

Statement on the current situation in Turkey

The British Academy, the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh deplore the attempted military coup d'état in Turkey. In keeping with the democratic principles which have been secured, we urge that the state's responses towards individuals and offices thought to be involved be fully compliant with the rules and norms of democratic government, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights. We are particularly concerned that these be observed in relation to the academic and research community in Turkey, where our sister academies have unequivocally condemned the coup. We are disturbed to hear that in the coup's aftermath the Turkish Government has asked over 1,500 university deans to resign, and has placed a ban on all academics travelling abroad. Freedom of expression, due process, and the free mobility of researchers provide the bedrock of the academic endeavour in a democratic society.