



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Message from  
Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

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On 23rd January 1899, Sheikh Mubarak the Great signed a Treaty of Friendship with Captain S.G. Knox, the British Political Agent in the Gulf. They could not have foreseen that the friendship between Kuwait and Britain would last so long or be so fruitful.

This year, I am delighted to mark the 120th anniversary of this friendship, steeped in the shared history of our two countries and focused on the future. On four occasions, Britain has come to the defence of Kuwait: in 1899, 1921 and 1961. Most recently, Margaret Thatcher secured a United Nations mandate to free Kuwait in 1990. Her successor, John Major, sent British forces to be the second largest component of the coalition that liberated Kuwait in 1991.

Today, British Forces often train and exercise alongside their Kuwaiti counterparts. Our ministers meet twice a year for our Joint Steering Group,

charged with taking forward our bilateral relationship in many key areas, including trade, health, education and security.

Oil remains central to Kuwait's economy – and UK companies have been working in Kuwait since its discovery. British expertise has helped Kuwait to make the most of its natural wealth, exploring, extracting and producing oil. The UK will continue to offer our skills in future discovery, efficiency and diversification programmes.

In future, I hope we can do even more together. In particular, I hope to broaden our cooperation in financial services, infrastructure and Cyber Security. The UK looks forward to supporting Kuwait's ambitious 2035 Vision; providing yet more opportunities to work together.

The natural friendship between our countries means that many Kuwaitis consider the UK to be their second home. I am proud to say that Britain is the first choice for

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overseas study and our world class universities welcome more Kuwaiti students every year.

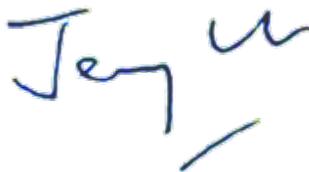
The 120th anniversary has provided many opportunities for cultural co-operation. The partnership between the British Council and the National Council for Arts and Literature in Kuwait has produced an ambitious programme of events throughout the year, including the first visit to Kuwait by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

On the world stage, Kuwait has used its place

on the United Nations Security Council and other international fora to be a voice of reason and moderation.

Our shared values and interests have allowed our countries to pursue joint goals, including the lasting stability of the Gulf.

I have no doubt that our friendship will last for many generations to come and I am privileged to mark this important anniversary. 



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
*Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*