



## Article 370 revocation and Kashmir status

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### **Tim Roache, GMB General Secretary said:**

"The decision by the Government of India to unilaterally revoke Article 370 will only serve to increase tensions in the region and take us even further away from the peaceful, political settlement that the people of Kashmir need.

"It is a matter of extreme concern that in the lead up to the removal of Kashmir's special status, the region has been in lockdown and remains so, with Kashmiri leaders being placed under house arrest, internet and phone coverage being cut, public gatherings banned and schools closed.

"This situation can only be exacerbated by the tens of thousands of extra troops and paramilitary police sent to an already heavily militarised zone.

"India and Pakistan must work together, with the support of the international community to determine a lasting and peaceful political solution, which protects the human rights of the Kashmiri people and respects their democratic right to have their own say in their own future.

"We are clearly in desperate need of international action to deal with this volatile situation and to end the cycle of violence and fear within which generation after generation of Kashmiri children have grown up over the last seven decades."