



THE PLEDGE EXPLAINED

Background

As the UK redefines its role in the world, it is more important than ever before that we continue to provide leadership and to be an internationalist force for good. The UK's proud cross-party commitment to the world's poorest people, through investing 0.7% of national income in overseas aid, delivers impact on a significant scale. Britain spearheads many of the innovations, initiatives and policies that drive prosperity and help fight extreme poverty and preventable disease.

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This is why, across the UK, we are asking parliamentary candidates to commit to keeping the UK's promises to the world's poorest people by signing our pledge.
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The UK should maintain its commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid

The UK provides some of the best aid in the world and has achieved fantastic results from this investment. UK aid helps families fleeing Syria and Myanmar, tackles conflict and climate change, immunises children from preventable diseases, funds cutting edge research, and supports millions of women and girls facing violence in their communities. In just three years British aid reached 27 million people with humanitarian assistance; helped 37 million children to be immunised, saving 610,000 lives; supported 11 million children to gain a decent education; and helped to provide 40 million people with access to clean water and sanitation.[1] All this, and more, by spending less than one pence in every pound of our national income.

All UK aid must be poverty focused, deliver maximum impact and be transparent

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The British public want to see their taxes spent on aid that delivers for the poorest people in the world, and they want it to be effective and transparent.
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This is real aid. Every pound of UK aid should have poverty eradication and inclusive, sustainable development as its primary purpose. Aid must be spent where the need is greatest, which means prioritising the least developed countries and fragile states. Aid must target the results that matter most in helping people climb out of poverty – ensuring that no-one is left behind. This means prioritising social services such as health and education, and economic empowerment, especially of women and girls. All UK aid must also be aligned to our international commitments on climate change. Finally all UK aid should be transparent to the public, developing country governments and beneficiaries. Adhering to these principles will help to ensure maximum value for money for the taxpayer, aid that reflects both the needs of those living in extreme poverty and the priorities of the British public, and aid that is spent in line with international best practice and the global norms which the UK has spearheaded.

Maintaining an independent DFID led by a Cabinet Minister

The Department for International Development (DFID) is an exceptional development agency of international renown.

Combined with the UK's commitment to 0.7%, DFID's unparalleled skills and expertise in delivering effective aid programmes are integral to the UK's soft power on the global stage. Numerous reviews have demonstrated that DFID delivers value for money and is transparent. The Secretary of State for International Development ensures that the poorest people in the world remain visible at the highest level of government. Of course, all parts of the UK government must continue to work together to deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals and help to build a safer, healthier, more prosperous and sustainable world that is in all our interests.

We are calling on Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to sign our pledge

Through the ONE Vote Pledge for Progress we hope to build on the current political consensus supportive of UK leadership in international development and reach a new generation of MPs who are willing to speak up in the next Parliament.

[1] DFID 2017-18 Annual Report and Accounts. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750989/DFID-Annual-Report-Accounts-2017-18-amended-Oct18.pdf

