



Conflict Prevention,
Conflict Resolution,
and Peacebuilding

The Rt Hon. Sir Keir Starmer
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

17 June 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We, the undersigned, have come together to urge you to set out the Government's strategy and commitment to resourcing civilian efforts to prevent and address violent conflict.

Violent conflict is now a global crisis, impacting more countries than at any point since the Second World War. From Ukraine to Gaza, Sudan to Myanmar, conflicts are fuelling mass atrocities and forcing families to undertake dangerous journeys to seek safety elsewhere. At a global level, they are disrupting economies and diverting the world's attention away from human rights, climate change and gender equality.

To durably strengthen national security, therefore, the Government must invest not just in defence, but also in development and diplomacy. This includes vital initiatives that prevent, resolve and address the root causes of conflicts as well as those which help societies recover, such as Humanitarian Mine Action and stabilisation programmes. Yet we are gravely concerned that these initiatives may disappear amidst cuts to the aid budget.

This would be a false economy, as conflicts left to escalate and spread will lead to further insecurity, forced displacement and humanitarian crises to which the armed forces and aid agencies must respond.

It would also mark the UK's effective withdrawal from agendas it once championed – from conflict prevention, where it helped bring about peace agreements in the Philippines, Colombia and Ethiopia, to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which it helped establish. Doing so would be a loss to the UK's international standing, and leave peacebuilders, women's rights activists and many vulnerable communities without vital support.

We urge you to make sure the Government and its partners have the resources to turn the tide on the spread of violent conflict. This will require a clear commitment and whole-of Government approach to address violent conflict within the upcoming National Security Strategy. Despite resource constraints, this approach will need to be adequately funded by a ringfenced budget,

equivalent to 4% of the remaining Official Development Assistance for civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding work.

Without this, the UK might risk facing the global conflict crisis with one hand tied behind its back.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Ballinger MP, Chair, Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding APPG



Rt Hon. Lord Jack McConnell, Co-chair, Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding APPG, Former UK Special Representative on Peacebuilding

Tan Dhesi MP, Chair, Defence Commons Select Committee

Sarah Champion MP, Chair, International Development Commons Select Committee

Rt Hon. Baroness Janet Royall, Former Leader of the House of Lords

Baroness Helene Hayman GBE PC, Former Lord Speaker

Baroness Fiona Hodgson, Co-Chair, Women, Peace and Security APPG

Rt Hon. Sir Andrew Mitchell KCMG MP, Former Secretary of International Development

Rt Hon. Lord Des Browne, Former Secretary of State for Defence

Rt Hon. Lord Neil Kinnock, Former Leader of the Labour Party

Rt Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG KC, Former Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for Defence

Rt Hon. Rory Stewart OBE, Former Secretary of State for International Development

Rt Hon. Lord Peter Hain, Former Secretary of State for Wales and for Northern Ireland

Rt Hon. Lord Carwyn Jones, Former First Minister of Wales

Rt Hon. Baroness Hilary Armstrong, Former Chief Whip

Lord Jeremy Purvis, Liberal Democrat Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs spokesperson, House of Lords

Rt Hon. Menzies Campbell, Former Leader of the Liberal Democrats

General (Rtd) Lord Richard Dannatt, Former Chief of the General Staff

Air Chief Marshal (Rtd) Sir Michael Wigston KCB CBE, Former Chief of the Air Staff

Baroness Manningham-Buller LG DCB, Former Director General of MI5

Lord Jonathan Evans KCB DL, Former Director General of the British Security Service

Lord Mark Sedwill GCMG, Former United Kingdom National Security Adviser

Lt General (Rtd) Sir Andrew Graham CB CBE, Former Deputy Commander Coalition Forces in Iraq

Lt Colonel (Rtd) Tobias Ellwood VR, Former Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel

Colonel (Rtd) Hamish de Bretton-Gordon OBE, former commanding officer of the UK's Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment

Major General (Rtd) Tim Cross

Helen Maguire MP, Vice Chair, Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding APPG

Alex Sobel MP, Chair, Ukraine APPG

Blair McDougall MP

Alex Baker MP

David Smith MP

Dr. Beccy Cooper MP

Emily Darlington MP, Chair, Aid Match APPG

Paul Foster MP, Co-chair, Armed Forces APPG

Joe Powell MP

Jon Pearce MP

Kirsteen Sullivan MP

Patricia Ferguson MP, Chair, Scottish Affairs Select Committee

Polly Billington MP

Richard Foord MP

Tim Roca MP

Uma Kumaran MP

Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullaly DBE, Bishop of London

Right Reverend Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the Armed Forces

Right Reverend Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham

Canon Professor David Porter, Centre for Peace and Security, University of Coventry

Senior Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg OBE

Imam Qari Asim MBE, Chair, Mosques and Imams Advisory Board

Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Co-Chair, Christian Muslim Forum

Professor Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford

Professor Stuart Gordon, Professor in Managing Humanitarianism, LSE

Professor Christine Cheng, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in War Studies, King's College London

Professor Mats Berdal, Professor of Security and Development, King's College London

Professor Jonathan Fisher, Professor of Global Security, University of Birmingham

Dr Hugo Slim, University of Oxford, former Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy at the International Committee of the Red Cross

Professor Sir Hew Strachan, Wardlaw Professor of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Lord Raymond Hylton

Baroness Carmen Smith

His Grace The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry KT KBE CVO

Lord David Anderson KBE KC

Lord Stewart Wood, Chair, Economic Affairs Lords Select Committee

Right Reverend Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich

Kolbassia Haoussou MBE, Freedom from Torture

Richard Reeve, Rethinking Security