

United Nations Association

Westminster Branch

Campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN



The Rt. Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AL

15 September 2019

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I write on behalf of our members who learn with shock that the government has no plans to nominate a candidate for one of the 172 seats on the ten Human Rights treaty bodies.

As we understand it, that means that, upon the expiry of the mandate of Professor Sir Malcom Evans, Chair of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, there will be no one from the UK represented on any of the UN treaty bodies. We regret to hear claims from UK NGOs engaged in Human Rights issues that the UK is now on the cusp of disengagement with the legal end of UN human rights protection for the first time in more than forty years.

At a time when we are seeking to promote a new image of the UK in the international arena, continuing pursuit of this policy by HMG can only damage that ambition. As a Founder Member of the United Nations, it is for us - and other founder members - to take the long view, supporting and promoting in every way the UN's three pillars of freedom; freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom to live in dignity.

I urge you to reconsider your decision.

Yours sincerely,

David Wardrop
Chair

Twinned with UNA Connecticut for World Peace, Disarmament, Development and Human Rights

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