



UNA-UK

**International Day of
United Nations Peacekeepers**

Remembrance Ceremony

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London

1:30pm, 26 May 2022

The Band of the Grenadier Guards and the Colour Guard of the United Nations Veterans Association will lead members of the diplomatic corps and other wreath-layers to the Cenotaph.

The Ceremony

Address: **David Wardrop**, Chair, Westminster United Nations Association

Prayer: **Fr. Philip Chester**, Vicar, St Matthews Westminster

The bugler sounds *Last Post* and the UN standard is lowered for two minutes. The bugler sounds *Reveille*.

Wreaths are then laid in the following order:

In memory of Count Folke Bernadotte:

Colonel Per Appelkvist, Defence Attaché,
Swedish Embassy

On behalf of former UN servicemen and women:

Kieran Ryan, UN Veterans Association

On behalf of serving UK Contingent Deployments:

Lt. Colonel Will Meddings, Commanding
Officer, 2 Royal Anglian Regiment

In Memory of Commandant René de Labarrière:

Colonel Patrick Bryant, Air and Space Attaché,
Embassy of France

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government:

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for the
United Nations

On behalf of Her Majesty's Armed Forces:

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Chief of Defence
Staff

On behalf of Her Majesty's Police Forces:

Martin Hewitt, Chair of the National Police
Chiefs Council

Members of the Diplomatic Corps in London

On behalf of Widows of UN peacekeepers:

Moira Kane, Secretary, War Widows
Association

On behalf of UK civilian staff:

David Irwin

On behalf of the British Association of Former UN Civil Servants:

Tekeste Teke

On behalf of the United Nations Association:

Frances Chambers

On behalf of the Youth of the World

Pupils from the Grey Coat Hospital School for
Girls & Westminster City School for Boys

Prayer: **Sheikh Ramzy**, Director, Oxford Islamic Information Centre

Closing address: **David Wardrop**

Students from the Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls and the Westminster City School for Boys will serve as marshals throughout the ceremony.

About United Nations Peacekeeping



More than 82,000 UN peacekeepers are currently deployed around the globe in some of the most fraught regions. They stand between civilians and the forces of violence, between crisis and peace. Their bravery and commitment exemplify the UN's mission "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

The UN's 12 current peacekeeping operations cost around \$7 billion a year, about a half percent of global military spending. UN Peacekeeping has a proven track record of preventing conflict and atrocity crimes. Studies have shown that the presence of peacekeepers significantly reduces the risk of renewed warfare and the number of civilian deaths.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

On this day, we remember the 4,197 UN peacekeepers from 120 nations who have lost their lives serving in the cause of peace. Of these, 106 were British. This International Day was first observed in 2003 on 29 May, the date in 1948 when the first mission began operations in Palestine, to pay tribute to all those who died in the line of duty.

The UK in UN Peacekeeping

The UK currently contributes 517 troops to UN peacekeeping missions and is the sixth largest financial contributor to peacekeeping.

About those we remember:

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte, head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II, led a relief expedition to Germany, saving 30,000 concentration camp prisoners. Serving as the UN's mediator in Palestine, he was assassinated in Jerusalem in 1948, becoming the first member of United Nations staff to be killed in the line of duty.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant de Labarrière, was the first UN peacekeeper to lose his life. Serving as a Military Observer in Palestine, he was killed by a landmine in 1948.

About the ceremony:

The UN Veterans Association

The Colour Guard of the UN Veterans Association numbers those who have served in the British or Irish Armed Forces on UN peacekeeping duties. Today, they are joined by contingents from British Army units recently returned from UN Operations in Mali and Cyprus, including the Light Dragoons, the 2nd Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, the 1st Battalion the Rifles, and 6 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps.

The Band of the Grenadier Guards

Formed in 1656, the Grenadier Guards first marched to the sound of drums and fife. In 1815, the regiment entered Paris in triumph, was renamed the Grenadier Guards and gained the now world-famous bearskins after capturing them from Napoleon's Imperial Guard. The band, when mobilised, operates with the Army Medical Services in a chemical decontamination role. It appears today with the kind agreement of Captain Ben Mason.

Ceremonial Lead: Colour Sergeant James Glen, First Battalion the Scots Guards (Instructor, Army School of Ceremonial)

The Organisers

The United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) is the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN. We believe that a strong, credible and effective UN is essential if we are to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. We push for government support for the UN, find ways to make it work better and demonstrate why it matters to people everywhere.

Follow #PKDay22 on social media

For more information on the United Nations Association – UK
www.una.org.uk