EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS

ON A TRAIL-BLAZING TRIP TO LONDON

ANGELINA JOLIE

MAKES THE WORLD SIT UP AND LISTEN AS SHE CALLS FOR AN END TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

She might be one of the world's most lauded actresses, but it's Angelina Jolie's humanitarian work that has been the subject of praise recently. A special envoy for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Angelina's determination to end sexual violence has proved a global game changer – and has also won her royal favour.

Angelina, 39, won over politicians and the public alike during her appearance at the four-day Global Summit to End Sexual Violence, which was held in London last week.

Joining forces with her co-chair, Foreign Secretary William Hague, on the first day of the event on Tuesday, Angelina helped to launch an international protocol to strengthen the means of prosecuting those who use rape as an act of war, as well as supporting survivors in areas of conflict.

During her time in the capital, Angelina met delegates from 113 countries; talked with Prime Minister David Cameron at 10 Downing Street; and received the news that she's been awarded an honorary damehood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for "services to UK foreign policy and the campaign to end war-zone sexual violence".

"To receive an honour related to foreign policy means a great deal to me, as it is what I wish to dedicate my working life to," the actress said of her damehood.

"Working on the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative [PSVI] and with survivors of rape is an honour in itself. I know that succeeding in our goals will take a lifetime and I am dedicated to it for all of mine."

DYNAMIC DUO

The Foreign Secretary will certainly welcome the acknowledgment of his Hollywood superstar cohort. The pair were seen as an unlikely double act when they launched the initiative, but have proved a formidable team.

"She is an inspiration," he said last week of the mother of six. "My admiration for her work has grown even greater over the last two years. She has the power to speak to the whole world, to raise awareness, change attitudes.

"Governments like the one I am a member of hold in their hands levers of decision making and action and this combination can be formidable."

Angelina's fiancé Brad Pitt – a surprise attendee at the conference, appearing halfway through to support her campaign – also earned praise, with Government minister Baroness Warsi dubbing him the third member of "Team Hague".

Angelina in London last week (left) for the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence she co-chaired with Foreign Secretary William Hague (together above at 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister David Cameron)

The UN's special envoy for refugees was joined at the ground-breaking event at London's Excel by her fiancé Brad Pitt

'We want the whole world to understand that this injustice cannot be tolerated, and that sorrow and compassion are not enough'

The summit included three days of fringe events that were open to all, including a screening of *In the Land of Blood and Honey*, a film set in war-torn Bosnia and directed by Angelina.

"At the heart of this campaign, we are calling for an end to impunity," the actress said in a powerful opening speech. "Perpetrators have to know that even during conflict, evidence is being collected that will be used against them. They have to know that when peace agreements are made, there will be no amnesty for rape and that if they commit these crimes, they will bear the stigma and punishment – no matter how long it takes.

"We all know how hard it is to secure convictions for rape, even in stable democratic countries. So we have to work even harder to make justice possible in fragile countries. And that is the purpose of this protocol. It is an essential document and I am so grateful to the hundreds of experts and survivors who have played their part in drafting it.

"The Foreign Secretary and I are determined to work hard to ensure that it is implemented.

"I hope that by all of us working together we can support survivors for the long but not impossible road to justice and finally, really, truly end impunity."

Angelina also found a fierce ally in the Duchess of Cornwall, who hosted a private event at Clarence House on Thursday evening to discuss their shared concerns – Camilla is an advocate for survivors of rape and sexual abuse and regularly visits and raises funds for support centres in the UK.

"We want the whole world to hear [victims'] stories and understand that this injustice cannot be tolerated and that sorrow and compassion are not enough," said Angelina during the summit.

"It is a myth that rape is an inevitable part of conflict. There is nothing inevitable about it. It is a weapon of war aimed at civilians. It has nothing to do with sex – everything to do with power. It is done to torture and humiliate innocent people – and often very young children."

Angelina was no doubt aware that her star power would ensure media eyes and ears remained focused on the conference, which was also attended by renowned human rights attorney Amal Alamuddin – fiancée of Brad's close friend George Clooney – and Stella McCartney.

Angelina's determination to use her fame to promote the causes dear to her heart has, perhaps paradoxically, prompted her to announce that she intends to cut back on her film roles.

"Acting's going to take a back seat," she said at the London press conference for new movie *Maleficent* in May. "I would like to focus more on writing and directing, and above all, I'd like to focus more on my work with the UN and with the PSVI."

In this world exclusive interview, Angelina takes **HELLO!** behind the scenes of the ground-breaking conference and tells how her campaign to end sexual violence could change the world.

The use of sexual violence as a tool of conflict is a devastating issue. How did you become aware of this and when did you decide to actively campaign against it?

"I became aware during my 12 years working with UNHCR. In every camp I go to, there is a moment when I meet someone who is a victim of rape. What propelled me to act were survivors themselves and their plea for justice.

"The reality of the war in Bosnia led me to make *In The Land of Blood and Honey* and that film is what brought me together with Foreign Secretary William Hague. That led to our trips to Bosnia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which made it clear for us what we needed to do."

The summit has been a great success. How would you sum up the last few days?

"Extremely moving and very productive. It was so inspiring to see this new model for how to tackle global issues, bringing together governments, survivors, NGOs, activists, artists and young people. I really believe this type of bringing together is the only way to comprehensively address the big problems we face in the world."

What are the biggest challenges you face?

"The sad but horribly true reality of perceptions of women as second-class citizens in the world, which is directly linked to violence against women."

Do you think having your own family has inspired you to fight for the rights of others?

"It was my work with the UN that made me feel ready to have a family. But as a mother I do often think of how I would feel when I see children and other women in those terrible situations."

You agree that supporting survivors of sexual violence is just as crucial as bringing perpetrators to justice; how would you like to see this balance achieved?

"Of course, and that is why this summit had the model and the balance that it did. We have to work to strengthen the medical, health and legal systems of other countries. When the stigma is removed from the survivors of sexual violence and it is seen purely as the crime that it is, and when the support for women exists as it should, then the practicalities on the ground will naturally change."

How important is grassroots education as a means of helping to bring these atrocities to an end?

"One of the exciting things about the summit fringe was to spend real time with the people who are working in the field, the real grassroots organisations, and not only hear about their important work but to see all these groups from different countries finally in the same room uniting and making plans to work together in the future."

You visited the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda with William Hague last year and listened to first-hand accounts of sexual violence. How did that trip affect you on a personal level?

"It was the first time I actually went into a humanitarian situation as a partner with a government official and saw what the combination of humanitarian intent and the power of government can do.

"When William Hague and I sat and listened to women I was moved as always by their stories. I also took note as to how much it meant to them to see a male government official taking the time to listen, to hear their concerns and to discuss solutions with them."

Have you seen any changes in regions you have been targeting? What are your long-term goals?

"We now have 155 countries working with us that have pledged to end rape and sexual violence in conflict. The summit brought together over 1,000 experts, introduced the first-ever international protocol on how to investigate war-zone rape and all the governments involved expressed a real and serious commitment to being held accountable for their promises. William Hague understands, and was very strong and clear, that it does not end here. And it was very reassuring to see the response of other governments, in private, when the cameras were not there, and to see how committed they are to this issue."

The summit included works from artists, theatre performances and public panel discussions. Why is this an important aspect of the gathering?

"Art can reach people in a way that speeches and protocols do not. It can move them emotionally and make them feel more connected to the issue. It was inspiring to see performances by groups like [female theatre troupe] Girl be Heard, performances of [the play] *Liberian Girl* and screenings of scores of wonderful films as a way of bringing home the truth and urgency of this issue to so many people."

What do you think people can do to help make a real change? How can they get involved?

"Hold your government to account for all its promises. Follow its actions. Be outspoken. And on a daily basis, in your communities and with your families, the way you speak and behave towards victims of sexual violence and abuse can change attitudes that will in turn lead to changes in policy, international law and norms."

You've mentioned that you would like to move away from acting and focus on your UN and philanthropic work. Would you consider moving directly into politics?

"If I thought that I could effect change, then I would consider it." **H**

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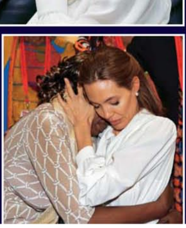
Angelina has some quiet time (above) to concentrate on making final adjustments to her speech before taking to the stage. Brad was a surprise presence during the event and was unofficially dubbed "the third member of Team Hague". Angelina's partner of ten years takes a keen interest in her work, helping with her notes (below left) and supporting her backstage (below right) before she delivers her keynote speech

Angelina and her co-chair make their way to the conference hall (above), where the actress delivers a powerful speech (left), saying: "It is a myth that rape is an inevitable part of conflict," and calling on those present to "support survivors for the long but not impossible road to justice". The star is mobbed later (right) as she tours the summit floor to talk to delegates who had travelled from all parts of the globe to support the ground-breaking conference

'Angelina is an inspiration. She has the power to speak to the whole world, to raise awareness, change attitudes' *William Hague*

Angelina arrives at Excel for the second day of the summit (left), where she and William are clearly moved by the harrowing stories of the speakers (above). The compassionate star has a hug for fellow delegate Neema Namadamu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who is the African country's leading voice for peace (right), then Angelina and Brad take time out to focus on an exhibition (far right) of photos of victims of violence



The Duchess of Cornwall and Angelina discuss their common interest in helping victims of sex crimes (above) at a private event at the Prince of Wales and the Duchess's London home Clarence House. Camilla regularly visits and raises funds for support centres in the UK