

## Assembly Resource

Read through the resource below, which provides information about the flying of the Union flag. Do you think there should be rules on when and where flags are flown?

All UK government buildings in England, Wales and Scotland will fly the Union flag every day, following new guidance from the culture department.

Currently, flags are only required to be flown on certain days such as the Queen's birthday.

The Union flag is a proud reminder of our history and the ties that bind us.

*Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden,  
March 2021*



*Pictured above: The Union Flag*

### ***History of the Union Flag***

The Union flag first appeared in 1606, after James VI of Scotland ascended to the throne of England in 1603 to become James I.

The flag combined the two flags of England and Scotland's patron saints - the red cross of Saint George and the white cross of Saint Andrew. The red cross of Saint Patrick was later added.

In 2008, Prime Minister Gordon Brown got rid of a rule that said the Union flag could only be flown on certain days. He said it should be left to individual public offices to decide if and when to fly flags.

I think we just don't fly our flag enough - if you go to capitals of other countries, around the heart of those capitals, particularly government buildings, you routinely see the flag of that country flying.

*Conservative MP Sir John Hayes,  
March 2021*