



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Society Building  
8 All Saints Street  
London  
N1 9RL, UK  
  
+44 (0)20 7837 8344  
bond.org.uk

19 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

As leaders of 191 NGOs, think tanks and charities working in international aid, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and peacebuilding, we urge you to reconsider your decision to merge the Department for International Development with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Over the last two decades, the Department for International Development (DFID) has secured the UK's global reputation as a trusted partner, being the guardian of good aid and development that helps build a safer, healthier and more prosperous world for all of us. The government can be proud of DFID's record on humanitarian assistance and helping to transform lives by reducing poverty, immunising children and getting girls into school. Abolishing one of the world's most effective and respected government departments at a time when the world is in need of global leadership, undermines our response to Covid-19 and suggests the UK is turning its back on the world's poorest people. It also risks us being less able to respond to the great challenges of our time, such as global health security and climate change.

It is no accident that DFID has the reputation as one of the most successful aid departments in the world. There are a number of key principles that the UK must follow if it is to continue to be a respected world leader in international development:

- Our legal obligation to meet the 0.7% GNI target in a way that focuses aid on poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
- Adherence to the internationally agreed rules and standards governing ODA spending and implementation, and humanitarian standards and principles.
- Our commitment to leave no one behind, reach the most vulnerable in the world's poorest places first, and to spend half of all aid in fragile and conflict affected states.
- A clear focus of aid spend to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals and be aligned with the Paris Agreement, contributing to efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Aid spending should never harm the natural environment, but should support it.
- Effective programmes that can demonstrate a positive impact on the lives of the people who need it the most, administered by people experienced in development and working directly with local communities.
- A minister with a seat in Cabinet and on the National Security Council able to provide development perspectives to a whole government approach.
- All UK Aid must be fully accountable and transparent through parliamentary and independent scrutiny, with a cross-departmental select committee and a bolstered Independent Commission for Aid Impact, so government and parliament can ensure that our vital aid budget is accountable not just to those we aim to help, but also to the British taxpayer.

We believe that the best way to deliver on these principles is to retain an independent DFID led by its own Secretary of State with cabinet level representation. Regardless, we must find a way to uphold these critical principles that have underpinned the UK's success. We understand your commitment to building up Britain's role in the world, but this decision is an unnecessary, and expensive, distraction from doing just that. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and DFID are already highly aligned contributing their different expertise to a global approach. This decision, taken during a global pandemic with no consultation, ahead of the review of development, diplomacy and defence and against the recent advice of the cross-party International Development Select Committee, does not enhance our reputation in the world, but diminishes it. We urge you to reconsider this merger.

---

Yours sincerely,

Karl Hankinson, CEO, Able Child Africa  
Josephine Rodgers, Executive Director, Access Agriculture  
Rocio Moreno Lopez, Executive Director, Accountable Now  
Katy Adams, COO, Act4Africa  
Jean-Michel Grand, Executive Director, Action Against Hunger UK  
Katie Huselby, Coordinator, Action for Global Health Network UK  
Girish Menon, CEO, ActionAid UK  
Bert R Smit, CEO, ADRA-UK  
Andrew Betts, Director, Advantage Africa  
Yasmin Batliwala, CEO, Advocates for International Development  
Debbie Ariyo OBE, CEO, AFRUCA - Safeguarding Children  
Chris Roles, Managing Director, Age International  
Heather Pitcher, Head of Operations, AgriTechTalk International CIC  
Professor Ian J Govendir, CEO, Aids Orphan UK Trust  
Graeme Hodge, Chief Executive, All We Can  
Camilla Knox-Peebles, Chief Executive, Amref Health Africa UK  
Jasmine O'Connor OBE, CEO, Anti-Slavery International  
Alex Daniels, Chief Executive, APT Action on Poverty  
Quinn McKew, Executive Director, ARTICLE 19  
Sheniz Tan, Director, Asfar CIC  
Penny David, CEO, Ashanti Development  
Jo Ashbridge, Director, AzuKo  
Mark Habibi, Executive Officer, BASED UK  
Alasdair Harris, Executive Director, Blue Ventures Conservation  
Dr Kang-San Tan, General Director, BMS World Mission  
Stephanie Draper, Chief Executive, Bond  
Lewis Temple, Chief Executive, BRAC UK  
Andrew Jowett, CEO, Build It International  
Peter Anderson, Chair, CADA NI – Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies Northern Ireland  
Ian Williams and Lorna Pearcey (Co-Directors) and Laura Vickery (Chair), Caplor Horizons  
Laurie Lee, CEO, CARE International UK  
Anil Patil, Executive Director, Carers Worldwide  
Kirsty Smith, CEO, CBM UK  
Cheryl Hooper, CEO, Cecily's Fund  
Dr L Allen, CEO, Centre for Global Equality  
Anna-mai Andrews and Katie Fowler, Co-CEOs, Chance for Childhood  
Henry Pomeroy, Director, CHASE Africa  
Jill Healey, Executive Director, ChildHope  
Richard Moore, CEO, Children in Crossfire  
Rachel Bentley, CEO, Children on the Edge  
Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Chief Executive, Christian Aid  
James Thornton, CEO, ClientEarth  
Justin Dowds, Chief Executive Officer, Compassion UK and Ireland  
Danny Harvey, Executive Director, Concern Worldwide UK  
Jonathan Cohen, Executive Director, Conciliation Resources  
Peter Marsden, Chief Executive, Concordis International  
Caroline Ford, Chief Executive Officer, Consortium for Street Children  
Meena Varma, Director, Dalit Solidarity Network UK  
Matthew Lake, CEO, Dhaka Ahsania Mission

---

Julia Misselbrook, Director International Partnerships, Digital Opportunity Trust UK  
Ellen Waters, Development Director, Doctors of the World UK  
Monowara Gani, CEO, Doctors Worldwide  
Petter Matthews, Executive Director, Engineers Against Poverty  
Tricia Barnett, Director, Equality in Tourism  
Jacqui Hunt, Director, Europe/Eurasia, Equality Now  
Michael Gidney, CEO, Fairtrade Foundation  
Patrick C. Fine, Chief Executive Officer, FHI 360  
Saul Billingsley, Executive Director, FIA Foundation  
Rachel Lindley, CEO, Five Talents  
Paul Cornelius, CEO, Food for the Hungry UK  
Professor Gail Davey, Founder, Footwork, the International Podoconiosis Initiative  
Ziggy Garewal, UK Representative, Friends of ACTED UK  
Michael Deriaz, Chairman, Friends of Kipkelion  
Christine Stegling, Executive Director, Frontline AIDS  
Dr. Faith Mwangi-Powell, Chief Executive Officer, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage  
Marie Rumsby, UK Country Director, Global Citizen  
Prof Khalid Nadvi, Managing Director and Head, Global Development Institute, The University of Manchester  
Jenny Hodgson, Executive Director, Global Fund for Community Foundations  
Anna Henry, Director, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children  
Bijay Kumar, Executive Director, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)  
Dr Husna Ahmad OBE, CEO, Global One 2015  
Mike Davis, CEO, Global Witness  
Hyejoung Yang, Chief Officer, Good Neighbours UK  
Martin Drewry, CEO, Health Poverty Action  
Justin Derbyshire, Chief Executive, HelpAge International  
Julie Davis, CEO, Hope for Children  
Carwyn Hill, Co-founder & CEO, Hope Health Action  
Claire O'Shea, Head, Hub Cymru Africa  
Aleema Shivji, CEO, Humanity & Inclusion UK  
Dr Christine Sow, CEO, Humentum  
Andrew Norton, Director, IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development)  
Helena Nightingale, Director, Integrated Village Development Trust  
Jasmina Haynes, CEO, Integrity Action  
Prof Tom Potokar OBE, Director, Interburns  
Mark Galloway, Executive Director, International Broadcasting Trust  
Marge Berer, Co-Coordinator, International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion  
Adele Paterson, CEO, International Health Partners  
Ognjen Radosavljevic, Managing Director, International Medical Corps UK  
John Reynolds, CEO, International Nepal Fellowship  
John Young, Executive Director, International Network for Advancing Science and Policy (INASP)  
Laura Kyrke-Smith, UK Executive Director, International Rescue Committee  
Jodie Ginsberg, Chief Executive Officer, Internews Europe  
Jim Emerson, Chief Executive, INTRAC  
Naser Haghamed Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief Worldwide  
Danish Jabbar Khan, CEO, Kaarvan Crafts Foundation  
Fiona Bristow, Director, Kanaama Interactive Community Support  
Shona Lockyer, Chair of Trustees, Kambia Appeal  
Ciaran Maguire, Chief Executive, Karuna Trust  
David Bonbright, Co-founder and Chief Executive, Keystone Accountability  
Kristine Stave, Global COO, Lifebox Foundation

---

Dawn Rennie, Executive Director (UK), Light for the World  
Fiona Greig, CEO, Link Community Development International  
Rainatou Sow, Executive Director, Make Every Woman Count  
Charles Nelson, CEO, Malaria Consortium  
Julian Watson, Director, Mbedza Projects Support  
Catherine McCarthy, Chief Executive, Medical Aid Films  
Simon O'Connell, Executive Director, Mercy Corps Europe  
Joanne Balaam, Acting Executive Director, Mercy Ships UK Ltd  
Joshua Castellino, Executive Director, Minority Rights Group  
Ruth Whitaker, Chief Executive, Mission Aviation Fellowship UK (MAF UK)  
Bev Jullien, Chief Executive Officer, Mothers' Union  
Kashif Shabir, Interim CEO, Muslim Aid  
Irfan Khan, Director Humanitarian and International Partnerships, Muslim Hands  
Karl Wilding, Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations  
Suneeta Kaimal, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Natural Resource Governance Institute  
Annabel Harris, CEO, Network for Africa  
Martin Hartberg, Director, NRC UK  
Fiona Gorton, Company Secretary, Omega Research Foundation  
Libby Drew, Director, On Our Radar  
Sam Bickersteth, Chief Executive, Opportunity International United Kingdom  
Rachel Cable, Head, Oxfam Cymru  
Alan Sweetman, Executive Director, Pahar Trust Nepal  
Harris Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer, Penny Appeal  
Dr Keith Tyrell, Director, Pesticide Action Network UK  
Tom Edwards, Director, PHASE Worldwide  
Mollin delve, Director, Phoebe  
Camila Garbutt, CEO, PIN UK  
Rose Caldwell, CEO, Plan International UK  
Robin Maynard, Executive Director, Population Matters  
Paul Smith LomasChief, Executive Officer, Practical Action  
Kate Garvey and Gail Gallie, Co-founders, Project Everyone  
Gary Forster, Chief Executive, Publish What You Fund – the Global Campaign for Aid Transparency  
Terina Keene, Group Chief Executive, Railway Children  
Julian Olivier, Chief Executive, Raleigh International  
Nancy E. Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, Relief International UK  
Perry Maddox, Chief Executive Officer, Restless Development  
Erica Belanger, Executive Director, SafeHands  
Paul Murphy, Executive Director, Saferworld  
Kevin Watkins, CEO, Save the Children UK  
Dr Wendy Harrison BVetMed MPH PhD MRCVS, Chief Executive, SCI Foundation  
Jane Salmonson, CEO, Scotland's International Development Alliance  
Paul Stuart, Chief Executive Officer, Send a Cow  
Richard Kramer, Chief Executive, Sense and Sense International  
Patricia Alexander, Managing Director, Shared Interest Foundation  
Sanj Srikanthan, CEO, ShelterBox  
Mitchell Payne, International Programmes Manager, Signal  
Meike van Ginneken, CEO, SNV Netherlands Development Organisation  
Alison Wallace, CEO, SOS Children's Villages UK  
Christina Bennett, CEO, Start Network  
Mike Podmore, Director, STOPAIDS  
Fadhili Maghiya, Director, Sub Sahara Advisory Panel

---

Charlie Gamble, CEO, TackleAfrica  
Nigel Harris, Chief Executive, Tearfund  
Tricia Young, CEO, Terre des hommes UK  
Ian Wishart, CEO, The Fred Hollows Foundation  
Mukhtar Amirali Karim, CEO, The Lady Fatemah (as) Charitable Trust  
Peter Waddup, CEO, The Leprosy Mission England and Wales  
Ian Agnew, Chairperson, The Lorna Young Foundation  
Romilly Greenhill, UK Director, The ONE Campaign  
Alistair Dutton, Chief Executive, The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF – Caritas Scotland)  
Caroline Qutteneh, Director, The Welfare Association  
Philippa Carrick, CEO, Tibet Relief Fund  
Sarah Ingleby, Chief Executive Officer, Tools for Self Reliance  
Lynne Morris, CEO, Toybox  
Charlotte Timson, CEO, Traidcraft Exchange  
Caroline Barber, CEO, Transaid  
Charles Kazibwe, Chief Executive Officer, Transform Africa  
Tom Skirrow, Acting CEO, TREE AID  
Caoimhe de Barra, Chief Executive Officer, Trócaire  
Erica Belanger, Chair, UK Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Network  
Sacha Deshmukh, Executive Director, Unicef UK  
Michael Dockar, Director, United Nations Association International Service  
Nicola Chevis, CEO, Vision Aid Overseas  
Philip Goodwin, CEO, VSO  
Susie Ventris-Field, Chair, Wales Alliance for Global Learning  
Claire O'Shea and Rachel Cable, Co-Chairs, Wales Overseas Agency Group  
Prof. Rosalind Cornforth, Director, Walker Institute  
Rob Williams OBE, Chief Executive Officer, War Child UK  
Asad Rehman, Executive Director, War On Want,  
Tim Wainwright, Chief Executive, WaterAid  
Dr Antony Kingsley, CEO, WellFound, UK  
Susie Ventris-Field, Chief Executive, Welsh Centre for International  
Madiha Raza, Head of WF-Aid, WF-Aid  
Caroline Haworth, Chief Executive Officer, Womankind Worldwide  
Mikey Rosato, CEO, Women and Children First  
Paul Anticoni, Chief Executive, World Jewish Relief  
Mark Sheard, Chief Executive Officer, World Vision UK  
Dr Stephen R Connor, Executive Director, Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance  
Tanya Steele, Chief Executive, WWF  
Leigh Daynes, Chief Executive Officer, Y Care International, the YMCAs' aid and development charity  
Anita Tiessen, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Business International (YBI)

