



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*New Content*

**RE: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – UK AID**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of International Women's Day; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I agree with you that local women's rights organisations do vital work across the world, and I am proud that the UK has provided long-term support to many women's rights organisations, often in dangerous regions.

The past year has put many women's rights organisations under significant pressure. I am pleased that the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) have ensured that the needs and priorities of women and girls are central to every aspect of our global COVID-19 response, while supporting women's participation and leadership, including through women's rights organisations.

We know that the success of the global COVID-19 recovery will depend on putting women's rights organisations at the heart of our response. In September 2020, the UK announced an additional £1 million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, on top of our existing £21 million contribution, for the new 'COVID-19 Crisis Response Window'. The UK is also building on the success of our 'What Works to Prevent Violence' programme with a successor programme, to systematically scale up proven violence prevention projects across development and humanitarian contexts.

The UK is also proud to support and accelerate the Africa-Led Movement to end FGM through UK aid programmes and our voice on the world stage. Since 2013, various programmes have helped over four million girls and women to receive health, social and legal services related to FGM and UK aid helped to build the 'The Girl Generation' - the largest-ever global movement of over 900 grassroots organisations working together to end FGM.

The success in the fight for gender equality is dependent upon supporting women's rights organisations, and, as these few examples demonstrate, the UK is steadfast in fulfilling its commitments.



I am assured that gender equality will be central to our G7 Presidency, and that this work will be framed by the '3Es': Educating girls; Empowering women; and Ending violence for women and girls. The UK is aiming to secure G7 agreement on ambitious targets for girls' education, as well as G7 policy and financial commitments, including a successful replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). The UK wants to strengthen the G7's commitment to women's political and economic empowerment and scale up G7 efforts on preventing violence against women, including a focus on evidence-based approaches.

The recent terrible killing of Sarah Everard in London, and the subsequent outpouring of emotion, has brought the subject of ending violence against women and girls right to the forefront of the public conscience. Whilst it would be wrong for me to comment on this matter further, as the police investigations continue, I shall continue my discussions with my ministerial colleagues, and would like to assure you that I understand just how important these issues are for my constituents and the local desire for us to bring about positive change both at home and abroad.

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*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**