



Statement on Boko Haram's mass kidnapping in Nigeria

Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Michael Lake, has today called for the countries of the Commonwealth to stand together in condemning the actions of Boko Haram and to offer assistance to the Nigerian government in any way that they can.

Mr Lake said: "The actions of Boko Haram should of course be universally denounced, but we especially call on Commonwealth members, who have strong historical ties and shared values, to offer Nigeria more than kind words. We urge the Commonwealth to come together, as a family should do in a time of crisis, and consider if there is any support that they could offer at both the governmental and non-governmental levels in finding the girls. In the longer term, we call on the Commonwealth to reiterate a steadfast commitment to the right to education, as recognised in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in the Commonwealth Charter."

"The Royal Commonwealth Society will be following developments very closely and joins the rest of the world in hoping for the prompt and safe return of the girls."

Notes to Editors

The Royal Commonwealth Society is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world.

Founded in 1868, the Society is constituted by Royal Charter (amended 2013) and as a charity. It is non-partisan, is independent of governments and is supported solely by public generosity.

The Society engages with its youth, civil society, business and governmental networks to address issues that matter to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Its primary focus is the promotion of young people throughout the Commonwealth.

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