



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Deputy Speaker,

I rise today to deliver a statement to outline our support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's invasion, the impact of recent events on our diplomatic relations with Russia and our actions in response to this crisis. Ukraine has suffered horrific attacks and requires our help now more than ever. Russia's unjustified attack is causing enormous suffering and tragic loss of life; the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians in schools, homes, and hospitals is dispicable and we remain resolved to stand with the Ukrainian people and President Zelenskyy, who are heroically resisting this premeditated, pre-planned and barbaric military aggression against their sovereign nation.

We are determined to hold President Putin and his regime accountable for this barbaric invasion which has already isolated Russia in the world. The United Kingdom will not stay silent and idle in challenging the unjustifiable attack on Ukraine, which is in clear violation of international law and multiple international commitments. We are doing everything within our power to degrade the Russian economy to restrict its ability to finance Putin's war machine.

Firstly, we are continuing with great vigour in providing Ukraine with more defensive weapons, humanitarian aid and economic support. In our endeavour to provide Ukraine with greater economic assistance, we will be providing an economic package which will include a three-year £150 million package of aid to address the most vulnerable parts of the Ukrainian economy and reduce Ukraine's heavy reliance on gas imports; a fact which Russia has long exploited.

In addition to this, we will be providing an additional £270 million of humanitarian assistance, which will provide Ukrainians with access to basic necessities and vital medical supplies. £150 million of official development assistance will also be provided to support Ukraine's public sector salaries, ensure social protection and core services. The Government is also committed in guaranteeing up to \$600 million in development bank loans to further assist Ukraine's economy. We are always willing to provide further economic aid to support Ukraine, our commitment to provide further assistance will not end here. Furthermore, the Foreign Office is currently working

closely with the Polish Embassy in the UK, granting opportunities and further avenues for people to provide financial assistance through trusted aid and community organisations.

Secondly, I inform the House that I have issued sanctions which target the individuals supporting Putin's war machine, aiding Russia's invasion of Ukraine and are complicit in the murder of innocent civilians. The sanctions also includes the Wagner Group, a Russian private military organisation and a network of mercenaries reportedly tasked with assassinating President Zelenskyy. The key individuals sanctioned today are the following:

- Dmitry Utkin (Founder; Wagner Group);
- Yevgeny Prigozhin (oligarch closely linked to Wagner Group);
- Konstantin Pikalov (Colonel; Wagner Group);
- Eugene Markovich Shvidler (billionaire and associate to Roman Abramovich);
- Oleg Tinkoff (Founder; Tinkoff Bank);
- Herman Gref (Chief Executive Officer; Sberbank);
- Oleg E. Aksyutin (Deputy Chairman of the Management Board; Gazprom PJSC);
- Didier Casimiro (First Vice President; Rosneft);
- Zeljko Runje (Deputy Chairman of the Management Board and First Vice President for Oil, Gas, and Offshore Business Development; Rosneft);
- Galina Danilchenko (Mayor of Melitopol);
- Polina Kovaleva (stepdaughter to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov).

The individuals sanctioned will have their assets frozen and are subject to travel bans. We are also working closely with our allies to exclude Russia from the SWIFT financial system. Further sanctions will be introduced and will apply in the UK and its overseas territories on a rolling basis once we lay out two new pieces of legislation; a Sanctions Bill and an Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Bill. These bills will implement a stricter suite of economic sanctions, reform and broaden the scope of sanction regimes and enforcement regulations. It will also reform and strengthen the Unexplained Wealth Orders Act through the establishment of a new register of overseas entities owning British property.

We are also launching a cross-department Anti-Oligarch Taskforce to hunt down the assets of oligarchs laundering dirty money in the UK. We are entirely committed to going above and beyond sanctions, bringing initiatives to counter Russian influence in the UK and to harden our defence against all forms of hostile state activity. This is all about breaking open the matryoshka doll of the oligarch's dirty money and Russian-owned companies in the United Kingdom.

Furthermore, we are acting in concert with our European and international partners in addressing Ukraine's foreign debt. The war is destroying Ukraine's economy. What they need now is breathing room, not demands from western hedge funds. A bloodied man empties his wallet to his creditor while being mercilessly attacked by an unprovoked assailant - this is the plight of Ukraine at the moment. The Government believes war, and the deaths and suffering of the Ukrainian people, or anyone for that matter, must never be used for profit.

In the coming days, I will be meeting G7 Foreign Ministers to discuss and assess further what we can do to alleviate Ukraine's crisis, and work to persuade the International Monetary Fund

and the World Bank to fund Ukraine without any conditions or strings attached, and to cancel its foreign debt obligations. We will also be vigorously pushing for the World Bank to officially classify Ukraine as a country in conflict and include them in the list of fragile and conflict-affected situations. This classification will ensure the World Bank's strategic focus in Ukraine is adapted and tailored accordingly to the challenges they encounter without straining its economy.

We have all been moved by Ukraine's determination to fight, seeing the devastation inflicted upon innocent people has strengthened our resolve. Vladimir Putin's war may end up lasting for months if not years, so let me speak directly to our Ukrainian friends, and to President Zelenskyy: "We are with you, in the United Kingdom, and around the world, we are prepared to shoulder economic sacrifices and provide further economic aid to support you. However long it takes, this Government will not stop increasing the pressure, amplifying the response until Ukraine's sovereignty is restored."

I commend this statement to the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jones', written in a cursive style.

THE RT HON ERUDITEFELLOW MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS