

Debate Pack

14 March 2023

CDP-0065 (2023)

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UK relations with China during the presidency of Xi Jinping

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1 Summary

A debate on UK relations with China during the presidency of Xi Jinping is scheduled for Thursday 16 March 2023 in Westminster Hall, from 1:30-3:00pm. The debate will be led by Jim Shannon MP.

2 Background

2.1 From ‘Golden Era’ to deteriorating relations

Over the last few years, the [largely cordial relationship between the UK and China has deteriorated sharply](#).

In the previous two decades, regardless of the political make up of successive UK governments, the trend had been towards closer engagement and cooperation.

The high-point of UK-China relations was during the 2015-17 Conservative Government, when there was talk on both sides of a “[golden era](#)”.

However, growing controversy in the UK over the involvement of the Chinese multinational company Huawei in the UK’s 5G mobile phone network, along with mounting concern about the [erosion of the “one country, two systems” status quo in Hong Kong](#), has dramatically changed the atmosphere between the two countries. Other important factors have been [China’s human rights clamp-down against the Muslim Uighur population in the Western province of Xinjiang](#), as well as concerns about the [threat of espionage and influence operations by China in the UK](#).

2.2 Xi Jinping’s leadership of China

Xi Jinping became President of China in March 2013, however, more consequentially in November 2012 he first assumed the two most powerful positions in China, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and Chairman of the party’s [Central Military Commission](#) (CMC).

Changes in leadership positions in China’s party-state are made every five years and [normally follow a two-step process](#) — the first occurring in the CCP and the second involving the government.

At the CCP’s 20th Party Congress held in October 2022, [Xi was appointed General Secretary for a third five-year term](#) and once again Chair of the

Party's CMC, affirming his dominance over the Party and the country at large. This third term broke the recent precedent of the country's leaders serving only two-terms. Other key positions within the party [were filled with Xi loyalists](#).

The National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislature, and a consultative body the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), met at the beginning of March 2023 for [their annual "two sessions" meeting](#) to ratify legislation and [make appointments to the State Council](#), the executive branch of the central government. The bodies [formally reappointed Xi for a third term as the country's President](#), and also as Chairman of the state's Central Military Commission (the party and state CMC are made up of the same individuals, and [are essentially "one organisation with different brands"](#)).

2.3 2021 Integrated Review

The UK Government's March 2021 [Integrated review of security, defence, development and foreign policy](#) (Integrated Review, IR) described China as a "systemic competitor".

The review said the UK will "do more to adapt to China's growing impact on many aspects of our lives as it becomes a more powerful in the world". And that the Government will invest in "China-facing capabilities" allowing the UK to better understand China and its people, and improving the UK's ability to respond to the challenge it poses to "our security, prosperity and values – and those of our allies and partners".

However, the review also emphasised the Government's intention to continue pursuing a "positive trade and investment relationship" with China, while also ensuring that national security is protected. It also acknowledged that cooperation with China on transnational issues such as climate change is a necessity.

2.4 Integrated Review refresh

On 13 March 2023 the Government published a [refresh of the Integrated Review](#) (PDF). The refresh was produced in response to the significant world events that have taken place since the original strategy was published in 2021, including the war in Ukraine, and what the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, described in the refresh's foreword as "China's willingness to use all the levers of state power to achieve a dominant role in global affairs".

Mr Sunak also warned of "China's more aggressive stance in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait".

The refresh describes an “epoch-defining and systemic challenge posed by China under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) across almost every aspect of national life and government policy”.

The refresh says the UK must respond to two over-arching factors that have continued to evolve since the IR 2021:

- 1) China’s size and significance on nearly every global issue which will continue to increase in the years ahead, and so its choices, including in areas like climate change, will have a profound impact on the UK; and
- 2) The UK’s growing concerns about the China’s CCP leadership’s actions and intents including its strengthening partnership with Russia, disregard for human rights, military modernisation and actions in the South China Sea, and its espionage and interference activities in the UK.

Despite these factors the refresh also states that the UK “does not accept that China’s relationship with the UK or its impact on the international system are set on a predetermined course”, and that the UK’s preference is for “better cooperation and understanding, and predictability and stability for global public good”.

The UK will “engage constructively” with China when it aligns with the UK’s core national interests and with maintaining an open and stable international order, but wherever “the CCP’s actions and stated intent threaten the UK’s interests” the UK will “take swift and robust action to protect them”.

It will pursue this policy through a three-stranded ‘Protect-Align-Engage’ framework, stating the UK will:

- **Protect** its national security, strengthening protective measures in “those areas where the actions of the CCP pose a threat to our people, prosperity and security”, while also increasing protections for academic freedom and university research.
- **Align** with core allies and partners, recognising the UK has “limited agency to influence the CCP’s actions” on its own, with Mr Sunak in his foreword saying: “where there are attempts by the Chinese Communist Party to coerce or create dependencies, we will work closely with others to push back against them”.
- **Engage** with China bilaterally and in international fora, strengthen diplomatic relations, and pursue a positive trade and investment relationship while ensuring trading and investment is “safe, reciprocal and mutually beneficial”.

Alongside the refresh the [Government announced extra funding](#) to “further boost skills and knowledge for government staff on China, including on economic and military policy as well as Mandarin language skills”.

Indo-Pacific strategy

As well as these China-specific measures and policies, the refresh revisited the UK’s “tilt to the Indo-Pacific” outlined in the IR 2021. It stated that the UK will still prioritise the Indo-Pacific region, but argued the Government had delivered its ambition for the original tilt, and it was time to put its approach to the region on “a long-term strategic footing, making the region a permanent pillar of the UK’s international policy”. In particular, the refresh said the UK “believes that a free and open Indo-Pacific is one where a regional balance of power ensures no single power dominates”, and that the UK would work to align its regional strategy with the Indo-Pacific strategies of partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Canada, the EU, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the US.

3

Press and media articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[Rishi Sunak's 'confused' approach to China criticised by senior Tories as PM hints at TikTok Whitehall ban](#)

i News

Arj Singh and Hugo Gye

13 March 2023

[UK's provocative moves to negatively impact ties with China: experts](#)

Global Times

13 March 2023

[Russia and China 'breathing A sigh Of relief' after Sunak rejects defence spending bid, says Tory MP](#)

Huffington Post

Kevin Schofield

13 March 2023

[Rishi Sunak risks row with Tory hawks over China balancing act](#)

Guardian

Aubrey Allegretti

12 March 2023

[Hyping up 'China threat' like thief crying 'stop thief'](#)

China Daily

21 February 2023

[China 'targeting Commonwealth nations neglected by Britain'](#)

The Times (subscription required)

Geraldine Scott

17 February 2023

[Governor of China's Xinjiang cancels UK visit after British MPs call for his arrest](#)

Independent

Stuti Mishra

15 February 2023

[UK fighter jets always on standby, Sunak says after US shoots down objects](#)

Guardian

Kiran Stacey and Kevin Rawlinson

13 February 2023

[China's Li Keqiang urges UK entrepreneurs to develop relations](#)

CGTN

10 February 2023

[Sadiq Khan will not intervene in Chinese 'super embassy' plans for east London](#)

Evening Standard

Rachael Burford

9 February 2023

[Universities have 'risky' ties to China](#)

Times (subscription required)

Geraldine Scott

22 January 2023

[UK government to pay Chinese group £100mn to exit Sizewell C](#)

Financial Times (subscription required)

Jim Pickard

29 November 2022

[UK government bans new Chinese security cameras](#)

BBC News

24 November 2022

[No hope in improving China-UK ties if London continues to provoke Beijing's bottom line](#)

Global Times

16 November 2022

[Why China's Xi Jinping is the world's most dangerous man](#)

Politico

Michael Schuman

15 September 2020

4

Press releases

[UK announces increased funding for China Capabilities Programme](#)

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

13 March 2023

- the Prime Minister announces doubling UK funding for 2024 to 2025 to build expertise on China
- will boost Mandarin language skills and UK's ability to engage with and understand China, while protecting national security

The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is increasing funding to further boost skills and knowledge for government staff on China, including on economic and military policy as well as Mandarin language skills.

Extra financial support will be provided for the cross-department 'China Capabilities Programme' which operates to increase Chinese expertise across the UK government.

Since the last [Integrated Review in 2021](#), the government has taken a number of steps to increase knowledge of and expertise on China, including provision for the training of more than 170 civil servants in Mandarin.

The Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, said:

“It's vital that our diplomats and civil servants have the understanding and expertise to engage and adapt to the increasing challenge posed by China, and China's growing role in world affairs.

This extra resource will help boost knowledge and language skills across government, in the face of the systemic challenge that China poses to the UK's security, prosperity, and values.”

The Integrated Review Refresh, launched today (Monday 13 March), sets out how – in the last 2 years – the UK has become increasingly concerned about the military, diplomatic and economic activity of the Chinese Communist Party.

This includes military activity over Taiwan, attempts at coercion, and the sanctioning of British MPs. China is becoming more authoritarian at home and more assertive overseas.

This increase in funding is another example of the action the UK is taking to ensure effective engagement with China, while protecting national security.

Foreign Secretary's call with China Foreign Minister Qin Gang, February 2023

**Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
20 February 2023**

A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said:

The Foreign Secretary spoke for the first time to China's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qin Gang.

The Foreign Secretary set out the importance of engagement between the UK and China on areas of mutual concern, including issues such as the global economy, health and climate change.

He set out the need for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and UK concerns over human rights abuses in Xinjiang and developments in Hong Kong.

He reiterated the UK's unwavering support of Ukraine and condemned Russia's illegal invasion.

5

PQs

China: Foreign Relations

01 Mar 2023 | 149662

Asked by: Ruth Jones

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between the UK and China.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We recognise that China poses a systemic challenge to our values and interests. We are evolving our approach to one of robust pragmatism, which focuses on UK interests. The Foreign Secretary spoke to his counterpart, Qin Gang, on 20 February and met with Chinese Director of the Office of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission, Wang Yi, at the Munich Security Conference on 18 February. During those conversations he underlined the importance to the UK of defending human rights, the UK position on the war in Ukraine and the fact that we will continue to speak out and take action where appropriate. However, the UK cannot ignore China's significance in world affairs and the Foreign Secretary also discussed UK-China working together on issues like global economic stability and climate change. The upcoming Integrated Review refresh will set out our position and approach to China.

Xinjiang: Foreign Relations

24 Feb 2023 | 149606

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the debate on the Governor of Xinjiang and a UK Visit, Official Report, 9 February 2023, which Minister initially approved the meeting between his Department's officials and the Governor of Xinjiang.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK did not invite the Governor of Xinjiang to visit and under no circumstance would he have been offered a Ministerial meeting. The scale and severity of human rights violations in Xinjiang is harrowing and the UK government consistently raises our concerns with Beijing at the highest levels. The Foreign Secretary did so with his Chinese counterpart on 20 February. As Minister Docherty stated in the debate on 9 February, relevant FCDO Ministers were made aware of the possible visit in the usual way, after officials were notified by the Chinese Embassy in January. Ministers agreed that officials

should be prepared to offer a meeting to make clear the UK's abhorrence at the treatment of Uyghur people and to reiterate that we will not relent from exposing China's unacceptable human rights violations. No UK official has met Chinese officials sanctioned by the US over the last 12 months.

Confucius Institutes

06 Feb 2023 | HL4955

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Security Minister on 1 November 2022 that Confucius Institutes “pose a threat to civil liberties in many universities in the United Kingdom”, what steps they have taken to close those Institutes.

Answering member: Baroness Barran | Department for Education

The government will continue to underline the importance that the UK places on defending human rights, and of speaking out and taking action where there are concerns. We need to evolve our approach to China into one of robust pragmatism, which is recognised and understood by our allies and partners. As my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, has previously said, China poses the greatest long-term security challenge to the UK economy and more widely, because of the behaviour of the Chinese Communist Party. The government is committed to doing more to adapt to its growing impact and we are constantly monitoring our position.

The government continuously assesses threats posed to the UK. As a matter of longstanding policy we are unable to release information regarding threat assessments on the grounds of National Security.

The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill will require and empower registered higher education (HE) providers in England to push back on freedom of speech related threats from overseas. It will also require the Office for Students (OfS) to monitor the overseas funding of registered HE providers and their constituent institutions, in order to assess the extent to which it presents a risk to freedom of speech and academic freedom in HE. This includes the reporting of educational or commercial partnerships, and therefore includes arrangements with Confucius Institutes. The Bill will allow the OfS to take appropriate action, including issuing penalties, if there is evidence that an HE provider has breached its freedom of speech duties.

Like all similar bodies, Confucius Institutes should operate transparently and with a full commitment to our values of openness and freedom of expression. Universities have a responsibility to ensure that any partnership with a Confucius Institute is managed appropriately, and the right due diligence is in place. The department would encourage any providers with concerns to contact the government.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: China

01 Feb 2023 | 133761

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 25 January 2023 to Question 117752 on Asia-Pacific Region: Foreign Relations, how many staff in his Department are assigned to the China Department.

Answering member: David Rutley | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The publication of the Integrated Review in March 2021 affirmed the UK's increased focus and long-term commitment to the Indo-Pacific. The Indo-Pacific tilt is a whole of UK Government effort with staff focused on delivering UK objectives across the region, including to strengthen defence, security and trade partnerships, and to uphold and promote the international rules based system.

A significant and increasing number of FCDO roles in the UK and across the global network involve an element of China policy. This shift in focus and resource has been underway for a number of years. The FCDO dedicated an additional £3 million in 2020/21 and a further £3 million in 2022/23 to increase our capability on China, including a significantly expanded China Department and new China-related roles in the overseas network.

The UK also opened the UK Mission to ASEAN in 2019 to strengthen UK-ASEAN engagement. Since achieving ASEAN Dialogue Partner Status, the UK Mission to ASEAN has expanded with further roles planned by March 2023.

Hong Kong: Rule of Law

13 Jan 2023 | 113265

Asked by: Daniel Kawczynski

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the rule of law in Hong Kong.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

China has continued to use the National Security Law (NSL) and its related institutions to undermine rights and freedoms in Hong Kong. As NSL cases proceed through the Courts, we are seeing the implications of this sweeping legislation, including the chilling effect on the rule of law; freedom of expression; stifling of opposition voices and criminalising dissent.

It was against this backdrop that the President of the Supreme Court, in consultation with the former Foreign Secretary and former Deputy Prime

Minister, decided that it was no longer tenable for serving UK judges to sit on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

China: Diplomatic Service

09 Jan 2023 | HL3519

Asked by: Lord Rogan

To ask His Majesty's Government how many diplomats from China are based in the UK; and in which locations.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office publishes details of foreign embassies, high commissions and consular posts in the UK on gov.uk, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-embassies-in-the-uk>. This page includes the London Diplomatic List which contains the addresses and contact details of all embassies and high commissions, as well as the names of heads of mission and other diplomatic agents appointed in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961. The entry for the People's Republic of China, as of December 2022, lists 127 diplomatic agents in the locations set out below. In addition, consular officials are appointed to the Consulates General of the People's Republic of China in Edinburgh, Manchester and Belfast.

Embassy of the People's Republic of China

49-51 Portland Place W1B 1JL

Consular Section

31 Portland Place W1B 1QD

Defence Section

25 Lyndhurst Road NW3 5PA

Economic and Commercial Office

16 Lancaster Gate W2 3LH

Cultural Section

11 West Heath Road NW3 7UX

Education Section

50 Portland Place W1B 1NQ

Science & Technology Section

10 Greville Place NW6 5JN

China: Diplomatic Service

06 Jan 2023 | HL4352

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the recent protests at the Chinese Consulate in Manchester, what representations they have made to overseas governments on sharing information about the six Chinese diplomats recently

withdrawn from the UK by the government of China, in the event that those individuals are redeployed to a third country.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We engage closely with our international partners on a wide range of issues, including those related to China.

China: Foreign Relations

03 Jan 2023 | HL4192

Asked by: Lord Blencathra

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Prime Minister on 28 November concerning "robust pragmatism" in foreign policy towards our competitors, how "robust pragmatism" will operate in practice in the UK's foreign policy towards China; what steps they will take to implement this approach to the UK's relationship with China; and how they will measure the effectiveness of this policy towards China.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We will continue to implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach to China in support of UK national interests. Alongside allies like the US, Japan, Australia and Canada we will manage sharpening competition and respond in ways that protect our interests and economic security. We will engage in dialogue with China when that can help solve pressing global challenges including economic stability or climate change. It remains the case that we do not publish National Security strategies on China or other issues. The upcoming Integrated Review Refresh will set out our approach to China.

China: Prisoners

30 Dec 2022 | 110703

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will hold discussions with his Chinese counterpart on ending the practice of organ harvesting of prisoners on death row in China.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We continue to monitor and review evidence relating to reports of forced organ harvesting in China and maintain a dialogue with leading Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and international partners on the issue. The Government's position remains that, if true, the practice of systematic,

state-sponsored organ harvesting would constitute a serious violation of human rights.

The UK Government regularly raises the human rights situation in China directly with the Chinese authorities at the highest levels. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary did so in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart on 20 September.

China: Foreign Relations

15 Dec 2022 | 105349

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of China abiding to the terms of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have declared four breaches of the Sino-British Joint Declaration to date, three of which have occurred since 2020. These breaches include China's imposition of the National Security Law and changes to Hong Kong's electoral rules and system.

Reflecting the size and scale of developments in Hong Kong, on 13 March the UK declared China to be in a state of ongoing non-compliance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration - a demonstration of the growing gulf between Beijing's promises and its actions.

Taiwan

05 Dec 2022 | 94735

Asked by: Jack Lopresti

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Secretary of State for Defence's oral evidence to the International Relations Committee on 1st November, whether it is his Department's policy to recognise China's claims of sovereignty over Taiwan.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Our longstanding position on Taiwan has not changed. The UK does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but shares a vibrant unofficial relationship, based on dynamic commercial, educational and cultural ties. We consider the Taiwan issue one to be settled peacefully by the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through constructive dialogue, without the threat or use of force or coercion.

China: Intelligence Services

30 Nov 2022 | 92131

Asked by: Andrew Rosindell

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 November 2022 to Question 77322 on China: Intelligence Services, what estimate her Department has made of the (a) number of undeclared police stations in the UK and (b) support offered to them by the Chinese Government.

Answering member: Tom Tugendhat | Home Office

As I said to the House in my statement on 1 November, reports of undeclared 'police stations' in the UK are of course very concerning and are taken extremely seriously. Any foreign country operating on UK soil must abide by UK law.

Home Office officials are in regular contact with the police. They are investigating allegations of unlawful activity. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further on operational matters.

As I said to the House on 1 November, I will provide an update on the work relating to transnational repression in due course.

China and Hong Kong: Foreign Relations

21 Nov 2022 | 87930

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department has recorded any instances of UK (a) military and (b) law enforcement personnel engaging in (i) data sharing, (ii) training, and (iii) other exchanges with the military or Government of (A) China or (B) Hong Kong.

Answering member: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are not aware of any current or planned training provided by UK military or law enforcement to the Chinese or Hong Kong military or Government. In response to China's repeated breaches of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, including Beijing's imposition on Hong Kong of the National Security Law, the Ministry of Defence ceased the provision of all training of Chinese military and Hong Kong law enforcement personnel. We also extended to Hong Kong the arms embargo applied to mainland China since 1989. The UK has never provided training that contained any sensitive or classified information.

Relations with China: BNO Visa Scheme

08 Nov 2022 | 722 c102

Asked by: David Lammy

For years, the Conservative Government have failed to act strategically on China. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary ducked responsibility by letting officials meet the Chinese embassy over the Hongkonger beaten in Manchester and gave no answers about the troubling reports alleging that Chinese police stations are operating in the UK. Our allies and partners around the world are taking major strategic steps on China. Last month, the US announced the CHIPS and Science Act 2022. Last week, the German Chancellor got Xi Jinping to publicly oppose the use of nuclear weapons. The UK has not even published a long-promised strategy. Do the Government still plan to publish a China strategy and, if so, by what date?

Answered by: Anne-Marie Trevelyan | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK is clear that China remains in an ongoing state of non-compliance with the Sino-British joint declaration. We have also been clear that the imposition of the national security law and the overhaul of Hong Kong's electoral system have undermined the rights and freedoms promised to Hongkongers. We continue to work with our international partners to hold China to its obligations. We will continue to work across Government on the question of a China strategy.

China: Foreign Relations

28 Oct 2022 | 71124

Asked by: Stewart Malcolm McDonald

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Government is committed to publishing a China strategy.

Answering member: Leo Docherty | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Our approach to China is coordinated across Government. The FCDO is at the heart of the cross-Whitehall strategic approach to China, in line with the Integrated Review. It remains the case that we do not publish National Security strategies on China or other issues.

We continue to implement a comprehensive and coordinated approach to China in support of UK national interests, engaging our like-minded international partners as we do so.

[Xinjiang: Human Rights](#)

23 Sep 2022 | 45152

Asked by: Owen Thompson

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what further diplomatic steps she is planning to take with the Chinese Government in relation to the UN Human Rights Office's assessment of human rights concerns in Xinjiang, China.

Answering member: Jesse Norman | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights provides new evidence of the appalling extent of China's efforts to silence and repress Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang. It includes harrowing evidence, including first-hand accounts from victims, that shames China in the eyes of the international community.

The UK has already led international efforts to pressure China to change its behaviour. We have imposed sanctions, led joint statements at the UN, taken action to tackle forced labour in supply chains, funded research to expose China's actions, and consistently raised our concerns at the highest levels in Beijing.

Following the report's publication, we have raised our deep concerns about its findings with the Chinese Embassy in London as well as senior officials in Beijing. We are now considering appropriate next steps with our international partners.

[Hong Kong: Human Rights](#)

29 Jul 2022 | HL1782

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the opinion of Carlos Gomez Martinez, of the United Nations Human Rights Committee that the national security law undermines Hong Kong's judicial independence and the right to a fair trial; and what discussions they plan to have with British judges who serve in Hong Kong.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

China has continued to use the National Security Law and its related institutions to undermine rights and freedoms promised in the Joint Declaration. As National Security Law cases proceed through the Courts, we are seeing the implications of this sweeping legislation, including the chilling effect on freedom of expression, the stifling of opposition voices, and the criminalising of dissent.

It was against this backdrop that the President of the Supreme Court, in consultation with the Foreign Secretary and the Deputy Prime Minister, decided that it was no longer tenable for serving UK judges to sit on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

The UK judges that remain in the Court of Final Appeal are retired from UK judicial service. It is for them to make their own personal decisions on their continued service in Hong Kong.

Deportation: China

06 Jun 2022 | 9082

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review deportations to China in light of human rights concerns relating to that country.

Answering member: Tom Pursglove | Home Office

All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of any relevant caselaw and the latest available country information. Our position on the Uyghurs in China is set out in the relevant country policy and information note on the gov.uk website.

Where someone establishes a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm in their country, they are normally granted protection and are not expected to return there. The Home Office only seeks to return those whose asylum claim have been unsuccessful. By definition, they do not need protection and not at risk on return.

China: Uyghurs

06 Jun 2022 | 8049

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, for what reason the Government has not formally designated actions by the Chinese state against the Uyghur Muslim communities as genocide.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are clear that China's actions in Xinjiang represent gross violations of human rights, for which China must be held to account. However it is the long-standing policy of the British Government not to make determinations in

relation to genocide. Genocide is a crime and there must be no impunity for it. As with other crimes, judgment should be made after all available evidence has been considered by a competent court. The UK has led international efforts to hold China to account at the UN, imposed sanctions on senior Chinese Government officials, and announced measures to help ensure no UK organisations are complicit in these violations through their supply chains. We will continue to act with our international partners to increase the pressure on China to change its behaviour.

China: Diplomatic Relations

01 Apr 2022 | HL7092

Asked by: The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Prime Minister last spoke to President Xi Jinping of China to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign Secretary spoke with her Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi, on Friday 25 February. In the call, the Foreign Secretary underlined that the UK expects China to stand up for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and urged China to uphold its commitment to the UN Charter.

China and Solomon Islands: Foreign Relations

31 Mar 2022 | 148303

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the implications of the draft security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands for (a) the stability and security of the Asia Pacific region and (b) British allies and interests in the region.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK and Solomon Islands have a strong bilateral relationship with shared priorities including security, stability, economic development and tackling climate change. By way of example, at the request of the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the UK sent an Emergency Medical Team (which arrived in Honiara on 11 March) to support the Government of Solomon Islands in dealing with the country's first Covid-19 outbreak. The UK remains committed to increased engagement and strategic focus on the Indo-Pacific, as determined in the 2021 Integrated Review. Bilateral relations between China and Solomon Islands are a matter for those two countries.

China: Olympic Games

31 Jan 2022 | 110418

Asked by: Neil Coyle

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions her Department has had with its Chinese counterparts on the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Since the Prime Minister's statement on 8 December, officials have reiterated to Chinese counterparts the announcement that no officials or ministers will represent the UK Government at the Beijing Winter Olympics and the reasons for this. We also engage closely with the Chinese authorities and Beijing Olympic Organising Committee in relation to the management and operation of the games, in support of the British Olympic Association.

China: Foreign Relations

10 Jan 2022 | 98339

Asked by: Nusrat Ghani

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when the Minister for Asia met with the Chinese Ambassador Zheng Zeguang on 15 December 2021, whether she raised the cases of Parliamentarians who have been sanctioned by the People's Republic of China; and what the outcome of that meeting was.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

In my meeting with Ambassador Zheng on 15 December 2021, I raised the UK's serious concerns regarding human rights in Xinjiang, noting these concerns are widely shared by the international community. I urged the Chinese Government to engage with the evidence provided by the Uyghur Tribunal. I also raised the unacceptable and unwarranted sanctions imposed upon UK Parliamentarians by the People's Republic of China. I emphasised the importance of freedom of speech and Parliamentary independence in the UK, as well as the necessity for Parliamentarians to be able to raise their legitimate concerns.

6

Debates

[Relationship with Russia and China](#)

24 Feb 2022 | 709 cc503-533

Motion that this House calls on the Government to develop separate but aligned cross-Government strategies for both Russia and China; and further calls on the Government to support the international order, working with allies across the globe to develop an approach to Russia and China that, whilst recognising their separate legitimate interests, ensures a robust defence of both UK interests and democratic values. Agreed to on question.

[UK-Taiwan Friendship and Co-operation](#)

10 Feb 2022 | 708 cc1121-1153

Motion that this House notes the importance of the UK's relationship with Taiwan; calls on the Government to continue to work towards the strengthening of the UK-Taiwan trade relationship and deepening of security cooperation; and further calls on the Government to support Taiwan's recognition in the international community. Agreed to on question.

[Beijing Winter Olympics and Chinese Government Sanctions](#)

15 Jul 2021 | 699 cc609-639

Motion that this House believes that the 2022 Winter Olympic games should not be hosted in a country whose Government is credibly accused of mass atrocity crimes; and calls on the UK Government to decline invitations for its representatives to attend the 2022 Beijing Olympic Games unless the Government of the People's Republic of China ends the atrocities taking place in the Xinjiang region and lifts the sanctions imposed on UK Parliamentarians, citizens and entities. Agreed to on question.

[UK Foreign Policy: China and Hong Kong](#)

10 Jun 2019 | 661 cc515-522

Agreed to on question.

[China: UK policy](#)

07 May 2019 | 659 cc241-263WH

Motion that this House has considered UK policy towards China. Agreed to on question.

7

Statements

[Hong Kong Six-monthly Report](#)

12 Jan 2023 | HCWS495

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (James Cleverly): The latest Six-monthly Report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today, and is attached. It covers the period from 1 January to 30 June 2022. The report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A copy is also available on the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office website. I commend the report to the House.

[The FCDO website has the collection of [Six-monthly reports on Hong Kong](#)]

[China](#)

14 Dec 2022 | HCWS445

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (James Cleverly): In October, I summoned China's Acting Ambassador to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to demand an explanation for an incident that had occurred outside the Chinese Consulate General in Manchester. Soon afterwards, His Majesty's Ambassador in Beijing also sought an explanation from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Images carried on social media showed what appeared to be completely unacceptable behaviour by a number of individuals near the entrance to the consular premises. The right of free expression - including the right to protest and to speak one's mind - is absolutely essential to our democratic life.

Given the seriousness of this matter, it was correct and appropriate for Greater Manchester Police to take the decision to begin an investigation. Earlier this month, the Police informed the FCDO that they wished to interview the Chinese Consul General and five of his staff. They asked the FCDO to request the Chinese Government to waive the immunity of those individuals to enable the interviews to take place.

The FCDO made this request and gave the Chinese Government one week to comply. In response, the Chinese Embassy, acting on instructions from Beijing, notified His Majesty's Government that the functions of the Consul General in Manchester have come to an end and he has returned to China. The Embassy has further notified us that the other staff involved in the incident who the Police wish to interview have either left the United Kingdom or will shortly do so.

Throughout this episode, I have sought to emphasise that we in the UK abide by the rule of law, follow due process and respect the operational independence of our police. It was right to allow their investigation to proceed so that we could respond on the basis of evidence and facts, rather than images on social media. I am grateful for the professionalism shown by the Greater Manchester Police, particularly given the complexities involved due to the immunities held by the staff.

We have been clear with China from the outset that we were prepared to take firm action should the police determine that there was a case to charge officials for their involvement in the incident. We expect a certain standard of behaviour from all foreign diplomats and consular staff in the UK regardless of their privileges and immunities.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations allows States to withdraw members of a consular post at any point, as has happened here. However, I am disappointed that these individuals will not be interviewed or face justice. Nonetheless, it is right that those responsible for the disgraceful scenes in Manchester are no longer – or will shortly cease to be – consular staff accredited to the UK.

[FCDO Update on Hong Kong](#)

30 Mar 2022 | HCWS742

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Elizabeth Truss): British judges have played an important role in supporting the judiciary in Hong Kong for many years. Since 1997 judges from other common law jurisdictions, including the UK, have sat on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal as part of the continuing commitment to safeguarding the rule of law.

However, since Beijing's imposition of the National Security Law in 2020, our assessment of the legal environment in Hong Kong has been increasingly finely balanced. China has continued to use the National Security Law and its related institutions to undermine the fundamental rights and freedoms promised in the Joint Declaration. As National Security Law cases proceed through the Courts, we are seeing the implications of this sweeping legislation, including the chilling effect on freedom of expression, the stifling of opposition voices, and the criminalising of dissent.

Given this concerning downward trajectory, the Foreign Secretary has agreed with the Deputy Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor, and the President of the UK Supreme Court Lord Reed, that the political and legal situation in Hong Kong has reached the point at which it is no longer tenable for serving UK judges to participate on the Court of Final Appeal. As such Lord Reed and

Lord Hodge submitted their resignations to the Hong Kong authorities today. We are grateful for their service, and that of their predecessors.

The UK remains committed to stand up for the people of Hong Kong, to call out the violation of their rights and freedoms, and to hold China to their international obligations.

[Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) Visa and Suspension of Extradition Treaty with Hong Kong](#)

22 Jul 2020 | HCWS421

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The decision of the Chinese Government to impose its national security legislation on Hong Kong is a matter of deep regret to this Government. This legislation and its strict implementation constitutes a clear breach of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, undermining the “one country, two systems” framework. It cannot be ignored.

I set out here the Government’s plans for a new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa and for the suspension of our Extradition Treaty with Hong Kong.

Hong Kong BN(O) Visa

Before the handover of the UK’s responsibilities for Hong Kong, we created the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) nationality status which was opened to people in Hong Kong, through a registration process, to those who had British Dependent Territories citizenship. This status recognised the special and enduring ties the UK has with those people as a result of our role in Hong Kong before 1997. Now that China through its actions has changed the circumstances that BN(O) citizens find themselves in, it is right that we should change the entitlements which are attached to BN(O) status. I have decided to significantly improve those entitlements, to reassure BN(O) citizens that they have options to live in the UK if they decide that is an appropriate choice for them.

Today I am laying before the House a command paper (CP 280) providing further detail on a new bespoke Hong Kong BN(O) Visa, covering eligibility, conditions and entitlements, the application process, timing, the position for BN(O) citizens in the UK, and arrangements for BN(O) citizens arriving at the border.

BN(O) citizens in Hong Kong are in a unique position, which is why I have designed a policy which is specific to them in the wider immigration system. It will not set a precedent. It is a proportionate response to the situation which has arisen. The UK is entitled to decide on the rights attaching to BN(O) status

which it has previously conferred and that is what I am doing with these changes.

My offer to BN(O) citizens is therefore a very generous one. There will be no skills tests or minimum income requirements, economic needs tests or caps on numbers. I am giving BN(O) citizens the opportunity to acquire full British citizenship. They do not need to have a job before coming to the UK - they can look for work once here. They may bring their immediate dependants, including non-BN(O) citizens.

At the same time, it is not an unconditional offer. BN(O) citizens will need to support themselves independently while living in the UK; they must meet strict criminality checks and stay of good character; they will need to pay visa fees, the Immigration Health Surcharge and, if they subsequently apply for citizenship after they become settled, the fee and meet the criteria. These are reasonable things to ask of BN(O) citizens, and BN(O) citizens will need to ask themselves whether coming to the UK to put down roots here is the right choice for them. It is a choice I am making available and I welcome warmly all those who decide to take it.

We are planning to open the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa for applications from January 2021. BN(O) citizens do not need to hold a BN(O) passport in order to apply for the visa - so there is no need to apply for or renew a BN(O) passport specifically for this purpose. All BN(O) citizens will need a visa to be able to settle in the UK.

We understand there will be cases where the children of BN(O) citizens will not normally be eligible because they were born after 1997 (so are not BN(O) citizens) and are over 18 so they would not normally be considered as a dependant in the UK's immigration system. Therefore, in compelling and compassionate circumstances, and where applications are made as a family unit, we will use discretion to grant a visa to the children of BN(O) citizens who fall into this category and who are still dependent on the BN(O) citizen.

If the above doesn't apply then the existing youth mobility scheme is open to people in Hong Kong aged between 18-30, with 1000 places currently available each year. Individuals from Hong Kong will also be able to apply to come to the UK under the terms of the UK's new Points Based System, which will enable individuals to come to the UK in a wider range of professions and at a lower general salary threshold than in the past.

The Home Office looks forward to receiving applications for this visa.

Extradition

The imposition of new National Security Legislation has significantly changed the assumptions underpinning the 1998 Agreement for the Surrender of

Fugitive Offenders, our extradition treaty with Hong Kong. The Government remains especially concerned about Articles 55 to 59 of the law, which could give mainland authorities the ability to assume jurisdiction over certain cases and try those cases in Chinese courts.

The National Security Law provides no legal or judicial safeguards in such cases. The decision can be made by the mainland authorities with no reference to the Hong Kong Government. Other than access to a lawyer there are no legal or judicial safeguards in such cases and mainland systems of investigation, trial and punishment, about which the international community has long standing concerns, would apply. If China applies that legislation extraterritorially, it will pose a risk not only to Hong Kong residents who travel abroad, but potentially to British and other Nationals travelling into Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Department of Justice has therefore been notified of our intention to suspend the extradition treaty, immediately and indefinitely, until the UK is sufficiently assured that the new National Security Agency established by China in Hong Kong will not be able to initiate extradition requests to the UK, that extradition requests will not be sent in relation to newly created offences under the National Security Law; and that people extradited from the UK could never be transferred from Hong Kong to mainland China without the UK's explicit consent.

The suspension will protect those resident in the UK, including those who may soon be here by virtue of the new immigration route, from unwarranted pursuit through the provisions of the Extradition Treaty.

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Urgent Questions

Governor of Xinjiang: UK Visit

09 Feb 2023 | 727 cc1018-1027

Sir Iain Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs if he will make a statement on the planned visit to the UK of the Governor of Xinjiang.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Leo Docherty): We understand from the Chinese embassy that the governor of Xinjiang may visit the UK next week. To be very clear, he has not been invited by the UK Government or the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, and we have no confirmation that he will, in fact, travel. Our expectation is that he will travel on a diplomatic passport, and therefore he has not yet been granted a visa. If he does visit, I assure this House that under no circumstances will he be dignified with a ministerial meeting.

China's actions in Xinjiang are abhorrent and we will not legitimise them in any way. However, robust engagement to challenge human rights violations and to stand up for the rights of the oppressed is at the core of the UK's diplomatic work around the world. We must be prepared to use diplomatic channels to achieve that end, hence officials would be prepared to offer him a meeting. In line with that principle, there is only one reason why such a meeting would take place—to make absolutely clear the UK's abhorrence of the treatment of the Uyghur people and to say that we will not relent from exposing the horrors to which they are subject. That point needs to be set out clearly to China. It is only right that people responsible for human rights violations are confronted on these issues.

The UK has played a leading role in international efforts to hold China to account on Xinjiang. In 2019, we became the first country to step up to lead a joint statement on China's actions in Xinjiang at the UN. Since that first statement, which was supported by 23 countries, we have worked tirelessly through our global diplomatic network to broaden the caucus of countries speaking out. Our leadership has sustained pressure on China to change its behaviour and consistently increase the number of countries speaking out. Most recently, our diplomatic effort helped to secure the support of a record 50 countries for a statement on Xinjiang at the UN third committee in October.

We have imposed sanctions on four individuals and one entity in Xinjiang, and have introduced robust measures to tackle forced labour in supply chains. We have consistently raised our concerns at the highest level in Beijing. Let me be

absolutely clear that we will continue to emphasise at all levels that the world is watching what China's authorities say and do in Xinjiang. They cannot hide their abuses. The UK and our allies will not turn away.

Overseas Chinese Police Stations in UK: Legal Status

01 Nov 2022 | 721 cc779-789

Alicia Kearns: To ask the Home Secretary if she will make a statement on the legal status of overseas Chinese police stations operating in the UK.

The Minister for Security (Tom Tugendhat): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a great pleasure to be here on my first outing at the Dispatch Box to speak about something that, as the House will know, I take extremely seriously. Reports of undeclared police stations in the United Kingdom are, of course, extremely concerning and will be taken seriously. Any foreign country operating on United Kingdom soil must abide by UK law. I have discussed this matter with the police and I am assured that they are investigating allegations of unlawful activity. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further on operational matters.

I will take the opportunity, however, to reassure the House of the Government's resolve to take the matter seriously. I will also shortly make a statement to the House on safeguarding our democracy. The protection of people in the United Kingdom is of the utmost importance. Any attempt to illegally repatriate any individual will not be tolerated. This egregious activity is part of a wider trend of authoritarian Governments perpetrating transnational repression in an effort to silence their critics overseas and undermine democracy and the rule of law. For example, we have been aware for some time of efforts to interfere in our academic freedoms and university sector, and we have been taking steps to protect our institutions.

This Government are committed to tackling the challenge of transnational repression wherever it originates. It would be unacceptable for any foreign Government to feel able to operate in that way in the United Kingdom, and it must be stopped. The Home Office works closely with Departments across Whitehall and with devolved Administrations to ensure that our national security is protected and that, in particular, those who have chosen to settle here are free to engage in our democratic society without fear of the regimes that they have tried to leave behind.

Through our excellent police forces and the agencies that work with them, we take a proactive approach to protecting individuals and communities from all manner of threats. Where we identify individuals who may be at heightened risk, we are front-footed in deploying protective security guidance and other measures where necessary. I pay tribute to my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Sir Iain Duncan Smith) and particularly

my hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Alicia Kearns), who has taken over the best job in Parliament as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. They have worked tirelessly on this issue, including with our close international partners.

The upcoming National Security Bill will strengthen our legal powers to deal with transnational repression. Coercion, harassment or intimidation linked to a foreign power that interfere with the freedoms of individuals will be criminalised under the new foreign interference offence in the Bill. Existing criminal offences against a person, such as assault, may also have sentences increased using the state threats aggravating factor in the Bill where they are undertaken for, on behalf of or with the intention to benefit a foreign power. The Bill will introduce a new foreign influence registration scheme, for which many hon. Members have campaigned, including my hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton. That will provide greater transparency around foreign interference in our society.

It is clear, however, that we can and must do more. I have therefore asked officials to step up the work to ensure that our approach to transnational repression is robust, and I have asked our Department to review our approach to transnational repression as a matter of urgency. I will provide an update on that work to the House in due course.

Chinese Government Sanctions on UK Citizens

13 Apr 2021 | 692 cc155-167

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs if he will make a statement on recent sanctions imposed by the Chinese Government on UK citizens.

The Minister for Asia (Nigel Adams): The Government stand in complete solidarity with those sanctioned by China. As the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have made clear, this action by Beijing is utterly unacceptable and unwarranted.

The House will recall that on 22 March, the UK, alongside the EU, Canada and the United States, imposed asset freezes and travel bans against four senior Chinese Government officials and one entity responsible for the violations that have taken place and persist against the Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang. In response, China sanctioned nine individuals and four organisations, including Members of this House and the other place, who have criticised its record on human rights. It speaks volumes that while 30 countries are united in sanctioning those responsible for serious and systematic violations of human rights in Xinjiang, China's response is to retaliate against those who seek to shine a light on those violations. It is fundamental to our parliamentary

democracy that Members of both Houses can speak without fear or favour on matters of concern to the British people.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have made absolutely clear the Government's position through their public statements and on 22 March. I also summoned China's representative in the UK to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to lodge a strong, formal protest at China's actions. This Government have been quick to offer support to those who have been sanctioned. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary held private meetings with the parliamentarians named in China's announcement. My noble Friend, the Minister for human rights, Lord Ahmad, met other individuals and the entities that have been targeted. Through this engagement, we have provided guidance and an offer of ongoing support, including a designated FCDO point of contact and specialist briefing from relevant Departments.

Just as this Government will be unbowed by China's action, I have no doubt that Members across this House will be undeterred in raising their fully justified concerns about the situation in Xinjiang and the human rights situation in China more broadly. I applaud the parliamentarians named by China: my hon. Friends the Members for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton), for Tonbridge and Malling (Tom Tugendhat), for Harborough (Neil O'Brien) and for Wealden (Ms Ghani), my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Sir Iain Duncan Smith), the noble Lord Alton and the noble Baroness Kennedy for the vital role they have played in drawing attention to the plight of the Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang.

This Government have worked with partners to build the international caucus of those willing to speak out against China's human rights violations and increase the pressure on China to change its behaviour. We have led joint statements at the UN's human rights bodies, most recently joined by 38 countries at the UN General Assembly Third Committee in October, and we have backed up our international action with robust domestic measures. In addition to the global human rights sanctions announced on 22 March, the Foreign Secretary announced a series of targeted measures in January to help ensure that British businesses are not complicit in human rights violations in Xinjiang. The United Kingdom will continue to work alongside its partners to send the clearest possible signal of the international community's serious concern and our collective willingness to act to hold China to account for its gross human rights violations in the region.

9

Early Day Motions

25th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong

EDM 243 (session 2022-23)

4 July 2022

John Nicolson

That this House recognises today as the 25th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong to China; laments that Hong Kongers are suffering from the collapse of the rule of law, an unchecked government, repression, erosion of freedoms, and destruction of civil society, despite their hope for continued peace, prosperity and freedom; recalls that, as part of the handover in 1997, the Chinese government promised the people of Hong Kong universal suffrage, a high degree of autonomy, and a commitment that their way of life would remain unchanged for fifty years; regrets that these promises—enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British Agreement and the subsequent Basic Law—have been repeatedly broken by the Chinese Communist Party; expresses grave concern that the freedoms of the press in Hong Kong have been greatly diminished; and calls on the UK Government to support the people of Hong Kong, since the safety and freedoms of Hong Kongers—here in the UK, in Hong Kong, and around the world—must be protected, as must democracy.

Verdict of the Uyghur Tribunal

EDM 763 (session 2021-22)

9 December 2021

Layla Moran

That this House notes with grave concern the findings of the Uyghur Tribunal of 9 December 2021 which detailed the depth and severity of abuses taking place against Uyghurs in Xinjiang by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) including rape, forced re-education, forced labour, mass surveillance, forced sterilisation, cultural and religious destruction; further notes the Tribunal's verdict that there is proof beyond reasonable doubt that the People's Republic of China are committing crimes of torture, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide as defined under international law; calls on the UK Government to accept Parliament's declaration of the atrocities in Xinjiang as a genocide; and urges the UK Government to step up sanctions against CCP officials involved in perpetrating these abuses.

UK representation at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

EDM 149 (session 2021-22)

7 June 2021

Sir Iain Duncan Smith

That this House notes with concern that the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will take place alongside a rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where Uyghurs and other minority groups are subject to widespread forced labour, sterilization, political indoctrination and arbitrary detention; reaffirms its opinion that Uyghurs and other minority groups in the Uyghur Region are victims of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity; reminds the International Olympics Committee that the Olympic Charter's principles of solidarity and non-discrimination are hard to reconcile with holding the 2022 Winter Games in a country whose Government stands credibly accused of perpetrating Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide; affirms that the International Olympic Committee's desire to stay above politics does not permit turning a blind eye to mass atrocity crimes; urges the International Olympics Committee to initiate an emergency search process for suitable replacement facilities for the 2022 Winter Games; calls on the Government to decline invitations for state officials to attend the 2022 Winter Games so long as Beijing remains the host venue; advises the Government to discourage companies operating in the UK from acting as commercial sponsors for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics; recognises that individual athletes have the right to choose whether to participate in the Olympic Games or not and urges them to think carefully about whether they should take part; and encourages the Chinese Government to work with international partners to take verifiable steps to improve the human rights situation of Uyghurs and other persecuted groups.

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