

**Press Release: Inaugural Taiwan Policy Centre report calls on UK Government to use Ukraine lessons to prioritise support for Taiwan.**

***Embargoed for Release: 00.00 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.***

The [Taiwan Policy Centre](#) has today launched its inaugural report, *Ukraine Today, Taiwan Tomorrow?* which calls on the UK Government to use the lessons learned from Ukraine to prioritise support for Taiwan.

The Queen's Speech stated clearly that the UK Government would play a leading role in defending democracy and freedom across the world. In her recent Mansion House speech, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss called for Taiwan to be given the ability to defend itself.

The Taiwan Policy Centre calls on the UK Government to make good on these commitments when it comes to Taiwan. Britain must offer Taiwan the hand of friendship, not keep our partner at arm's length, as we have been.

The report highlights the very different situations in Ukraine and Taiwan and how many of the recent comparisons have been based on limited understanding and false assumptions. However, there is no question that there are lessons to be learnt.

We urge the UK Government to work with allies and start providing Taiwan with both the military hardware and asymmetric warfare tools it needs now.

And there are other political and diplomatic steps that we can take to deter a possible Chinese invasion. The UK's policy of strategic ambiguity towards Taiwan is no longer practical, and we urge the Government to work with allies and state clearly what their response to an invasion of Taiwan will be, both militarily and economically.

We also urge the UK Government to bolster its own relations with Taiwan. Good friends should not be embarrassed to be seen in public.

The UK needs its own Taiwan Relations Act to put our relationship on a par with that of our US allies. We should also permit Ministerial visits in both directions immediately and deepen trade relations.

It is also vital that Taiwan's population of 23 million people is properly represented in global organisations. The UK has spoken out on this matter before, but now is the time for concrete actions to secure meaningful representation for Taiwan at the UN and other such bodies.

The Taiwan Policy Centre is a new not-for-profit research and advocacy group that will be working hard to encourage the UK Government to deepen relations with Taiwan and takes all necessary steps to protect the freedoms and democracy enjoyed by the 23 million Taiwanese people.

*Commenting on the publication of this report, the **Chief Executive of the Taiwan Policy Centre, David Spencer**, said:*

“Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has focused people’s attention on the threat China poses to the freedom and democracy of Taiwan and its 23 million people like never before.

“The current UK Government has been outspoken in its ambition to support these values around the world, yet on the future of Taiwan, it has remained strangely quiet. It is time for that to change, and in this report, we have suggested a number of sensible ways that could be achieved.

“The UK cannot tiptoe around anymore. The time has come to let the world see how much the UK values our friendship with Taiwan and how committed we really are to ensuring their ongoing freedom.”

*Former Government Minister **Lord Bethell**, who provided the Foreword for this report, added:*

“This report provides a helpful action list of sensible and proportionate recommendations for the UK and Taiwan governments.

“It makes it clear that our governments should work much closer together, UK diplomatic efforts should be more emphatic, and we should offer proactive support to rebalance the military equation over the Taiwan Strait and deter military adventurism or invasion.

“I hope the UK Government will take heed of these and begin work now to build closer ties with Taiwan, work with allies to provide the Taiwanese Government with the tools it needs to defend itself and make it abundantly clear to the People’s Republic of China leadership that any invasion of Taiwan will entail significant and lasting damage in both economic and military terms.”

**END**

## **Notes to Editors**

A full copy of the Taiwan Policy Centre report, *Ukraine Today, Taiwan Tomorrow?* can be found on our website at <https://taiwanpolicycentre.com/wp-content/uploads/Ukraine-today-Taiwan-tomorrow.pdf>

The full list of recommendations in the report can be found below in Appendix A.

## **About the Taiwan Policy Centre**

The [Taiwan Policy Centre](#) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to boosting political, cultural, and trading relations between the UK and Taiwan.

We aim to increase the knowledge and understanding that policy-makers, the media, and the British public have about Taiwan through a combination of research, educational events, and outreach.

We further aim to highlight the threats and injustices that Taiwan faces at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party and lobby the UK Government to take a stronger and more proactive stand in support of Taiwan on the global stage.

Too often, media coverage and understanding of Taiwan is shaped by the language and claims of the Chinese Communist Party, a governing authority which does not, and never has, governed Taiwan.

The Taiwan Policy Centre aims to correct these misconceptions and ensure that the UK's policies towards Taiwan and media coverage of Taiwanese affairs are rooted in research and law.

### **How to support the work of the Taiwan Policy Centre**

The Taiwan Policy is a not-for-profit organisation and is funded solely by its supporters. We welcome all donations large and small.

Without their support, we cannot pursue our work to improve UK-Taiwanese relations and boost Taiwan's standing in the world.

Supporters can make a regular monthly donation to support the work of the Taiwan Policy Centre or a one-off donation if they prefer. All donations large and small are appreciated and will help us to bring about lasting improvements to UK-Taiwan relations.

To support the Taiwan Policy Centre, just visit <https://taiwanpolicycentre.com/donate/>

### **Media Inquiries**

For any media enquiries, please contact:

**UK:**

David Spencer  
Chief Executive  
Email – [ds@taiwanpolicycentre.com](mailto:ds@taiwanpolicycentre.com)

**Taiwan:**

Ben Goren  
Director of Communications  
Email – [bg@taiwanpolicycentre.com](mailto:bg@taiwanpolicycentre.com)

## Appendix A

### Recommendations:

1. The UK should begin to furnish Taiwan with the asymmetric equipment it needs to defend itself. This includes lightweight or mobile anti-vehicle and aircraft missiles and military drones. Furthermore, Taiwan should begin work now to establish the wherewithal to develop such equipment domestically, ensuring they are not reliant on imported hardware.
2. The Taiwanese Government and military must ensure that there is a full counter-invasion asymmetric military strategy in place and that all relevant personnel receive the appropriate training to deliver it.
3. If it has not already, the UK Government must begin urgent discussions with Taiwan, and allies, to establish a clear strategy to break any blockade that China might seek to place on Taiwan.
4. Taiwan must establish a new Civil Defence Force, run by military veterans and staffed by volunteers. It must ensure that this force is suitably trained and equipped and knows exactly what it must do in the event of an invasion.
5. Taiwan is already boosting the training its reserves receive and that is welcome. But it can and must go further and ensure that reserves receive training on multiple days per month and have knowledge of new asymmetric warfare tactics and equipment.
6. The Taiwanese Government must do more to prevent disinformation from China reaching Taiwanese citizens through both mainstream media and social media. It must also boost the ability of Taiwanese citizens to scrutinise information critically for themselves, rather than accept whatever information is put in front of them.
7. As the UK Government works with its allies to help Ukraine defend itself against Russian aggression, it should remain fully aware that the outcome of this conflict could set a precedent and have consequences for Taiwan, and other disputed regions around the world.
8. The time is right for the UK Government to amend its policy of strategic ambiguity towards Taiwan. It should coordinate with allies to release statements that make it clear that the issue of Taiwan's sovereignty must be settled peacefully and that any attempt to settle it with a blockade or any other military action will be taken as a declaration of war.
9. The UK Government should engage with the authorities of the US, the EU, NATO, and others, as well as Taiwan, to establish a clear strategy for how the international community would respond to an invasion of Taiwan.
10. The UK Government should pass its own Taiwan Relations Act, to put its own policy towards Taiwan on a par with its ally, the US.

11. The UK Government should increase efforts to diversify supply chains to reduce the dependency on China in all key economic areas, in order to ensure that the UK is in a position to employ sanctions without causing undue harm to the British economy.
12. The UK Government should engage now with the authorities of the US, the EU, NATO, and others, to agree on the package of sanctions they would be willing to impose on China in the event of an invasion of Taiwan.
13. The UK Government should increase Ministerial visits to Taiwan and amend FCDO policy to allow Ministers at all levels of Government to visit.
14. The UK Government should immediately permit Ministerial visits to the UK from all levels of the Taiwanese Government.
15. The UK Government must adopt a more robust policy towards Taiwan's inclusion in international bodies and back this policy up with concrete actions together with its allies.
16. The UK Government's leadership in driving the proposal for a D10 group of nations was welcome. The time is right to revisit this idea and deliver a broader alliance of democratic nations which Taiwan should play a full part in.

