

During the visit the Foreign Secretary visited an impressive de-radicalisation centre in Riyadh. The misguided misrepresentations of Islam which radicalise young people threaten innocent lives in Saudi Arabia and in the UK. It is only by working together that our two Kingdoms can protect young and vulnerable people from such radicalisation. As The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Grand Mufti Abdul-Aziz al Al Sheikh have repeatedly said people committing terrorist attacks are following a corrupted version of Islam. Mr Miliband described the de-radicalisation centre as "unique", commending the Kingdom's comprehensive approach, which seeks to tackle not just the symptoms of violent extremism but also its roots.

The Foreign Secretary was so impressed with the de-radicalisation centre that he wrote about it in his online "blog" [<https://blogs.fco.gov.uk/roller/miliband/>]. The Foreign Secretary described the Saudi Government's strategy for tackling the symptoms and the roots of violent extremism and how this included measures relating to education reform and theological counter-attack against violence. He described the Saudi strategy as "founded on a belief that this violence is a threat to the state as well as to others."

Regional stability was also at the top of the Foreign Secretary's agenda with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and with Prince Saud al Faisal. Both Britain and Saudi Arabia share concerns and objectives and are committed to finding effective solutions. Saudi Arabia is a hugely important partner and ally in the Middle East and has on a number of occasions led the way in efforts to create meaningful progress on the Middle East Peace Process. The most obvious example of this is the Custodian's personal leadership with the Arab Peace Initiative.

During his meeting with Prince Saud, the Foreign Secretary David Miliband discussed key regional issues, including the situation in Iraq, the political crisis in Lebanon, the Middle East peace process and the Iranian nuclear programme, in addition to bilateral relations.

At the subsequent Press Conference the Foreign Secretary said, "We look forward to further strengthening relations between our two countries." He continued: "Bilateral relations are deep-rooted,



Above: Secretary David Miliband shakes hands with his Saudi counterpart HRH Prince Saud al-Faisal following a joint press conference at the Foreign Ministry in the Saudi capital.

historic and very important and I think that in the aftermath of King Abdullah's state visit to the United Kingdom, and following the positive developments we have since observed, it is a good time to renew our relationship in a modern way."



Above: Foreign Secretary David Miliband listens to Major General Yousef Mansour, Director of Public Affairs at the Saudi Government's Rehabilitation Centre in Riyadh, on 23 April 2008.