



UNA-UK

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The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
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9 June 2015

Dear Minister,

Thank you very much for participating in the wreath-laying ceremony for UN Peacekeepers at the Cenotaph on Wednesday 20 May. UNA-UK was pleased that the Government was represented by a Minister of State on this solemn and unique occasion to give thanks to UN peacekeepers past and present.

UNA-UK is eager to ensure that British UN peacekeepers – whether they are military, police or civilian personnel – receive the commemoration and gratitude they so highly merit.

British UN peacekeepers commit their energy, dedication and sometimes their lives for the protection of innocent people abroad. Their sacrifice is not well known by the UK public at large. There is no public recognition of their service – no UK medal or award, national day, place to lay flowers or give thanks.

If the UK is to continue or strengthen its contributions to UN peace operations, the public needs to be aware of our past and present contributions. Celebrating the service of the people behind the numbers is a positive way of doing this.

UNA-UK's wreath-laying ceremony is the only event of its kind in the UK. While the charge of this event is an honour and a privilege, UNA-UK is hopeful that the commitment and dedication of British peacekeepers will be more officially recognised alongside this event in future.

The UK government should be proud of their global service and find an appropriate way to honour our peacekeepers and their vital work. This could include a the designation of a national day of remembrance, the presentation of a special award or medal (for military, police and civilian personnel) or the creation of a commemorative public space.

Our members and supporters feel strongly that British peacekeepers should be commemorated by the UK Government in a manner befitting their service. Over 450 of them, including a number of parliamentarians, former UK diplomats and British UN civil servants, signed a petition to this effect (enclosed). This idea has also been endorsed by our local groups in all four nations of the UK.

I hope you will consider how Her Majesty's Government might find a way to honour British peacekeepers in a public and appropriate manner. UNA-UK would be happy to support you further in this regard.

Warm regards,

Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chair, UNA-UK