

UK National Statement

The United Kingdom welcomes the Thirtieth Regular Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Commission has a crucial role in bringing us together to tackle shared challenges on these important issues and as a major donor, the UK is fully committed to the work of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime.

We particularly welcome the Commission's thematic focus on combatting migrant smuggling, which is a top priority for the UK government. We're proud that the UK's Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy, Jennifer Townson, will be a panellist at this week's Thematic Session.

Domestically, we have strong policies and strategies in place to deter and prevent migrant smuggling and well-developed systems for the care of victims of trafficking and modern slavery. But we are determined to do more. In March we announced our New Plan for Immigration to take a "whole of route" approach to dismantling organised crime groups which exploit vulnerable people on the migrant journey.

Organised criminal activity spans many individual threats, including child sexual exploitation, cybercrime, modern slavery, and human trafficking. These are truly horrendous crimes, and in the UK we are fighting to tackle them domestically and transnationally.

We are driving coordination across the UN to crack down on all forms of trafficking and increase support for victims. Our Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking launched at the UN General Assembly in September 2017 has now been endorsed by over 90 countries, and we have been a major donor to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, which is chaired by the UNODC and UNHCR in 2021.

We recently published our Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, the first of its kind, which focuses on the relentless pursuit of abusers and improved protection for victims and survivors.

In partnership with the UNODC, we continue to support and seek opportunities, in over 20 countries, to enhance the capacity of States to combat cybercrime and promote transnational cooperation on criminal investigations.

The global nature of these threats demands global solutions. The recently launched UNTOC Review Mechanism provides an important new avenue for countries to share best practice and experience, and to address possible gaps and challenges.

Earlier this year, the UK demonstrated our commitment to the Review Mechanism by funding a series of expert events and a project with the UNODC aimed at developing a Serious Organised Crime Strategy Toolkit, which will enable policymakers to create or enhance their own national strategies against organised crime.

We are co-hosting a side event with the UNODC on developing effective strategies and eagerly look forward to the toolkit being rolled out in the coming months.

To close, let me thank the UNODC again for facilitating this essential Commission during challenging circumstances.