



Joint statement from UK INGO sector to the new Prime Minister

As 100 leaders of UK NGOs working on international development, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding, and tackling the climate crisis, we are calling on your new government to confront the underlying drivers of inequality, injustice and poverty that affect people both here in the UK and around the world. Politicians must stop pitting the needs of the British public against the needs of people in the Majority World by raiding the already diminished UK aid budget to fund domestic spending. Both face many of the same underlying challenges. Whether it is increasing living costs or growing inequality, the same unfair global economic system is failing ordinary people everywhere, and this is where you can make real change.

Prime Minister, you have an opportunity to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality and promote solidarity across marginalised communities both here in the UK and internationally. Your emphasis on reshaping our economic and political systems, and bringing greater power at local level to better address the needs of ordinary people, promises to take us in this direction. We welcome this.

However, your decision to reallocate £400 million of the UK's international climate finance to help fund a cap on bus fares in the UK risks pitting the needs of marginalised people in lower-income and climate vulnerable countries against those in the UK. Diverting resources away from quality grant funding for those who need it most leaves countries already trapped in unfair debt cycles with few choices but to borrow more, to address a climate crisis not of their making.

Your government does not have to choose between helping families in the UK through the cost-of-living crisis or tackling the climate crisis and fighting extreme poverty globally. Framing these challenges as competing priorities is a mistake. The real challenge, and the real opportunity, is to address their common causes. Fairly taxing the wealthiest and largest polluters in society would generate tens of billions a year in public finance to increase international commitments and domestic action. Coupled with ambitious leadership for the UK's upcoming G20 presidency to reform the global economic system, this would help deliver greater fairness, opportunity and prosperity for ordinary people both at home and abroad. By protecting what remains of the UK aid budget, reversing recent international climate finance cuts, and setting out a roadmap for returning UK aid spending to 0.7% of GNI, you can restore the UK's credibility as a reliable global partner.

The decisions you make now will impact lives and the climate for decades to come. We urge you to take the spirit of Manchesterism to the world by tackling global challenges that hold back local progress. Let's seize this moment to build a more just, resilient and sustainable future for us all.

Signed,

Adrian Lovett, ONE Campaign, Executive Director, United Kingdom, Middle East & Asia Pacific

Alex Daniels, APT Action on Poverty, CEO

Alex Kent, Restless Development, Co-CEO

Alice Oyaro, Transform Trade, CEO

Alison Marshall, Age International, CEO

Alison Wallace, SOS Children's Villages UK, CEO

Amy Jankiewicz, Population Matters, Chief Executive

Andrew Betts, Advantage Africa, Director

Anuradha Joshi, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Director

Asad Rehman, Friends of the Earth, CEO

Ben Simms, Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET), CEO

Camilla Knox-Peebles, Amref Health Africa UK, Chief Executive

Carrie Brownlee, International Alert, Chief Operating Officer

Catherine Pettengell, Climate Action Network UK (CAN-UK), Executive Director

Christina Bennett, Start Network, CEO

Christine Allen, CAFOD, Director

David Evans, Ace Africa, UK Country Director

David Hillman, Stamp Out Poverty, Director

David Thomson, All We Can, CEO

Deborah Burton, Tipping Point North South, Co-founder

Disha Sughand, Womankind Worldwide, Co-CEO

Dominic Haslam, Sightsavers, Deputy CEO

Dylan Mathews, Peace Direct, CEO

Evelyn Brealey, Cambridge Global Health Partnerships, Director

Fiona Greig, Link Education International, Executive Director

Fola Komolafe, World Vision UK, CEO

Frances Guy, Scotland's International Development Alliance, Executive Director

Gareth Jenkins, Malaria No More UK, Managing Director

Gillian McMahon, Right To Play UK, Executive Director

Graeme Hodge, United World Schools, Global CEO

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Hannah Loryman, Send My Friend to School, Co-Chair

Hassan Tabikh, Aman, CEO

Heidi Chow, Debt Justice, Executive Director

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Jessica Woodroffe, Gender and Development Network, Director

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Kirsty Smith, CBM UK, CEO

Kitty Arie, Results UK, CEO

Lara McIvor, Seenaryo, Joint CEO

Lauren Watters, Able Child, CEO

Lexi Parfitt, Water Witness International, Director of Public and Political Engagement

Liz McKean, War on Want, Executive Director

Lorna Peacey, Caplor Horizons, Co-Director

Lorraine Currie, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCI AF), Chief Executive

Lynne Morris OBE, Toybox, CEO

Marcos Concepcion Raba, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Executive Director

Mark Goldring, Anti-Slavery International, Interim CEO

Mark Smith, Enable-Ed CIC, Director

Mark Waddington, Hope and Homes for Children, CEO

Martin Drewry, Health Poverty Action, CEO

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Mary Rice, Environmental Investigation Agency UK, Executive Director

Matthew Lake, Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK, CEO

Michael Deriaz, Friends of Kipkelion, Chairman

Mike Podmore, STOPAIDS, CEO

Muhammad Seedat, Ummah Welfare Trust, Chairman

Nick Sankey, Pratham UK, Executive Director

Nicola Swan, BE REEL, Hon Exec Director

Nik Kafka, Teach A Man To Fish, CEO

Othman Moqbel, Action for Humanity UK, CEO

Patrick Brown, Equal Right, Executive Director

Patrick Watt, Christian Aid, CEO

Peter Waddup, The Leprosy Mission, CEO

Petter Matthews, Engineers Against Poverty, Executive Director

Richard Hawkes, Oxfam GB, Chief Executive

Rob Capener, Railway Children, Group CEO

Romilly Greenhill, Bond, CEO

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Sean Richardson, The Uganda School Project, CEO

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Tim Holmes, Muslim Aid, Interim CEO

Tim Wainwright, WaterAid, Chief Executive

Tom Dannatt, Street Child, CEO & Founder

Tom Shelton, Humanity & Inclusion UK

Tum Kazunga, Build It International, CEO

Ven Nyamondo, Chance for Childhood, CEO

Wendy Harrison, Unlimit Health, CEO

Zarina Douglas-Sori, Good Neighbours UK, Chief Executive

Zia Salik, Interim UK Director, Islamic Relief