

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th June 2018

Jan Confrontment

RE: DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT – SIGHTSAVERS’ ‘PUT US IN THE PICTURE’ CAMPAIGN.

Thank you for contacting me recently about disability-inclusive development, particularly in relation to Sightsavers’ ‘Put Us in the Picture’ campaign; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

The Global Goals promise to “Leave No One Behind”. I believe that people with disabilities must be at the heart of the Department for International Development’s (DFID) work to build a more prosperous and secure future, if this ambition is to be achieved. In July 2018, the UK will host a Global Disability Summit to bring together technologies companies, governments and charities to tackle the barriers that prevent people living with disabilities from reaching their full potential.

An estimated one billion people across the globe have a disability; 80 percent of whom live in developing countries. Many people living with disabilities do not have a voice, choice, or control over their lives. Often they face poverty, stigma, discrimination, or even violence. I am encouraged that DFID is committed to working to change this and to establish itself as the global leader in this under-prioritised area.

People with disabilities need to be included in international aid and humanitarian assistance, and they should have access to a quality education, healthcare and productive employment. I was pleased by the recent allocation of UK Aid Direct funding to several charities that help people with disabilities in developing countries. DFID’s work to help improve health systems and combat diseases is also important to prevent avoidable disability.

Decision-makers often overlook people with disabilities because of a lack of quality data on disability. For this reason, the UK is maintaining its commitment to be a global authority on disability data, so that every person counts and advocates for better practice to ensure accurate, and robust international comparable data on disability is collected.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE