

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Tony,

I wanted to send a personal message for the 'Special Prayer Assembly' today, hosted by the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden. Temples serve as a place of reflection and comfort as thousands of people gather to pray together following the callous attacks in Mumbai.

I have told Prime Minister Singh that Britain will continue to offer all necessary support to the Indian authorities as they respond to the crisis. Senior UK diplomatic and security officials have been meeting their Indian counterparts.

The High Commissioner is in Mumbai to lead the consular response, and to ensure that British citizens ensure all possible support. We have deployed an expert response team to Mumbai. I have met with Foreign Office staff running the Crisis Response Centre in London. It is important that those worried about friends and relatives contact the emergency line.

It is too early to say with clarity which groups are responsible for this hideous and coordinated attack. The COBR Committee, responsible for the UK's emergency responses, met the day after the attacks to assess the evidence, and will meet regularly while the crisis in India continues.

It is a reminder of the importance of our counter-terrorism effort in the region and beyond. Those who plan and perpetrate attacks of this kind should be in no doubt of our resolve.

My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of all those affected by these heinous and unwarranted attacks.

