



British Association of  
Perinatal Medicine



Royal College of  
Obstetricians &  
Gynaecologists



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Sent via email  
8 March 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

From the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM) Executive Committee (in association with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).)

Together our organisations advocate for women and pregnant people, babies, children and their families and the staff who support them. We are deeply disturbed by the events currently unfolding in Ukraine and the associated profound impact on healthcare provision for women and babies. We write to you now, both in your role as Foreign Secretary and as Minister for Women & Equalities, to ask for your help.

In normal times, around 1,000 babies are born each day in Ukraine and about 100 of them will require some form of care in neonatal units with specialist medical supplies and equipment. We remain in contact with colleagues in Ukraine and are very concerned by the evolving situation. Pregnant women who are understandably trying to leave Ukraine are faced with a range of hardships, including queues up to 20-30km long to cross the border. Babies are being born and cared for in underground bomb shelters, often with no heating or electricity supply. Undoubtedly, and tragically, many of these mother and babies will die unnecessarily.

In early March, [BAPM](#), [RCOG](#) and [RCPCH](#) all published statements standing in solidarity with Ukraine, and with all of our healthcare professional colleagues who continued to provide medical assistance in such challenging circumstances.

We now call on the international community to proceed at pace to create humanitarian corridors to achieve three key objectives:

- To allow safe expedited passage of pregnant and newly delivered women, babies and children out of Ukraine
- To allow safe medical evacuation of babies requiring neonatal care
- To allow safe passage and delivery of urgent life-saving medical supplies to the dedicated perinatal teams in all areas of the Ukraine who are caring for women and their babies in horrific conditions.

We commend and support the donations from the NHS, and ask that medical supplies and equipment specifically for mothers and babies are included.

It is positive that the Prime Minister's six-point plan for the conflict includes the need to "mobilise an international humanitarian coalition for Ukraine". It is vital that this addresses the specific challenges of mothers and babies. As Foreign Secretary, we would be grateful for your response on the following:

- *How will the UK government advocate for the urgent implementation of humanitarian corridors to preserve the lives of women and babies?*



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- *What steps will the UK government take to advocate for civilians, particularly women and children?*
- *How will the UK government ensure that the NHS donations include supplies for women,, children and babies?*

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is recognised as a champion for women's rights worldwide. We would encourage your continued leadership on this in the context of the current crisis in Ukraine and would welcome steps taken to support the needs of women, babies, children, and the healthcare professionals who care for them, in your response.

We appreciate these are incredibly difficult circumstances and recognise the work your department is doing to support the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

We would be happy to discuss this letter in greater detail either with you or relevant officials in your department. If this would be of interest your office can contact [kate.dinwiddy@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:kate.dinwiddy@rcpch.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Camilla Kingdon**, President, Royal Collage of Paediatrics and Child Health

**Dr Helen Mactier**, President, British Association of Perinatal Medicine

**Mr Edward Morris**, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

CC.

**Kemi Badenoch MP**, Minister for Equalities

**Baroness Deborah Stedman-Scott OBE DL**, Minister for Women

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon**, Minister for the United Nations