



About the APPG

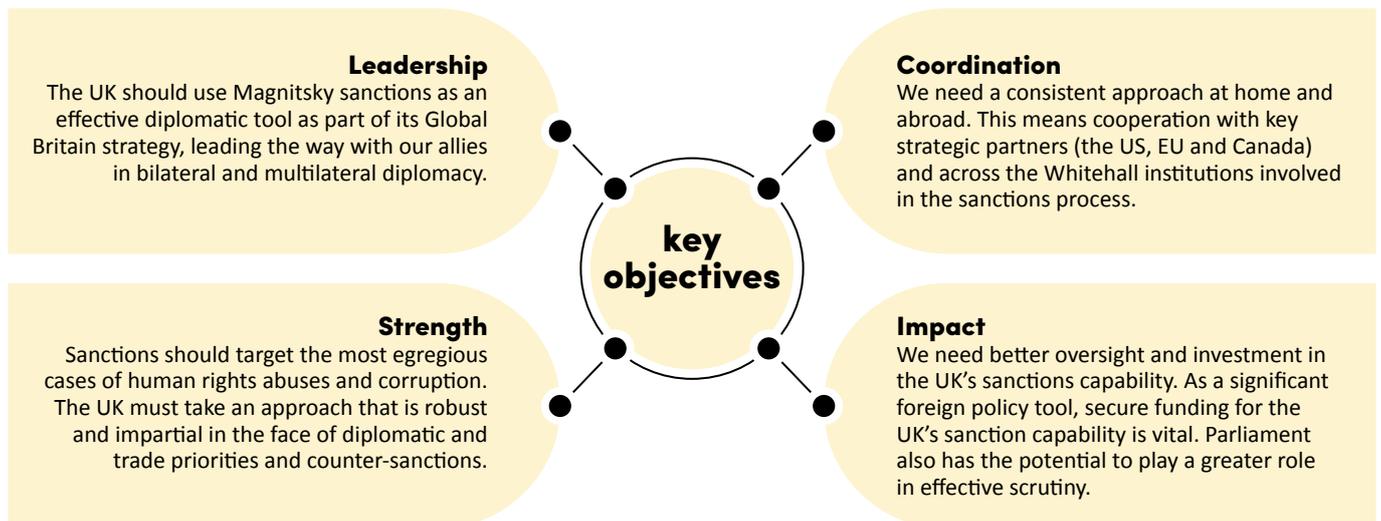
The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Magnitsky Sanctions is a cross-party group of MPs and Lords who want to raise the profile of Magnitsky sanctions in Parliament, examine situations where they may be appropriate, and improve the impact of the legislation in the UK.

Magnitsky sanctions are targeted sanctions imposed by governments on individuals and entities responsible for human rights abuses and corruption across the world. The sanctions freeze perpetrators' assets and ban them from travelling internationally. They are used by the UK, US, EU and Canada, together representing over one third of global GDP.

In the first year of the UK's Magnitsky regime, the UK sanctioned 94 individuals and 6 entities: 78 for human rights abuses and 22 for corruption.

Magnitsky sanctions stop the UK from being a haven for war criminals and kleptocrats, by preventing them from travelling to the UK, channelling their cash through UK banks, and purchasing property in the UK. Effective sanctions project Britain as a force for good, tackle corruption, and promote freedom and security across the world. This benefits the UK and the wider international community.

The APPG's key objectives



What next?

The APPG on Magnitsky Sanctions will undertake a range of policy and advocacy activity. Our initial aims are to:

1. Identify individuals and entities who should be designated as a matter of priority.
2. Pursue increased powers for a sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs Committee to make sanctions recommendations and scrutinise government decision-making.
3. Seek publication of the amounts budgeted by the FCDO and OFSI in relation to Magnitsky sanctions.
4. Advocate to establish the UK as an international leader on Magnitsky sanctions, including by holding a global Magnitsky sanctions summit and by matching the sanctions already imposed by the US, EU and Canada where appropriate.
5. Seek concrete proposals from the Government on how it plans to protect UK parliamentarians and businesses against arbitrary counter-sanctions.

Leadership

The Government has an opportunity through effective Magnitsky sanctions policy to implement its ambitions to ensure Global Britain is a force for good in the world, a vision reasserted by the Foreign Secretary during her recent speech at Conservative Party conference. As momentum builds, the UK should encourage other countries to develop their own Magnitsky sanctions laws and help them to implement them robustly. This means working bilaterally with allies and using the fora of multilateral diplomacy. The UK's international partners, such as [Australia](#) and [Japan](#), are preparing new Magnitsky sanctions programmes to join those already in place in the UK, US, EU and Canada.

Strength

The UK must impose sanctions consistently in the most serious cases of human rights abuses or corruption, not just where it is diplomatically convenient. Unlike other foreign policy tools, Magnitsky sanctions allow the UK to target those individuals and entities with responsibility for human rights abuses or corruption, while maintaining diplomatic and trading relationships with the country in question. The UK has shown a willingness to take tough decisions in sanctioning [Chinese officials for abuses in Xinjiang](#) and [Saudi officials for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi](#), but this should not be seen as the end of the road. Further sanctions, including in relation to other perpetrators of abuses against the Uyghur population, are still required.

The Government should act without fear or favour, and be willing to sanction individuals from trading partners, major powers or allies if necessary. Moreover, there have been a number of arbitrary counter-sanctions imposed on MPs, lawyers and academics, including those [imposed by China](#). These responses demonstrate that Magnitsky sanctions are getting under the skin of perpetrators, but they also have significant consequences for those targeted. The UK should put forward concrete proposals on how it plans to protect its parliamentarians and British businesses from arbitrary counter-measures imposed in response to legitimate Magnitsky sanctions designations.

“Trade policy does have to reflect our values...values-free globalisation does not work” Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, July 2021

Coordination

Increasing coordination between the UK and other international sanctions regimes is crucial. Coordination increases the efficacy and legitimacy of the sanctions, countering claims that the sanctions are a unilateral political action. Joint action on sanctions presents an opportunity for the UK and its allies to work together to advance the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights. To this aim, increasing the UK's matching of US sanctions should be a priority.

The UK has sanctioned only 24% of individuals and entities already sanctioned under the United States' Magnitsky sanctions regime.

Impact

The UK's Magnitsky Sanctions regime currently gives a large amount of discretion to the Government. Decisions on whether to designate a person for sanctions are made by the Foreign Secretary. There is no obligation to justify decisions not to impose sanctions even in the most serious cases of human rights abuses or corruption. Parliament should be given greater powers to monitor and assess the UK's use of Magnitsky sanctions and their impact.

Sufficient resources for the FCDO Sanctions Unit and OFSI are critical to ensuring and assessing the effectiveness of the UK's Magnitsky sanctions programme. The FCDO sanctions process has multiple steps including: reviewing evidence submitted by NGOs undertake research, consulting with country desk officers and embassy staff, conducting policy and legal analyses, consulting the Minister and prepare a statement of reasons. The UK Government should follow the US example and publish its budget for Magnitsky sanctions.

At present, the US Government has a budget of \$4.5 million for its Magnitsky and other targeted sanctions programmes.