel has been convened for the award, comprising civil society sector experts and youth representatives including Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Fionnuala Jay O'Boyle and Ndidi Okezie.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said:

Since The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was set up 20 years ago to commemorate the Golden Jubilee, thousands of hard working local volunteer groups across the UK have been recognised for benefiting their communities.

We're delighted to be extending our recognition this year to some outstanding national charities through this special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for Volunteering.

We want to celebrate the important work done by national charities to empower young people with the skills they need to develop and grow. This is a fitting way to recognise the 70 years of selfless service Her Majesty has given to this country.

Sir Martyn Lewis CBE, the QAVS Chair said:

Her Majesty's faithful service to the nation over 70 years has been an inspiration to us all and is mirrored by countless acts of volunteering happening each day across the UK.

For this special Jubilee Award we are looking forward to celebrating outstanding work with young people, helping them to flourish and be the best they can be. It's a theme that's important to all of us and is close to Her Majesty's heart.

The Platinum Jubilee Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is [now open for applications](#) until 17 June. Nationally registered charities helping young people (aged 16-25), who have had a national impact either on a UK-wide, or England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland basis are invited to apply.

A judging panel including sector experts and young people will select 20 winners to be announced in The Gazette in October. Winners will be presented with this special award at a ceremony in November.

Recent QAVS winners include:

[Small Acts of Kindness](#) who provide practical gift bags to lonely and socially isolated older people in Hertfordshire and signpost them to support services.

[Equation](#) in Nottingham who deliver projects in schools and the community to help prevent domestic abuse and encourage healthy relationships.

[Gurnos Men's Project](#) in Glamorgan who get disengaged young men involved in community volunteering and horticulture, as well as helping them improve core

skills.

[Second Wave Centre](#) for Youth Arts in London who run creative projects with young people and work with them to explore key issues such as knife crime and grooming.

[Friends of M.V. Freedom](#) in Dorset who take disabled people out to sea on a specially adapted boat.

[Via Wings](#) in County Down who provide a wide range of support to those in need, including a food bank, teenage supper club, homework support, learning, and counselling.

[Westhill & District Men's Shed](#) in Aberdeenshire where socially isolated men can share skills, make friends and work together on repairing/refurbishing projects for the community.

Notes:

Nominations for the 2023 QAVS awards are [now open](#) until 15 September 2022.

[More information and an application form](#)

[More information on the main QAVS award](#)

The awardees for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2022 will be announced on 2 June.

[Diamond Emblem 1 report published](#)

News story

Fatal person overboard from a motor cruiser at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station, River Bure, England.



Today, we have published our accident investigation report into a person

overboard after Diamond Emblem 1's stern made hard contact against the embankment wall at Great Yarmouth Yacht Station on the River Bure on 19 August 2020, resulting in the loss of one life.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken and recommendations: [read more](#).

Andrew Moll, Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents, said:

Boating holidays provide an excellent way of experiencing the UK's network of inland waterways and the vast majority of the many trips completed each year are safe and uneventful. However, this tragic accident demonstrates that boating is not without risk. A serious situation can quickly develop from benign circumstances if adequate precautions are not in place to mitigate the risks associated with controlling the boat and preventing people from falling overboard.

Large motor cruisers with sophisticated controls are becoming increasingly common and are often driven by members of the public who have limited or no proficiency in boat handling. It is imperative that complex multi helm controls incorporate appropriate technical features and indications to minimise the likelihood of an inadvertent loss of control. Adequate protection around exposed deck areas is equally important in ensuring that no one falls into the water. Furthermore, handovers, including in-water demonstrations, and hire boat documentation need to be complete and rigorous in order to ensure that hirers have sufficient proficiency to safely handle the vessel in their charge.

Following this investigation, I have made recommendations to enhance the governance, oversight and safety of hire boat operations. I have also recommended to the boat's operator that they address various aspects of the safe operation of their boats. This includes enhancing its handover procedures and undertaking a thorough assessment of the risks of people falling overboard from its hire craft to ensure that the hazards are appropriately mitigated. Such an assessment is essential to ensuring that another similar accident to this does not happen again.

The above photograph is courtesy of Norfolk Constabulary.

Published 5 May 2022

The UK remains committed to investing in UN conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Mr President, Excellencies, colleagues,

“To take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace” – this was the commitment we made in the first sentence of the first article of the United Nations Charter.

But today, two billion people live in countries affected by conflict. Russia’s war of choice in Ukraine has increased that number, and wrought untold suffering on the people of a peaceful country.

The United Kingdom stands with the overwhelming majority of countries around the world in deploring Russia’s aggression and calling on President Putin to cease his senseless war.

Mr. President, few conflicts today are so unequivocal. More often, they are driven by a mixture of political, economic, social and environmental factors. But the vast majority are preventable. And prevention is where we need to focus, if we are to live up to the commitments of the Charter.

This means investing in peacebuilding. This is why we are here today. Because instability jeopardises development and puts lives and livelihoods at risk.

The United Kingdom has been steadfast in its support – political and financial – for United Nations peacebuilding. We have contributed over 230 million dollars to the Peacebuilding Fund since its inception. But the Fund is still sustained by only a handful of major donors. Others need to step up.

As co-Chair of the Group of Friends of the PBF, the United Kingdom is deeply committed to the Fund. But the Fund is not a silver bullet. National governments and international development partners all need to play their part. This includes the UN development system.

The United Kingdom is also working to advance prospects for innovative financing for peacebuilding. And to deepen strategic partnerships with the international financial institutions. In addition to our multilateral contributions, our deep bilateral partnerships focus on durable peace and inclusive development, rather than quick fixes that risk saddling countries with unsustainable debt.

Today, the world can quite literally no longer afford the cost of conflict. The current global economic climate is straining both stability itself, and the resources available to support that stability. This is a dangerous spiral. We need to explore all possible solutions. And we need to increase impact across all resource strands.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to maximising investment in UN conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Thank you

UK provides further humanitarian aid focused on most vulnerable in Ukraine

- £45 million in UK funding confirmed for UN and humanitarian organisations working in Ukraine and the region
- Support will protect the most vulnerable, including women and children, both in Ukraine and fleeing the conflict
- Further UK medical equipment, food and other urgent lifesaving aid to be delivered in coming weeks

A package of UK support will help reach the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict in Ukraine, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced today (Thursday 5 May).

United Nations (UN) agencies and charities working on the ground to provide care, support and protection for those in Ukraine and at its borders will receive £45 million in UK funding, as part of a wider package of support.

Nearly 16 million people are reported to be in need of humanitarian assistance within Ukraine. Over five million refugees have arrived in European countries since the conflict started, making it the fastest-growing refugee crisis since the Second World War.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable to abuse and harm. Of the £45 million, £15 million will go to the UN Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), to provide immediate life-saving assistance and help tackle sexual and gender-based violence through targeted services, legal support and crisis accommodation. A further £15m will go to UNICEF, the UN children's agency, to fund vital services like nutrition for pregnant women and mental health support for children.

The Foreign Secretary is also announcing today that the UK will provide further deliveries of medical supplies, on top of more than five million items already delivered, including wound care packs to treat over 220,000 patients and around 380,000 packs of medicine.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

Britain has stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine throughout this conflict. As one of the largest humanitarian donors

we will continue to make sure those bearing the brunt of Putin's vile war have the lifesaving aid they need.

British aid is supporting the most vulnerable in Ukraine, particularly women and children, who are facing increased risk of sexual violence and exploitation.

These latest allocations mean the UK's full £220 million package of support has now been committed to governments and partners to deliver support in Ukraine and the surrounding region.

Following a request from the Government of Ukraine, the UK has already committed up to £2 million in vital food supplies like dried food, tinned goods and water to areas of Ukraine encircled by Russian forces. Seventeen trucks of food with over 50,000kg of pasta, 10,000kg of rice, 60,000 tins of corned beef and over 80,000 litres of water have already been delivered.

The UK has already tripled its humanitarian support to Poland, providing £30 million to ensure vital supplies reach those in need, both inside Ukraine and those fleeing the conflict.

We are also playing a critical role providing expert assistance to countries bordering Ukraine. The UK is deploying a specialist team to Poland to assist the Ukrainian government with gathering evidence and prosecuting war crimes, including experts in conflict-related sexual violence.

Martin Griffiths, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said:

The war in Ukraine has caused immense human suffering and as always, the highest price is paid by civilians. This generous contribution from the United Kingdom will enable the UN's Ukraine Humanitarian Fund to scale up the delivery of fast, effective and life-saving aid to people who are caught up in this unfolding nightmare.

Managed in-country, the Fund is uniquely positioned to support partners, including front-line local and national NGOs, providing an agile response to the fast changing needs on the ground.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- The £45 million funding will support the following organisations to deliver support on the ground:
 - £15 million for the UN Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), to provide immediate life-saving assistance, including healthcare, food, shelter, and water and sanitation, and to help tackle sexual and gender based violence through targeted services and legal support

and crisis accommodation for women and girls. This builds on £18.5 million already given to UHF by the UK. The UK is the largest donor to the UHF, with our funding already helping to reach over two million people with lifesaving aid.

- £15 million for UNICEF to provide protection and support for vulnerable groups including women and children in Ukraine, such as nutrition support to pregnant women, mental health support for children and their caregivers, and access to safe water.
- £10 million for humanitarian organisations operating in Moldova and other border countries to protect vulnerable groups, including women and children fleeing the conflict, ensuring they can meet their basic needs and that children who are far from their schools at home are able to access education.
- £5 million for the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) in Ukraine deliver life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable, This includes provision of health care, safe water and shelter, and sexual and gender-based violence services to tackle discrimination, safeguarding and trafficking. This builds on £10 million already given to IFRC by the UK, which has helped to reach more than a million people in Ukraine and the region with food, water, medicine and other relief items.
- The UK will provide £20 million for humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees temporarily located in Poland, as well as working with the Polish government to provide support inside Ukraine, including basic services.
- UK funding of up to £3 million is helping provide specialist expertise to the UN through the UN Standby Partnership scheme, including safeguarding specialists, data analysis specialists and experts on cash assistance.