



**UK Anti-
Corruption
Coalition**

Statement on the UK's response to the arrest of Alexei Navalny

As a coalition of the UK's leading anti-corruption organisations, the [UK Anti-Corruption Coalition](#) stands with all those who fight against corruption. The recent arrest of Alexei Navalny in the Russian Federation is a clear breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, as is the arrest of his wife and the hundreds of peaceful protesters who had campaigned against his detention. We support the UK Government's call for their immediate and unconditional release.

These calls must be backed up by concrete action to tackle the UK's oversized role as a hub for money and reputation laundering for individuals linked to Vladimir Putin. Only this week, a [senior official from the National Crime Agency](#) warned of 'disturbing' amounts of Russian money laundering in the UK, while civil society groups have long warned that Russian money has too easily been laundered through [UK corporate structures and into UK property](#). There needs to be much greater urgency in government efforts to tackle the flow of dirty money into the UK, including implementation of long awaited reform to Companies House and the introduction of a register of foreign owners of UK property.

Failing to comprehensively address the UK's role in facilitating Russian corruption weakens democracy, at home and abroad. Words of condemnation alone will do little to discourage those who brazenly embezzle funds from their own populations and see the UK as a prime location to spend, store and stash these ill-gotten gains.

To show leadership in its response to the emerging situation in Russia, and in the global fight against corruption, the UK Government should:

- Investigate the eight individuals outlined by the Navalny campaign with a view to imposing visa bans and asset freezes.
- Ensure that the proposed extension of the UK's sanctions regime to corruption is introduced at the earliest opportunity, is properly resourced, with a strong mechanism for civil society input from its outset and an independent expert panel created to review its effectiveness.
- Publish a summary of its findings of its review of all Tier-1 investor visas granted in the 'blind faith' period before 5 April 2015, including statistics on how many such visas it has subsequently revoked.
- Bring forward much delayed legislation at the earliest opportunity to strengthen Companies House powers and to introduce the register of foreign ownership of UK property.
- Fully implement the recommendations from the Intelligence and Security Committee's Russia Report to protect the UK's democracy and national security.