



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Chris Elmore MP

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Dame Emily Thornberry MP
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
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06 March 2026

Dear Dame Emily,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2026 on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee about the FCDO's reporting on human rights and democracy. I am grateful for your long-standing interest in this issue, and I fully recognise the importance of providing clarity for the Committee about what they will be able to scrutinise and when in this area.

This Government remains firmly committed to the protection and promotion of human rights around the world and to reporting publicly on its actions. In December 2024, the FCDO set out five priorities for promoting and protecting human rights, rule of law and democratic governance. I reaffirmed this commitment at the FCDO's International Human Rights Day event on 10 December, and I assure you that the priorities continue to guide our actions. This financial year we have provided £50 million globally to support human rights and democracy. We have also continued to support the protection of human rights in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan, including funding investigations into violations in El Fasher, and at the UN Security Council and Human Rights Council last month, we ensured that the crisis in South Sudan was given the profile it needs.

On the question of the FCDO's Human Rights and Democracy reports, I know that you have personally raised concerns over a number of years – stretching back to the last government – over the significant gaps between editions of what has traditionally been billed as an 'annual report'. As you know, the last such report was published in July 2023, covering the period up to the end of 2022, leaving three calendar years whose events have not been covered by the 'annual reports' published to date. There was a question about whether the new government would seek to 'catch up' chronologically to cover the events and activities of previous years or find a more effective way of reporting on our human rights work in the future.

I am actively considering the options on the latter and I will endeavour to come back to you in the coming months to set out my decisions.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Elmore', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CHRIS ELMORE MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Multilateral, Human Rights, Latin
America and the Caribbean



**Foreign Affairs
Committee**

Friday, 23 January 2026

Chris Elmore MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Multilateral, Human Rights, Latin America and the Caribbean
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Dear Chris

I am writing on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee regarding the Government's long-standing practice of publishing an annual Human Rights and Democracy Report.

As you will know, these reports were published regularly by the FCDO prior to the 2024 General Election, but I note that no equivalent report has been issued in the current Parliament, nor has the Department set out a clear approach to future reporting.

Given your ministerial responsibilities for Human Rights, the Committee would be grateful for clarity on the Department's plans. In particular, I would welcome confirmation on:

- Whether the FCDO intends to continue the practice of producing an annual Human Rights and Democracy Report;
- If so, when the next report can now be expected; and
- If not, what alternative mechanism the Department intends to use to ensure transparency and accountability in the Human Rights area.

Predecessor committees would hold regular evidence sessions with previous Foreign Office ministers to scrutinise the Department's work using the report as a vehicle. If the format of the Department's reporting has changed, the Committee will need to reconsider its method of scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to Lord Alton of Liverpool and his clerks.

Dame Emily Thornberry MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee