

Rt Hon Lord Alton of Liverpool
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

21 July 2026

Dear David,

Thank you for meeting on 29 June to discuss transnational repression (TNR). I am also grateful for your continued engagement on this issue as Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

I committed to providing an update on the work undertaken across government since the commencement of the Committee's inquiry into transnational repression. Our approach continues to be informed by the Committee's report, the Defending Democracy Taskforce's review of TNR, and our wider engagement with civil society and operational partners. Together, these insights help shape our response to state-directed activity targeting individuals in the United Kingdom and strengthen our ability to identify, disrupt, and prevent such activity.

I know that the safety of journalists is of particular importance to the Committee. The Security Minister recently wrote to key representatives from the media and press freedom organisations to highlight the support available to journalists facing threats. This has been accompanied by work with policing partners to strengthen the operational response to threats targeting journalists. Since October 2025, every police force in the United Kingdom has had designated Journalist Safety Liaison Officers (JSLOs). These officers provide journalists with a consistent point of contact regarding the full range of safety and security concerns they may face, including transnational repression.

The Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) jointly convene the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists, which oversees delivery of the National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists. Officials are working with DCMS, the National Police Chiefs' Council and Counter Terrorism Policing to equip JSLOs to identify and respond to foreign interference and transnational repression, supported by the wider rollout of foreign interference briefings and additional guidance.

I know that the Committee has also taken a close interest in how victims of transnational repression are supported. We remain committed to ensuring that those affected are able to access practical advice, report concerns, and receive appropriate support. Updated [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

guidance, complemented by [National Protective Security Authority](#) guidance published in May, provides practical advice on recognising threats, preserving evidence, and accessing support. We encourage anyone who believes they may be experiencing transnational repression to report their concerns through the usual policing channels; via 101, visiting a local police station, or calling 999 in an emergency.

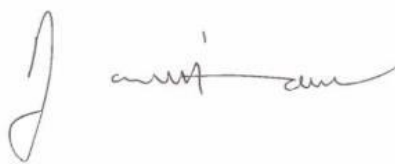
We have strengthened our engagement with civil society, to ensure that the voices and experiences of victims continue to shape our approach. We have also undertaken a programme of engagement with local authorities, policing and frontline partners to raise awareness of the indicators of transnational repression, promote reporting routes, and improve understanding of the threat. We are working closely with international partners to share information, identify emerging trends, and develop collective responses to TNR. This includes engagement through the Council of Europe and other multilateral forums.

Further, the Government continues to update legislation as necessary to respond to state threats. As you will be aware, the National Security (State Threats) Act forms part of a wider programme of work to strengthen our national resilience against hostile state activity. Its provisions complement the powers introduced by the National Security Act 2023 and help ensure that law enforcement and the security services have the tools needed to respond to an evolving threat landscape.

You also raised concerns during both the Committee's inquiry and recent parliamentary debates regarding the role of the People's Republic of China in TNR, including the new Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress. The Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office has discussed this law with Chinese officials, stressing the importance that the law does not harm the rights of members of minority groups and that it is not applied extraterritorially. We will never tolerate attempts by foreign governments to coerce, intimidate, harass, or harm their critics overseas, and anyone caught assisting a foreign state to undermine our security will be brought to justice.

I recognise and appreciate your continued advocacy on this issue. I hope this update reassures you that the Government has taken significant steps since the inquiry began to strengthen our response to TNR and support those affected. As the threat evolves, so too will our response, ensuring that our systems are constantly improving to remain effective at protecting individuals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

Lord Hanson of Flint
Minister of State