

Syria Tracker

Thinking about the situation in Syria, here are some things that Britain's Government is reported to be considering, in partnership with other countries such as France and the US. Would you support or oppose each of the following?

Sending defensive military supplies, such as anti-aircraft guns, to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
Sep-03	21	62	18
August 27-28	20	52	27
August 26-27	23	50	27

Sending full-scale military supplies such as tanks and heavy artillery to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
Sep-03	9	77	14
August 27-28	10	64	26
August 26-27	13	61	26

Using British aircraft and missiles to enforce a no-fly zone over Syria and, if necessary, use them against aircraft and airports operated by the Assad regime

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
Sep-03	33	50	16
August 27-28	32	42	26
August 26-27	34	42	24

Using British missiles, fired from ships off the coast of Syria, against military sites inside Syria

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
Sep-03	21	69	11
August 27-28	22	51	27
August 26-27	25	50	26

Thinking about the conflict in Syria, here are some things Britain could do. Would you support or oppose each of the following?

Sending food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies to civilians in Syria

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	77	12	11
May 28-29	78	11	11
April 28-29	72	15	13
March 18-19	75	13	12

Sending protective clothing, such as flak jackets and helmets to the troops fighting to overthrow the Assad regime

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	41	33	27
May 28-29	50	28	22
April 28-29	46	30	24
March 18-19	48	30	22

Sending defensive military supplies, such as anti-aircraft guns, to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	19	53	28
May 28-29	24	50	27
April 28-29	20	49	31
March 18-19	23	50	27

Sending small arms such as hand guns to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	16	58	26
May 28-29	19	55	26
April 28-29	17	53	30
March 18-19	18	54	28

Sending full-scale military supplies such as tanks and heavy artillery to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	10	66	24
May 28-29	12	65	22
April 28-29	11	64	25
March 18-19	12	64	24

Sending British troops to fight alongside the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 22-23	9	74	17
May 28-29	10	74	16
April 28-29	10	71	20
March 18-19	8	75	17

Below are some ways that Britain and other allied countries could intervene in the situation in Syria. Please say if you would support or oppose each action.

Enforcing a no-fly zone over Syria so the Syrian air force cannot attack rebels or civilians

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	53	21	26
May 2-3	54	20	27
2012			
December 5-6	58	17	25
February 6-7	60	18	22

Providing arms to the Syrian rebels

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	15	61	24
May 2-3	17	56	26
2012			
December 5-6	15	55	30
February 23-24	17	58	25
February 9-10	17	61	22
February 6-7	16	55	28

Imposing economic sanctions on Syria

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	50	25	26
May 2-3	52	23	25
2012			
February 23-24	58	19	17
February 9-10	60	18	23

Blocking members of the Syrian government from visiting Western countries

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2012			
February 23-24	63	16	21
February 9-10	66	13	20

Sending British and allied troops into Syria to protect civilians from attack

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	12	69	19
May 2-3	15	63	22
2012			
December 5-6	15	64	21
February 23-24	17	60	22
February 9-10	17	64	19
February 6-7	18	60	22

Sending British and allied troops into Syria to help overthrow President Bashar al-Assad

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	10	69	22
May 2-3	10	67	23
2012			
December 5-6	8	69	22
February 23-24	11	66	23
February 9-10	8	72	20
February 6-7	9	66	24

Sending British and allied troops into Syria to secure chemical weapon and other critical sites

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	16	63	22

Surgical air strikes to destroy chemical weapon facilities

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
May 30-31	38	36	26

If Syria were to use chemical weapons against rebel fighters or civilians, would you support or oppose the following actions?

Sending food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies to civilians in Syria

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	71	15	14

Sending protective clothing, such as flak jackets and helmets to the troops fighting to overthrow the Assad regime

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	50	29	21

Sending defensive military supplies, such as anti-aircraft guns, to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	32	43	25

Sending small arms such as hand guns to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	27	47	26

Sending full-scale military supplies such as tanks and heavy artillery to the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	22	53	25

Sending British troops to fight alongside the anti-Assad troops

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
April 28-29	17	63	20

Enforcing a no-fly zone over Syria so the Syrian air force cannot attack rebels or civilians

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2012			
December 5-6	68	12	20

Providing arms to the Syrian rebels

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2012			
December 5-6	31	44	25

Sending British and allied troops into Syria to protect civilians from attack

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2012			
December 5-6	31	48	21

Sending British and allied troops into Syria to help overthrow President Bashar al-Assad

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2012			
December 5-6	24	54	22

In the light of reports that chemical weapons have been used in Syria, here are some statements that different people have made about the conflict in that country. In each case, do you agree or disagree?

What happens in Syria, however bad, has nothing to do with Britain and we should not get involved in any way.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	46	40	14

Chemical weapons are especially terrible, and we have a moral duty to do what we can to stop them being used in Syria.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	60	24	16

If Britain and other countries launch missile strikes against military targets in Syria, this is more likely to make things worse than better.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	63	15	21

If the West fails to take action now, then there is a serious risk that other hostile government such as Iran and North Korea will take this as a sign of weakness, and this could have dangerous consequences for the West.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	35	42	24

Whatever the Prime Minister decides to do about Syria, I believe that he is genuinely concerned to do what is right and in Britain's interests.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	46	33	20

Even under President Obama, America can't help acting arrogantly towards other countries, and we can't trust its motives on issues such as Syria.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	48	30	21

Except where Britain is responding to a direct attack on us, we should take military action ONLY when this is specifically authorised by the United Nations.

	Support	Oppose	Don't know
2013			
August 27-28	65	16	19

Last week there were reports that Syrian government forces have used chemical weapons against their opponents in a suburb of Damascus, the capital of Syria. Does this affect your view of whether Britain should take part in military action against the government of President Assad?

	More	Less	Support just as much as before	Oppose just as much as before	Don't know
2013					
August 26-27	24	5	15	40	16

Should Britain's government be bound by a vote in Parliament on whether to take military action and, if so, the form that action should take?

	Yes	No	Don't know
2013			
August 26-27	61	23	16

Thinking about the situation in Syria, from what you have seen or heard about the conflict, do you think that chemical weapons have or have not been used by...

Troops loyal to the Assad government?

	Have used	Have not used	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	60	7	33

Rebels fighting against the Assad government?

	Have used	Have not used	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	28	26	45

When it comes to investigating the use of chemical weapons in Syria, how much do you trust the following to investigate claims that chemical weapons are being used in Syria?

The United States government

	Trust	Do not trust	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	29	56	16

The British government

	Trust	Do not trust	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	40	46	13

The Russian government

	Trust	Do not trust	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	5	77	17

The United Nations

	Trust	Do not trust	Don't know
2013			
June 16-17	52	32	16

UN action against Syria has so far been vetoed by China and Russia.

Do you think Western countries should only take action against Syria with the approval of the UN, should take action against Syria regardless of whether the UN approve, or should not take action against Syria anyway?

	Take action regardless of UN	Take action with backing of the UN	Should not take action	Don't know
2012				
February 23-24	14	43	24	19

Thinking specifically about a no-fly zone over Syria, some people have suggested a no-fly zone should only go ahead with the support of the United Nations. Other people have suggested that the EU or NATO could impose a no-fly zone without UN approval.

Which of the following best reflects your view?

	No-fly zone with approval of UN	No-fly zone with or without approval	A no-fly zone should not be imposed	None of these	Don't know
2012					
February 6-7	48	21	8	6	18

Thinking about a no-fly zone over Syria, which of the following best reflects your views?

	Necessary now	Not necessary but may be in the future	Not necessary or desirable	None of these	Don't know
2012					
February 6-7	40	26	10	5	20