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The Republic of Somaliland stands for peace and calls on its neighboring countries to reciprocate

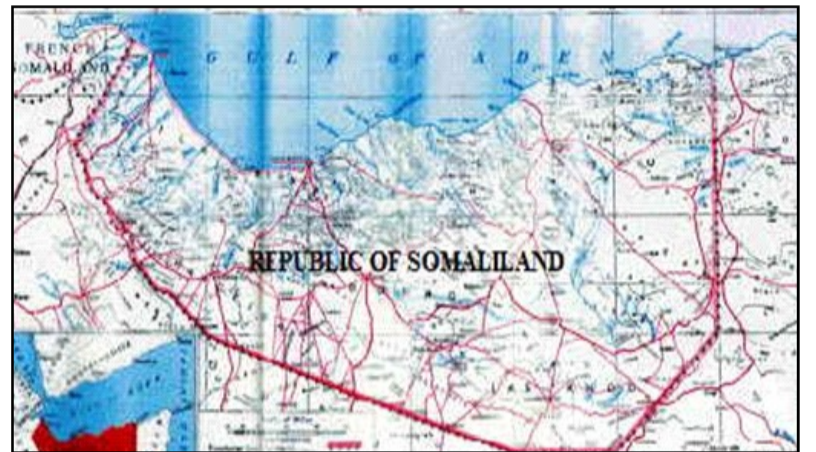
It is opposed to any form of ideology that includes violence and extremism in any form



PRESS RELEASE

We wish to first state unequivocally, the Republic of Somaliland is not seeking to instigate controversy; rather, we find ourselves confronted by it. The purpose of this statement and corresponding video is to make clear to the world the dangers presented to Somaliland and the

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Ethiopia's premier rules out conflict with Somalia regarding Red Sea Access deal with Somaliland



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ruled out conflict with Somalia on Tuesday regarding a Red Sea Access deal with Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland.

Ahmed told the federal parliament

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Italy, please don't listen to him, Africa has already expressed itself differently- Jama Musee Jama



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Lord Cameron told 'miraculous' African country must be recognized to end Red Sea crisis



Ex-Foreign Minister Lord Goldsmith has reacted with joy to Express.co.uk revelations that the the UK is "sympathetic" to recognising a vital African country.

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Somaliland Rubbishes Somalia Federal Government Claim of Southern Tip of Red Sea Gulf



Minister of Information, Culture and National Awareness Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed (Ali Marehaan) has strongly refuted Mogadishu claim over the Southern tip of the Red Sea Gulf. He stated that if truly

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Farah Maalim divisive comments draw criticism from Kenyan Youth, Apology demanded



The Patriotic Youth of Kenya strongly condemned Hon. Farah Maalim's divisive remarks during the inauguration of

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Implementing Ethio-Somaliland MoU Crucial to Bolster Regional Development, Security: HPR Standing Committee Chair

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Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal: Somaliland's Pathway to International Recognition

Dr. Mohamed Farah Hersi

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Academy for Peace and Development | January 2024 |



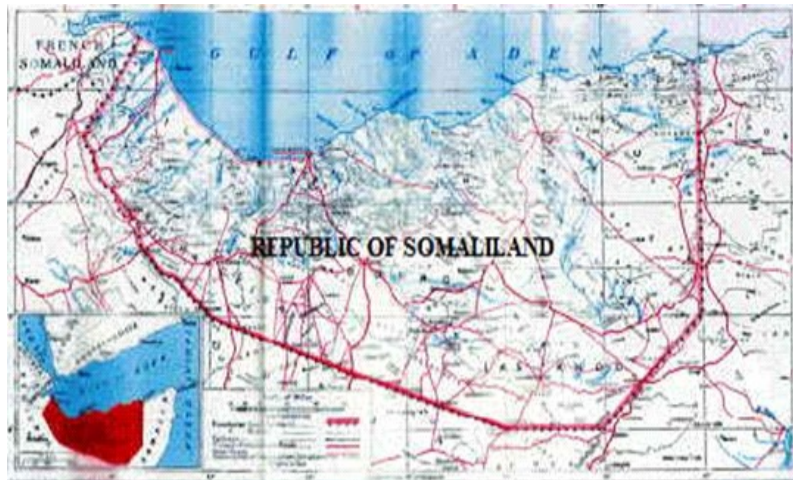
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Implementing Ethio-Somaliland MoU Crucial to Bolster Regional Development, Security: HPR Standing Committee Chair



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The Republic of Somaliland stands for peace and calls on its neighboring countries to reciprocate



region by the aggressive and virulent ideology of Somali-Weyn/Greater Somalia or One Somalia policy. This video clip, recorded in Minneapolis, MN, contains similar sentiments previously expressed by a sitting member of the United States House of Representatives, but in a more organic and violent form, complete with the invocation of Jihad and the explicit promise of funding from within the United States. The message is intended for Somalia's President and anyone who share similar beliefs. Ironically, the ideology of One Somalia/Greater Somalia does not stop there. It is also pervasive within the corridors of power in

Washington DC. According to public information, the Somalian government, through its embassy in Washington, DC, and like-minded Somali American corporations registered in Minnesota, have financially supported this philosophy, hiring a lobbying company in Washington DC to advocate a milder version known as "One Somalia." Eventually the truth always comes out. The lobbying firm in question is Von Batten-Montague-York. Federally mandated quarterly filings available to the public, indicate various financial sources, over hundreds of thousands of dollars from among others, the Somalian

Embassy in DC and an organization registered in Minnesota, under the name "United Somali Alliance." Those in doubt, or anyone else who wants to fully understand what "United Somalia" means, simply watch this video in its entirety. Strangely, within a few minutes of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's speech, the lobbying firm through their twitter account, were quick to distance themselves from her speech. We hope, this statement addresses the Greater Somalia ideology peddled by the government of Somalia and its lobbying partners along Pennsylvania Avenue, as well as the ramifications for the entire Horn of Africa if it is implemented. Further denial is no longer a viable or practicable option. Lastly, we cannot emphasize enough, The Republic of Somaliland stands for peace and is opposed to any form of ideology that includes violence and extremism in any form. The people of Somaliland strive to coexist with all neighbors in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Horn of Africa that is free of past Somalia irredentism and hate.

Lord Cameron told 'miraculous' African country must be recognized to end Red Sea crisis

Pressure is mounting on the UK government "to do the right thing" and recognise former British Protectorate Somaliland to help tackle the escalating crisis in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. The latest senior politician to add his voice is Conservative former foreign minister Lord Goldsmith who posted a reaction to revelations from Express.co.uk that Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron is "sympathetic" to the idea. Goldsmith posted: "I couldn't be happier to see this. I so hope it is true. Somaliland is one of the most exciting countries in the world. "Against all the odds, it is a peaceful, democratic, prosperous and wonderful country with some of the best people in the world. How they managed to do this, despite being surrounded by terror and chaos is really nothing short of miraculous. "The day will come when Somaliland is formally recognised, and when it is, a light will be switched on whose glow will be felt across the world." He was reacting to a viral response to articles by Express.co.uk on Somaliland with momentum gathering for formal recognition. Somaliland was a UK protectorate that became the 17th African country to be given full independence on June 26 1960 but within days it united with Somalia. However, after years of persecution and ethnic

tensions, Somaliland declared independence in 1991 using its original boundaries as the British protectorate but has not been officially recognised for 33 years. Now a breakthrough may have happened with a Memorandum of Understanding with Ethiopia which has become the first major African state to give Somaliland recognition. Supporters of Somaliland's case have pointed out that it is a stable and peaceful democracy, with an excellent record on women's rights. Meanwhile, Somalia, which lays claim to Somaliland has become a failed state and haven for piracy and terrorists. With its port Berbera on the Gulf of Arden and near the Red Sea, Somaliland is a strategically vital place to tackle the Houthi attacks on shipping in the world's busiest trade lane which has seen both the UK and US drawn into action. The campaign in the UK has been spearheaded by former Defence Secretary Sir Gavin Williamson, who held the recent meeting with Lord Cameron. He told Express.co.uk: "If we do not seize this opportunity others will, and we will lose out on an ally in enormously strategic place who has immensely goodwill towards the UK." Sir Gavin was recently accompanied in a trip to Somalia with another senior MP, former



Attorney General Sir Michael Ellis. Writing for Express.co.uk: Sir Michael said: "The West needs all the friends it can get in a time of worrying instability in the world and here is a friend looking to help the West in a region where such allies are few and far between. "It is in the UK's strategic and economic interests to recognise Somaliland- but it would also be the morally right thing to do." Meanwhile, the issue has also been raised in the Commons by Conservative Rother Valley MP Alexander Stafford. He said: "Somaliland, a relative haven of democracy, freedom, and education in an otherwise unstable region, has been seeking recognition for a third of a century. "The UK's position is that regional recognition must come before international recognition and Somaliland recently signed MOU with Ethiopia is the first step on that road. "The UK must not wait any longer and take advantage of our unique diplomatic position as the UN Penholder to formally recognise Somaliland and continue our legacy of supporting democracies the world over."

Ethiopia's premier rules out conflict with Somalia regarding Red Sea Access deal with Somaliland



that Addis Ababa has no intention of causing harm to Somalia as he invoked Ethiopian soldiers who had died for the "peace of Somalia." He said the Ethiopian and Somali peoples are "bound by blood." "Therefore, the friendship between the two countries is profound," he said, adding that Ethiopia does not acknowledge war against any country "in principle." But he said external forces, who he did not name, are trying to incite conflict between the two nations "which should not happen." He said the request for sea access with Somaliland is based on mutual benefit that is useful not only for Ethiopia but for regional cooperation. Relations between the two neighbors have been worsening since Ethiopia struck the deal with Somaliland on Jan. 1. Somalia has rejected Ethiopia's Red Sea port deal with Somaliland,

calling it "illegitimate," a threat to good neighborliness and a violation of its sovereignty. It also recalled its ambassador to Ethiopia after the deal was announced. The Ethiopian government has defended its decision to sign the deal without Mogadishu's approval, and said the agreement with Somaliland "will affect no party or country." The deal allows Ethiopia to obtain a permanent and reliable naval base and commercial maritime service in the Gulf of Aden. Ethiopia lost its Red Sea ports in the early 1990s after the Eritrean War of Independence, which lasted from 1961 to 1991. In 1991, Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia, leading to the establishment of two separate nations. The separation resulted in Ethiopia losing direct access to the Red Sea and key ports.

Officials of the Accountant General's Office in orientation tour in Uganda



By M.A. Egge
A delegation led by the Deputy Accountant General of Somaliland, who is on an orientation business trip to Uganda, is having a meeting with the Accountant General of the country. The Accountant General of Uganda, Lawrence Semakula received the officials led by Mr. Keyse Muhammad Abdillahi. During their working trip, they will have meetings to share experiences with the Ugandan counterparts. Orientations would include the management and administration of public finances and modern programs to improve accounting and public finances.

The Somaliland delegation was warmly welcomed in Kampala by the head of politics, planning and financial services in Uganda, who briefed the delegation on the working process of the National Financial Management Office (PFM) in Uganda and on the changes they are making. Somaliland officials from the Office of the Accountant General will stay in Uganda for a period of 10 days, with the expectation that the knowledge they will return with will improve Somaliland's implementation of changes in the management of national finances related to accounts and other functions of the accountant general's office.

Farah Maalim divisive comments draw criticism from Kenyan Youth, Apology demanded



the Puntland President on January 25, 2024, expressing their embarrassment and anger.

They reject the characterization of them as manipulative pawns for chaos and call for peaceful conflict resolution. They demanded a public apology from Maalim.

Below is full statement of their press; we express our gratitude to the members of the media for showing up to this very important press statement by the Patriotic youth of the Republic of Kenya. Your presence underscores the importance we place on delivering this message to the public and ensuring that it reaches every corner of our nation and to our good neighbouring countries herein mentioned.

We, the patriotic youth of this great Nation (Kenya), who value our good relationships with neighboring countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, Somaliland others, stand before you today, pressing our concern and strongest disapproval of the imprudent statements made by

Hon. Farah Maalim, Member of Parliament for Dadaab Constituency during the inauguration of the Puntland president on 25th January 2024.

The Honorable Farah Maalim, a public of Kenya, stated that he is ready and willing to mobilize youth from Garissa to go to Somalia and fight Ethiopians. As patriotic youth of this nation, we are embarrassed and angered by Hon. Farah Maalim's statements. Such remarks make us feel insecure and, to a greater extent, we view him not as a responsible statesman but as an agent provocateur agent, who is wielding incitement as a tool and appearing to function as a recruitment agent for militia groups. This act diminishes the principles of diplomacy, decorum, and responsible governance that Kenya is known for all over.

While the youth, are vulnerable and considered manipulable pawns for chaos and serving certain people's personal interests, we, categorically

reject such characterizations, as portrayed by Hon. Farah, we, the youth believe in peaceful conflict resolution in case of disagreements, whether between individuals or states. We expect all our leaders to protect and provide meaningful solutions to ensure youth are more socio-economically empowered.

We remind Hon. Farah to stick to his constitutional role as the Member of the Parliament of Kenya and ensure adequate and efficient service delivery. The era of mobilizing youth to cause chaos within or outside Kenya is no longer existing within us. We believe in Unity, Love and peaceful coexistence within and outside Kenya.

In light of the above, we demand the following:

1. Hon. Farah Maalim to publicly apologize to the Youth of Kenya, especially those from Garissa, Kenya as a nation, Ethiopia, Somaliland and Somalia for making such inciteful and undiplomatic statements.

2. Explanation from Hon. Farah Maalim to the Republic of Kenya if such a statement were made on behalf of the Kenyan Government or on whose behalf or authority.

3. We believe that adherence to these demands will help restore trust in the leadership and prevent the escalation of tensions that may arise from such irresponsible statements

Somaliland Rubbishes Somalia Federal Government Claim of Southern Tip of Red Sea Gulf



ruled over the area it would have been ravaged by pirates, terrorist and illegal arms dealers taking control and making it a safe haven of all outlaws.

The government spokesman stated these on a post in his X account (Twitter). He affirmed that Somaliland governs and controls the area since it is under her territory and brushed Somalia claim as mere propaganda.

Minister Ali Marehaan said that Somaliland government had cleansed southern tip of the Red gulf from pirates, terrorists, illegal arm dealers and criminals.

He added that Somalia president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was looking for sympathy from the international community while pretending that he controls the important maritime route of Baab Al Mandaab.

"Somaliland governs the Southern tip of the Red Sea Gulf and, had the Federal Government of Somalia had the control of this area it would have been an outlaws' haven and a theatre of insecurity."

He said "Somaliland Red Sea coast has a secure maritime pass way where international shipping move without hindrance."

"Against all the odds, it is a peaceful, democratic, prosperous and wonderful country with some of the best people in the world. How they managed to do this, despite being surrounded by terror and chaos is really nothing short of miraculous."

"The day will come when Somaliland is formally recognized, and when it is, a light will be switched on whose glow will be felt across the world."

He was reacting to a viral response to articles by Express.co.uk on Somaliland with momentum gathering for formal recognition. Somaliland was a UK protectorate that became the 17th African country

to be given full independence on June 26 1960 but within days it united with Somalia. However, after years of persecution and ethnic tensions, Somaliland declared independence in 1991 using its original boundaries as the British protectorate but has not been officially recognized for 33 years.

Now a breakthrough may have happened with a Memorandum of Understanding with Ethiopia which has become the first major African state to give Somaliland recognition. Supporters of Somaliland's case have pointed out that it is a stable and peaceful democracy, with an excellent record on women's rights. Meanwhile, Somalia, which lays claim to Somaliland has become a failed state and haven for piracy and terrorists.

With its port Berbera on the Gulf of Arden and near the Red Sea, Somaliland is a strategically vital place to tackle the Houthi attacks on shipping in the world's busiest trade lane which has seen both the UK and US drawn into action.

The campaign in the UK has been spearheaded by former Defence Secretary Sir Gavin Williamson, who held the recent meeting with Lord Cameron.

He told Express.co.uk: "If we do not seize this opportunity others will, and we will lose out on an ally in enormously strategic place who has immensely goodwill towards the UK."

Sir Gavin was recently accompanied in a trip to Somalia with another senior MP, former Attorney General Sir Michael Ellis. [Writing for Express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk): Sir Michael said: "The West needs all the friends it can get in a time of worrying instability in the world and here is a friend looking to help the West in a region where such allies are few and far between."

"It is in the UK's strategic and economic interests to recognize Somaliland- but it would also be the morally right thing to do."

Meanwhile, the issue has also been raised in the Commons by Conservative Rother Valley MP Alexander Stafford.

He said: "Somaliland, a relative haven of democracy, freedom, and education in an otherwise unstable region, has been seeking recognition for a third of a century."

"The UK's position is that regional recognition must come before international recognition and Somaliland recently signed MOU with Ethiopia is the first step on that road."

"The UK must not wait any longer and take advantage of our unique diplomatic position as the UN Penholder to formally recognize Somaliland and continue our legacy of supporting democracies the world over."

Italy, please don't listen to him, Africa has already expressed itself differently- Jama Musse Jama

In a recent interview, the President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, expressed with some nostalgia the memory of the brotherhood that once linked the Italian fascist colonizers of the Mussolini era to the African people. He spoke of a people-to-people relationship, inviting the "owners" of the arable lands and plantations, without reflecting on the period when the plantations between the two rivers in the Horn of Africa were unjustly taken from the indigenous owners and cultivated by the Italian colonialists. The latter exploited and dehumanized indigenous workers, forcing them to perform arduous and inhumane work. When has a certain brotherhood ever materialized?

He should be ashamed of himself for making such a request. As an African, he should reflect on his words and their consequences. Before speaking, it would be appropriate for him to find out more. Fortunately, today's Italians, like many other peoples in the contemporary world, have developed a critical awareness and have dissociated themselves from

the crimes committed in the past. Similarly, Africans today, along with all those who have suffered historical injustices, have worked to overcome the painful past by writing about and condemning colonialism as a crime against humanity.

I want to communicate a thought derived from my dual identity as an Italian and an African to today's Italians.

Dear Italians, I urge you not to return to the plantations. If Italy were to return, let it be to support projects such as that of the National University, one of the most significant in the field of authentic, equal, and beneficial interpersonal relationships for both peoples, which had already started in the 1980s. This is the type of collaboration that should characterize an eventual return.

Returning to recover the land is unnecessary, as it was obtained illegally. There is no refund for properties obtained unlawfully during the fascist period nor for industries such as that of the Duke of Abruzzi, for which restitution is impossible. If Italy were to return, it should do so to compensate for

what was wrongly perpetrated in that period.

As regards the "Messenger," who acts as an exclusive representative of himself, I highly recommend reading works such as "Black Skin, White Masks" by Frantz Fanon (1967) and "Frantz Fanon and the Psychology of Oppression" by Hussein Bulhan (1985). Furthermore, it might be useful to explore texts such as Hegel's "The Phenomenology of Mind" (1966), Mannoni's "Prospero and Caliban: the Psychology of Colonialism" (1968), and Orlando's "Slavery and Social Death". (1982).

I hope this enlightens him not to distort the message, aware as an African of the horror in the words accompanying his outbursts. I am not the spokesperson for the people of Somalia, since they are capable of expressing themselves independently. However, I find myself speaking as an African and a Somalilander, who would like to convey profound disgust at the words uttered by those declaring being in the role of leader of a nation.

Ministry of Finance awards the best employees in 2023



The Ministry of Finance has awarded the best employees of last year 2023. The event was attended by the Ministry of Finance. Dr. Sa'ad Ali Shire, Deputy Ministry of Ministry, Director General, and members of the Department of Finance. Somaliland Finance Minister Dr. Sa'ad Ali Sharre, who praised the awarded employees, said; "We reward the most dedicated employees. We appreciate how well

they worked. We will reward them in the coming years", and added, "We are also encouraging the remaining," said Minister Sir Ali Shire.

The Director General of the Ministry of Finance Mohamed Hussein Directors, pointed out the importance of rewarding the staff. "It is worthy to note the most dedicated of staffers such that diligence and impetus may be instilled amongst the workers. I am very encouraged by staff at the Ministry of Finance", DG said. The Deputy Minister of Finance, encouraged them in his speech to continue their efforts.

Launching of Development Projects Implemented by the Somaliland Government in Seel Region

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Somaliland together with the Governor of the Central Bank, the Director General of the Ministry of Finance and the Governors of Awdal and Seel Regions, the Mayor of Zayla District and other officials officially inaugurated several projects implemented in the cities of Zayla and Lawyo-Ado.

The projects, which are part of the selected projects implemented by the government of the Republic of Somaliland in the Salel Region, which are a first phase include the following:-

1. Construction of Zayla Bank Branch.
2. Construction of General Accounting Center in Salel Region.
3. Building of the Merchants' Hangar at Zayla Customs.
4. Construction of Lawyo-ado police station.



5. A modern machine has been added to Lawyo-Ado Customs, which is designed to check on goods entering the country from across the border.

The launching of the projects elated the residents of the era, given that this has for a while been the greatest number of projects implemented at a go in the region.

The Seel region, which is located on an important route that connects the countries of Somaliland and Djibouti, had a great need for a

modern machine that was added to the Customs Lawa-Ado, which was designed to check the goods entering the country from the Djibouti side, hence would greatly help to ensure the quality of any product entering the country from the Djibouti side.

Also, the most important projects in the region include the implementation of the Lawya-Ado Police Branch which was indeed a facility direly needed to bolster the security services of the area.

Implementing Ethio-Somaliland MoU Crucial to Bolster Regional Development, Security: HPR Standing Committee Chair



Relations Standing Committee Chairperson Dima Negewo said that implementing the Ethio-Somaliland MoU is important for the development and security of the region.

Highlighting the deeply intertwined histories and cultures of Ethiopia and Somalia, the chairperson noted that Ethiopia's foreign policy prioritizes collaborative endeavors for mutual prosperity and resource utilization with its neighbors.

In this regard, Somalia, which has a

long coastline in Africa, holds immense potential for shared development that benefits both Ethiopia and Somalia.

"The MoU facilitates access to the sea through the Somaliland port and a naval base, crucial not only for our progress but also regional security," he noted.

According to him, this agreement will benefit the entire world, impacting global trade as the area is a hub for international trade.

"We, therefore, trust that other countries will offer their support and urge the Somali government to recognize the mutually beneficial collaboration."

The chairperson of the standing committee elaborated that it is a long-term partnership agreement through lease; and "we do not want to take any piece of land. So, we expect the Somali government to be part of the solution."

Dima pointed out that the fate of both

nations hinges on collaborative efforts.

Former Brigadier General Kasaye Chemedo also underscored that the Ethio-Somaliland Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would play a crucial role in bolstering regional development and security.

He added that Ethiopia should strengthen its peacekeeping commitment in neighboring Somalia.

"Ethiopia should effectively discharge its peacekeeping mission in Somalia for the sake of the people of Somalia," the former brigadier general said.

Ethiopia's remarkable sacrifice in securing Somalia's peace through peacekeeping initiatives is widely acknowledged.

He, however, cautioned against attempts to undermine the Ethio-Somaliland agreement, as this undermines Ethiopia's regional security.

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US-Kenya partnership intensifies fight against Al-Shabaab terrorism



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US-Kenya partnership intensifies fight against Al-Shabaab terrorism

The United States and Kenya have intensified their collaboration against Al-Shabaab, the Al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group operating in Somalia. The militant insurgent group dominated the talks during the recent discussions between US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III and Kenya's Defence Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale at the Pentagon. The talks, which are part of Duale's ongoing visit to the US that started on February 4, centred on strategies

to combat Al-Shabaab and enhance security in the strategic maritime regions of the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb Strait. These discussions underscore the commitment of both nations to address the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and ensure the safety of crucial international shipping lanes.

Amid the backdrop of increased regional threats, including escalated attacks on shipping by Houthi rebels, the US Department of State

designated the Houthis as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group.

The strengthened Kenya-US partnership, guided by the Defense Cooperation Framework signed on September 25, 2023, seeks to provide a structured approach to shared security challenges, focusing on defeating Al-Shabaab. Duale's visit included discussions with US senators and officials on enhancing military training and cooperation in defence.

Minister of Health on a working trip to Djibouti

By M.A. Egge

The Minister of Health went on a business trip to Djibouti, where he was warmly welcomed.

The officials of the Somaliland embassy in Djibouti, led by the Somaliland ambassador to the country Abdifatah Said Ahmed

welcomed the Minister of Health Development Hon. Hassan Mohamed Ali Gafadi, who is on a working visit to Djibouti.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Somaliland to Djibouti, Ambassador Abdifatah Said Ahmed, received the

minister at the lounge of the Djibouti Capital Airport in Djibouti city.

On his part, Minister Hassan Gaafadhi, thanked the ambassador and his deputy for the hard work they are doing in their duties at the embassy.

Somalia violates rights of repatriated Somaliland immigrants

Managing director of Somaliland Airports Authority Mr. Omar Abdillahi Adam (Omar Sayid) has unequivocally confirmed the hatred and ill will of Mogadishu towards the government and people of Somaliland. The MD pointed out that FGS leaders now use public resources to fight the development of the people Somaliland.

He noted to incidents whereby Somaliland youths immigrants who had been repatriated back into the country through Adan Ade International Airport in Mogadishu have been manhandled, imprisoned and maltreated simply because they originate from Hargeisa.

He urged the FGS to stop politicizing Somaliland youths problems following their repatriation to the country.

Addressing the press during an award ceremony held for staff of Somaliland Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Organisation, he said "They have now resorted to harming refugees who have been repatriated from other overseas. They claim you have violated our airspace and flimsy accusations. This shows the FGS can stoop too low to violate the human rights of migrant youths of Somaliland origin. Needless to say, they have gone to the extent of misappropriation of public funds to justifying Somaliland

development sabotage."

He went on to state that the FGS president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud who has been busy undermining Somaliland progress cannot visit the town of Afgoye which is a few kilometres from Mogadishu because of insecurity.

He stated that all Somalia institutions have been working to ensure they sabotage Somaliland economic development instead of focusing on their war-ravaged cities and towns.

The MD reiterated that Somaliland will overcome all challenges put on her way.

Study to examine benefits of sounds of nature in care homes



New research will explore whether the sounds of nature can have a positive impact on care home residents.

Experts and researchers at the University of Gloucestershire will work with older people in the community to record nature-based soundtracks.

Sounds such as such as waterfalls, birdsong and sea waves will be played through immersive sound systems. Researchers will analyse data to assess of the benefits of green acoustics to mental health and wellbeing.

The advisory board for the research project is made up of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers in social science, music and cultural studies.

It received a research grant of £336,578 with funding from UK Research and Innovation and the Medical Research Council.

University of Gloucestershire lead researcher Prof Abigail Gardner said: "It will make a novel contribution to research into sound and ageing that can be used to develop approaches within institutional health care settings, establishing the base for scaling up the use of therapeutic tools that use natural sounds for improving mental health and wellbeing in older people.

"The research will enable a detailed assessment and development of approaches to identifying natural sounds as a tool for enhancing wellbeing in older people in care homes and other settings."

Virtual reality helps NHS doctors spot signs of sepsis



Hospital staff and students are being taught how to spot symptoms of sepsis by using virtual reality technology.

Doctors at the Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have partnered with training platform Gogglesminds on the project.

Immersive headsets are used to

develop training scenarios which simulate treating patients with sepsis.

"Training which sticks in the mind, saves lives," said Dr Ron Daniels, founder of the UK Sepsis Trust.

Sepsis is a condition which develops when the immune system overreacts to an infection and begins

to damage the body's own tissues and organs.

Sepsis claims 48,000 lives per year, many of these deaths are preventable if symptoms are spotted early

"The challenge facing health professionals working in a pressured NHS environment is that it can be very difficult to spot," said Dr Daniels.

The technology will enable more doctors to be trained outside hospital training rooms and in smaller numbers, with the aim of increasing efficiency.

'Life and death'

It draws on research from the University of Bath into how virtual reality (VR) can provide healthcare

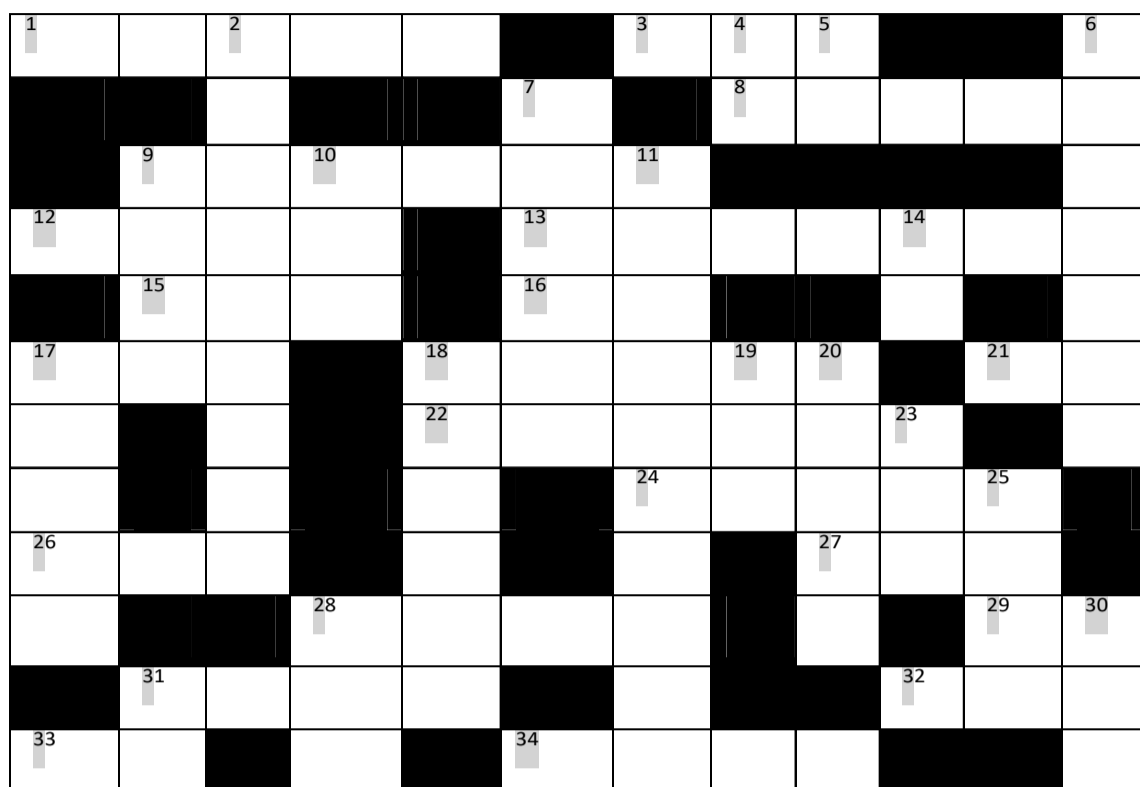
students with engaging learning. Prof Richard Joiner from the university's Department of Psychology said: "Sepsis and anaphylaxis are major challenges in healthcare settings, and how frontline medical teams respond

can mean the difference between life and death.

"This new VR simulation addresses this challenge by enabling doctors to train experientially in a safe and realistic environment, without endangering patients."



THT Puzzle



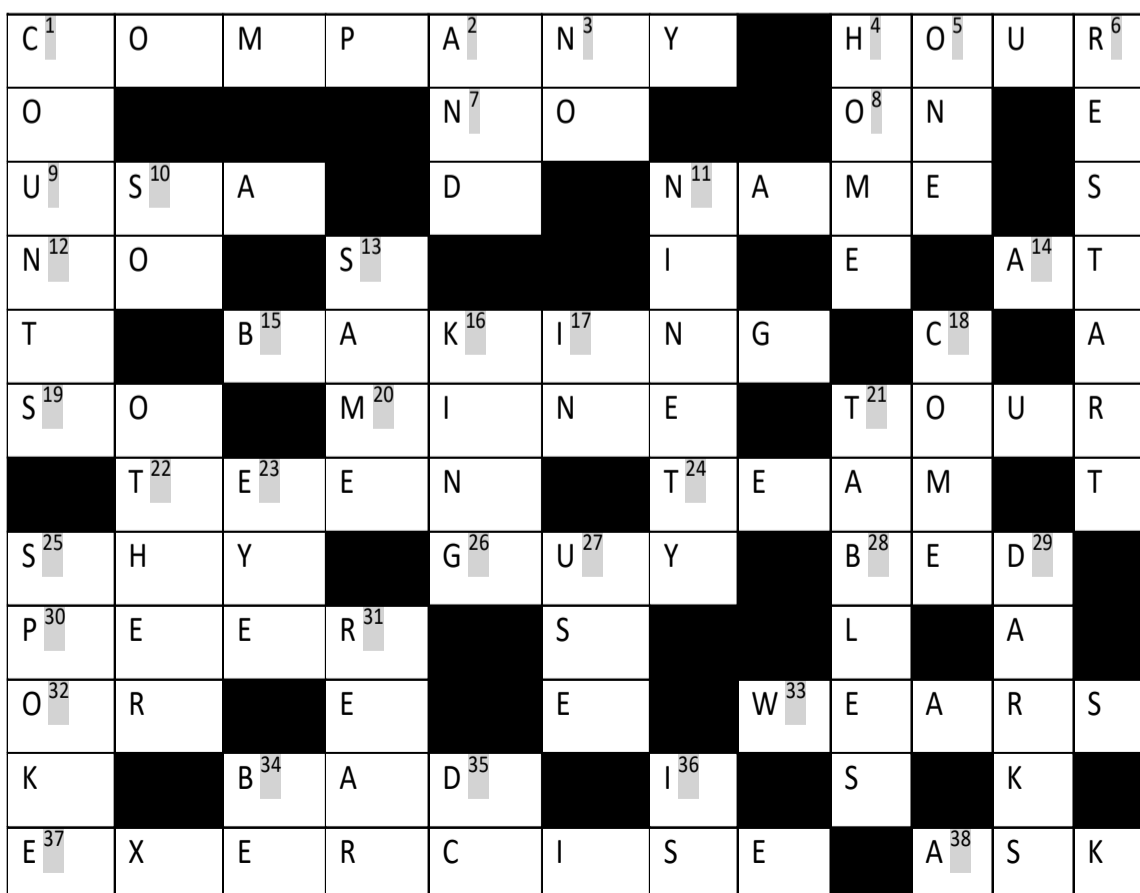
DOWN

- 2 Primarily
- 4 otherwise
- 5 Pronoun
- 6 donations
- 7 Be pensioned off
- 9 Teenagers
- 10 Limb
- 11 Challenge
- 14 Preposition
- 17 regular
- 18 Operate
- 19 Brand new
- 20 blade/ cutter use of vegetables
- 23 genetic material
- 25 Ice
- 28 Asphalt
- 30 At the moment
- 31 Be present

ACROSS

- 1 Earlier
- 3 Bully
- 8 achieve
- 9 Murderer
- 12 Location
- 13 Tutor
- 15 Excavation
- 16 Be present
- 17 United States of America
- 18 Beverage
- 21 By the side of
- 22 send again
- 24 Identical twin
- 26 Several
- 27 Room cooler
- 28 Drink
- 29 ATOP
- 31 Deceased
- 32 Double
- 33 Preposition
- 34 Gone

Previous Answer



Ethiopia-Somaliland Deal:

Somaliland's Pathway to International Recognition

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(Part 02)

This article explores the relationship between these developments and Somaliland's evolving approach to acquiring long-awaited international recognition. It argues that the Ethio-Somaliland Accord marks a turning point for both countries, with Somaliland poised to achieve international recognition and Ethiopia securing access to the sea. All signs indicate that the two countries are committed to implementing the agreement signed in Addis Ababa on January 1, 2024, and the success of the agreement will determine the future of regional integration and cooperation in the Horn of Africa.

1. Context Background: Somaliland's Statehood

Somaliland, a former British protectorate, was governed by the British empire from 1887 until it achieved independence on June 26th, 1960 (Affairs 2016). At the time, colonial intervention had divided Somali territory into five political entities: British Somaliland, Italian Somalia, French Somaliland, the Ogaden (which came under Ethiopian control), and the Northern Frontier District (which is now part of Kenya). A pan-Somali movement emerged in response to these divisions, seeking to unite the territories within a single Somali nation-state. As a result, on July 1st, 1960, Somaliland, despite being internationally recognized as a sovereign, independent state, and Italian Somaliland united to form the Somali Republic, with the aim of incorporating the remaining three Somali territories into an eventual "Greater Somalia".

However, the legality of this union was contested from the beginning. The Act of Union between Somaliland and Somalia was never ratified by parliament, resulting in an ongoing legal issue that casts doubt on the union's legality under international law (Somaliland Law, 2006). Hashi, a renowned legal commentator in Somaliland, posits that the Act of Union was initially embraced by Somaliland; however, it failed to gain endorsement from Somalia. This absence of endorsement rendered the Act of Union devoid of any legal efficacy within Somalia (Somaliland Law, 2006). In 2005, the AU sent a fact-finding mission to understand the case of Somaliland and concluded that "The fact that the 'union between Somaliland and Somalia was never ratified' and also malfunctioned when it went into action from 1960-1990, makes Somaliland's search for recognition historically unique and self-justified in African political history" (Union, 2005). To this day, Somaliland's elected leaders, such as sitting president Musa Bihi, refer to this legal determination as justification of Somaliland's independent legal status (MMTV, 2024).

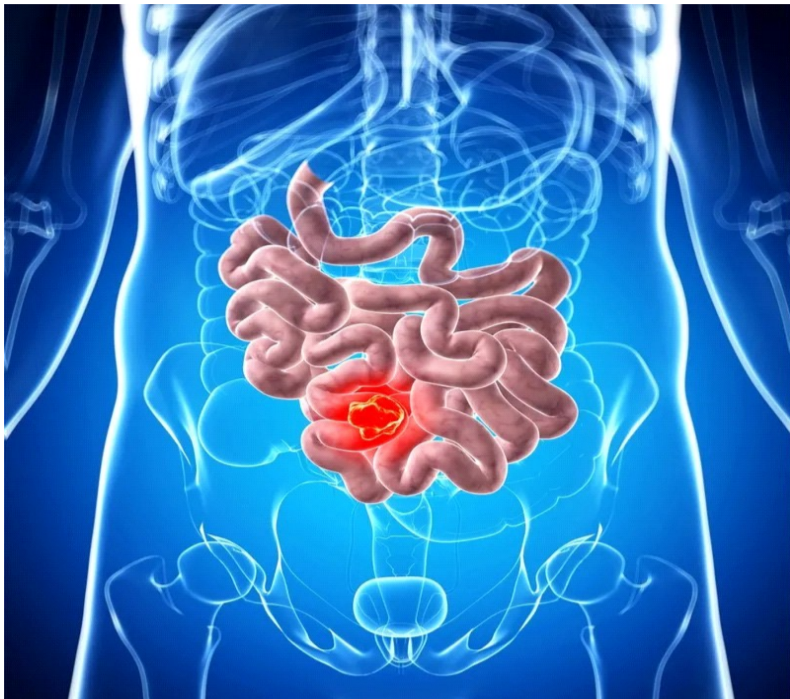
On May 18th, 1991, following a ten-year-long war between the regime of Mohamed Siyad Barre and the Somali National Movement (SNM), representatives of the Somaliland declared the dissolution of the unlawful union, thereby reasserting Somaliland's sovereignty, based on the borders established on June 26th, 1960 (Affairs, 2016). Somalia, on the other hand, descended into violence and political disorder, leaving the territory without an internationally recognized government until 2012 (Parliament, 2013). That year, the United Kingdom organized a conference with the aim of initiating talks between Somaliland and Somalia, two distinct political entities that had been separate since 1991. The first talks were held at Chevening House in the United Kingdom in 2012, followed by 11 more talks in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Djibouti over the course of the past decade.

However, all of these talks proved unproductive due to the lack of commitment from Somalia, which failed to implement low-level agreements reached on issues such as airspace management. The last meeting was held in Djibouti on December 28th, 2023, where an agreement was reached to discuss issues of unity and separation. However, a few days later, President Muse Bihi of Somaliland traveled to Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and reached an agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland on Ethiopia's access to the sea, in which Ethiopia was offered control (lease arrangement) over 20 kilometers of coastline in exchange for international recognition of Somaliland. The government of Somalia contested the agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia, claiming that Somaliland is a part of Somalia, and thus ineligible to enter into a pact with Ethiopia. However, this viewpoint does not align with the prevailing situation on the

To be continue next week

Compiled by: Yusuf Omar Hindi

Bowel cancer breakthrough after immune system find



Scottish scientists hope a breakthrough in the understanding of bowel cancer will lead to new treatments.

Researchers at the University of Glasgow and Cancer Research UK's Beatson Institute have solved a decades-long riddle of why the immune system of patients ignores the disease.

Until now, it was not known how cancer blinds the immune system to the disease rendering it unable to destroy it.

Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK

Dr Seth Coffelt, who led the research, said: "Normally, immune cells keep things as they should be, patrolling the bowel like security guards, tackling any harmful bacteria

and keeping the gut healthy. However, when cells in the bowel become cancerous, they fire these 'security guards' and all the methods these immune cells use to talk to each other to co-ordinate an immune response no longer get produced.

"Cancer doesn't want immune cells recognising them as a threat, so they manipulate the immune cells so they can't see the threat and simply pass on by leaving the cancer to do its damage."

Scientists have said the discovery, published in **Cancer Immunology Research**, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, opens the door to potentially reversing or preventing this process.

It would allow the immune system to see the bowel cancer cells and stop them from

growing and multiplying.

Attacking threats'

Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK, with about 16,800 deaths in the country every year - or 46 every day. In Scotland, about 4,000 people are diagnosed with the disease every year.

As part of the work, the Glasgow-based researchers focused on a particular type of immune cell called gamma delta T cells.

Bowel cancer begins in the epithelial cells which line the bowel and these T cells patrol this area attacking any threats, such as damaged cells or small tumours, before they cause harm.

Scientists will now try to develop new treatments based on the findings

Scientists already knew that when bowel cancer is present, immune cells that can kill cancer do not often act against the bowel cancer, but they did not know why.

Using tissue samples from bowel cancer tumours donated by patients in Scotland, and other countries, scientists were able to identify the specific mechanism the cancer cells use to rewire the gamma delta T cells on a molecular level.

The team that made the discovery is now hopeful further research could offer treatments which could reverse that process.

Alarming 45-fold rise in measles in Europe - WHO

There was an "alarming" nearly 45-fold increase in measles cases in Europe last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) says.

Health chiefs are warning that cases are still rising and "urgent measures" are needed to prevent further spread.

Some 42,200 people were infected in 2023, compared to 941 during the whole of 2022.

The WHO believes this is a result of fewer children being vaccinated against the disease during the Covid pandemic.

In the UK, **health officials said last week** that an outbreak of highly contagious measles in the West Midlands could spread rapidly to other towns and cities with low vaccination rates.

More than 3.4 million children under the age of 16 are unprotected and at risk of becoming ill from the disease, according to NHS England.

Millions of parents and carers are being contacted and urged to make an appointment to ensure their children are fully vaccinated against measles. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is given in two doses - the first around the age of one and the second when a child is about three years and four months old.

The vaccine is very effective at protecting against measles, but only 85% of children starting primary school in the UK have had both jabs.

Speaking about the situation in Europe, Dr Hans Kluge, regional director at the WHO, said: "We have seen, in the region, not only a 30-fold increase in measles cases, but also nearly 21,000 hospitalisations and five measles-related deaths. This is concerning.

"Vaccination is the only way to protect children from this potentially dangerous disease."

Measles can be a serious illness at any age. It often starts with a high fever and a rash, which normally clears up within 10 days - but complications can include pneumonia, meningitis, blindness and seizures.

Babies who are too young to have been given their first dose of vaccine, pregnant women and those who have weakened immune systems are most at risk. During pregnancy, measles can lead to stillbirth, miscarriage and a baby being born with a low birth weight.

said: "We think that there are certain communities and individuals at the moment who could benefit from PrEP but aren't accessing it."

"Many women just don't know PrEP exists," she added.

She said the charity was calling for PrEP to be made available in pharmacies and online to widen access to it.

Dr Saunders said that although the clinical success of the drug had been proven, this study revealed other important information about how it was used.

"Before, we didn't know how many people would want it, take it, or how long they would stay on it for," he said.

"Now we know who is being prescribed it and we can work with clinics to try and get more people to take it."

He said that "real-world effectiveness" was dependent on many factors, particularly whether the drug was taken correctly.

Liberating'

Harry Dodd, who has taken part in several PrEP trials, said taking the drug has been "empowering" for him as he no longer fears catching HIV.

"I haven't thought about that for the best part of a decade and that's liberating. I have had long-term partners who have HIV since [taking the drug] and that would not have been on my radar before. I now have the confidence to love freely."

Mr Dodd, 33, from north London, said he understood there may be "hesitation" to taking the drug as it was "sexually related", but he believed the use of PrEP could help remove stigma around HIV.

The UKSHA said the effectiveness

of the drug would help achieve the government's aim of zero HIV transmissions by 2030, but that more people needed to take it.

Dr Saunders said that while gay and bisexual men were most likely to use the drug, many people from other groups, such as straight women, would benefit from taking it.

PrEP, which contains existing HIV treatment drugs tenofovir disoproxil and emtricitabine, works by stopping HIV from entering the body and making copies of itself.

It can either be taken as a daily pill or an "event" basis before sexual intercourse.

The decision to make the treatment widely available on the NHS in England in 2020 was partly based on earlier findings from this research, as well as results of earlier clinical trials.

The results of this study, published in the Lancet HIV, have only just been released because of the large sample size and the time taken to peer review it.

John Stewart, National Director for Specialised Commissioning at NHS England and co-Chair of the PrEP Impact Trial Oversight Board, said:

"Not only did the trial directly prevent many cases of HIV, help normalise the use of PrEP, remove stigma and pave the way for a routinely commissioned clinically and cost effective PrEP service; but it also made a very real contribution towards our goal of ending new cases of HIV by 2030.

"We are delighted that PrEP has proven to be highly effective in reducing the risk of getting HIV and people can access it for free from sexual health service."

PrEP: Preventative HIV drug highly effective, study says

A drug which stops HIV infecting the body has proved to be a highly effective "real-world" preventative treatment, a study has confirmed.

The results of the research on 24,000 people taking it across England, have been described as "reassuring".

Thousands of people are already taking PrEP through sexual health clinics.

HIV charity the Terrence Higgins Trust wants easier access to the drug, since many people, including women, do not know it exists.

The UK Health Security Agency

(UKSHA), which led **the PrEP Impact Trial** with the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, said it was the largest ever real-world study of its kind.

Funded by NHS England, it was carried out at 157 sexual health clinics across England between October 2017 and July 2020.

The study found use of PrEP, also known as pre-exposure prophylaxis, reduced the chances of getting HIV by around 86% when used in everyday life - taking into account inconsistent or incorrect use. Clinical trials suggested the medication is 99% effective.

Dr John Saunders, a consultant in sexual health and HIV who worked on the study, said: "This trial has further demonstrated the effectiveness of PrEP in preventing HIV transmission and has, for the first time, shown the protective effect reported by earlier trials, but at scale, and delivered through routine sexual health services in England." The Terrence Higgins Trust HIV charity welcomed the study's publication, but said there was "more to be done" to increase access to, and awareness of, the drug, particularly among some minority groups.

Debbie Laycock, head of policy,