



FOREIGN SECRETARY

BY EMAIL: Fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

28 January 2026

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Request for support from Stage of Freedom, Iranian diaspora group

We are writing to ask you to pay heed to this moving account of the suffering of the Iranian people set out by the Stage of Freedom organisation, a group of UK-based Iranian women.

Please heed their call for support from the UK. We also urge you to meet the group so you can hear from these brave individuals directly.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Walney
Lord Brady of Altrincham
Lord Roberts of Belgravia
Lord Shinkwin
Lord Wasserman
Baroness Eaton
Rt Hon Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee
Baroness Foster of Oxtou
Lord Polak
The Rt Hon Lord Pickles
Baroness Fox of Buckley
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park
Lord Farmer
Baroness Noakes
Baroness Deech
Lord Austin of Dudley

Lord Marks of Hale
Lord Grade of Yarmouth
Baroness Cash
Lord Young of Acton
Lord Mendelsohn
Lord Mitchell
Lord Leigh
Lord Gold
Baroness Altmann
Lord Evans of Rainow
Lord Harrington
Lord Gascoigne
Lord Massey
Baroness Ludford
Lord Sharpe of Epsom
Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale



UK Parliamentary Engagement on Iran's National Revolution

19 January 2026

Addressed to:

Members of the UK Parliament

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

The Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

Members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords

Iran is in a decisive phase of a national revolution aimed at ending the Islamic Republic and enabling a democratic transition. This phase represents the continuation of a broader national movement that gained global attention during the Woman, Life, Freedom uprising, which exposed systematic repression and acts widely documented as crimes against humanity committed by the Islamic Republic.

The current phase began with a strike in the bazaar, followed by rapid mobilisation across universities and professional groups, and has since expanded into nationwide protests. On 9 January, millions of Iranians were reported to have taken part in mass demonstrations across cities and towns, despite the regime having imposed a near-total communications blackout from the evening of 8 January to suppress coordination and conceal events from the outside world. The scale and geographic spread of this mobilisation—cutting across regions, ethnic communities, and social sectors—demonstrate a unified national demand for fundamental political change.

At this critical juncture, the United Kingdom holds a significant and strategic role. The Islamic Republic of Iran has for decades posed growing threats that extend beyond its borders, including nuclear escalation, ballistic missile proliferation, sponsorship of terrorism, regional destabilisation, transnational repression, and the risk of large-scale displacement and forced migration. These threats have direct implications for UK national security, regional stability, and the safety of British citizens and interests.

At the same time, the people of Iran are confronting this system at its core. After more than 47 years of repression, systematic human rights violations, and the erosion of fundamental freedoms, they are seeking to end a regime that has destabilised both their own country and the wider region.

For the United Kingdom, these realities are neither distant nor abstract. Successive governments and Parliaments have affirmed the UK's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and the principle that legitimate political authority derives from the freely expressed will of the people. In moments when a society moves decisively to reclaim these rights, the stance taken by the UK Parliament carries both moral weight and international influence.



One clear political reality emerging from Iran's current national revolution is that the only name consistently and audibly called on the streets from within Iran has been that of Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi. The largest demonstrations and strikes across the country followed his public call for nationwide protest and coordinated action beginning on 8 January, demonstrating his credibility and capacity to mobilise broad segments of Iranian society.

Since that time, his name has been heard repeatedly across cities and regions, and among diverse social and ethnic groups. This reality, increasingly recognised internationally, points to Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi as a unifying national figure for the transition period. This recognition is not based on ideological alignment, but on respect for the will expressed by the people inside Iran. It encompasses a wide political spectrum—from republicans to constitutional monarchists, from left to right—and reflects participation from across Iran's regions and communities.

His stated role is to help guide Iran through a democratic, peaceful, and orderly transition, in which the future political system will be determined solely by the Iranian people through a free and fair referendum. In this context, he has articulated a clear transition framework, including the Iran Prosperity Project, aimed at preventing chaos, internal conflict, and legal discontinuity following the end of the Islamic Republic. This approach seeks to prepare the ground for a constituent assembly and a nationally inclusive referendum, enabling all Iranians to decide their future freely.

Statements of support and timely engagement from the United Kingdom matter. They raise the political cost of repression and signal that systematic violations of human rights will not be met with silence. The Iranian people value and closely follow the positions taken by democratic parliaments.

However, developments inside Iran underline the urgency of moving beyond expressions of concern alone. Senior officials of the Islamic Republic, including the leadership and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), have openly called for the violent suppression of protesters. Reports from within the country indicate the use of live ammunition against demonstrators as part of a broader pattern of repression. Unofficial accounts suggest that thousands may have been killed or injured, though the true scale cannot be independently verified due to the near-total communications blackout and deliberate suppression of information.

As violence escalates and the space for peaceful expression narrows, delay carries real and irreversible human consequences. This moment therefore requires timely, visible, and consequential political engagement, consistent with the United Kingdom's strategic interests and its long-standing commitment to democratic principles and human rights.

As a concrete next step, we call on the UK Government and Parliament to engage at a senior level with Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, including through formal meetings, to hear directly his assessment of the situation inside Iran and his proposed framework for managing a democratic transition, preventing instability, and preparing the conditions for a free and fair referendum in which the Iranian people will determine their own future.

Signatory

Ellie Borhan

Founder and Policy Maker, Stage of Freedom

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