



Mr Hervé Ladsous  
Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
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Dear Under-Secretary-General,

I am writing on behalf of the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK) to convey the sincere support of our members and supporters for the thousands of peacekeepers – military, police and civilian – who are working to create the conditions for lasting peace in some of the world's most fragile contexts. The tragic events in Darfur last week serve as a grim reminder of the sacrifices they make in pursuit of a safer world.

UNA-UK is the UK's leading source of independent analysis on the UN and a UK-wide grassroots movement. A key part of our work is making the case for the UN in the UK, which includes the promotion of UN peacekeeping as a vital tool for the international community.

Earlier this year, we convened a roundtable with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office to identify current peacekeeping challenges and consider ways in which the UK might usefully increase and adapt its assistance to field missions. We also support the annual commemoration of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers in the UK, which is jointly organised by our Westminster branch and the Royal United Services Institute.

This year, we used the commemoration to launch a 'Thank a Peacekeeper' campaign in the UK, which we hope to replicate and grow in the coming years. Our open letter of support to UN peacekeepers received 209 signatures, as well as 60 personal messages. We are delighted with this response from UNA-UK's members and supporters, which we believe is indicative of the broader support within the UK public for the valuable work of the UN's 'blue helmets'.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the open letter and 60 individual messages received. We would be most grateful if your department could transmit these as appropriate to currently serving peacekeeping personnel. Copies will be sent to the UK government and to a UK-based group of UN peacekeeping veterans, who know all too well the challenges faced by their successors.

If there is anything that UNA-UK could do to support your department, including through further awareness-raising activities, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Samarasinghe  
Executive Director, UNA-UK