



Department
for International
Development



Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
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Save the Children supporters

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Dear Save the Children supporters,

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Prime Minister about the merger of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to create the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Merging DFID and the FCO will allow the UK to bring together its international effort and expertise to maximise our influence around the world and ensure we are in the best position to confront the challenges and make the most of opportunities that lie ahead. This decision comes ahead of a critical time for the UK: next year the UK will hold the G7 Presidency, and host both the crucial COP26 climate summit and the UN's 75th anniversary celebrations. The Global Vaccine Summit in June shows the potential when diplomatic and development aligns. Representatives from 62 countries, including 42 Heads of State and Government, joined together with leaders from global health organisations, the private sector and civil society organisations to support the Vaccine Alliance's work to protect almost half the world's children against deadly, preventable infectious diseases. The summit was a historic success, exceeding the funding target to raise \$8.8 billion with commitments to provide equal access to vaccines for all.

This government is committed to protecting vulnerable children and helping them to grow up free from violence. We help to keep children safe through dedicated investments in child protection and interventions embedded in development and humanitarian programming. For example, the UK committed £10 million to the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, which drives international progress on tackling violence against children and delivers the Safe to Learn campaign to end violence in schools.

The UK has also provided £10 million to UNICEF to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, and exploitation of children on the move in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Earlier this week, we announced £5.3 million of new UK aid to support the salaries of teachers in some of the world's poorest refugee-hosting countries; this measure alone will ensure that at least 300,000 vulnerable refugee children continue their education.

The UK is and will remain a global leader on girls' education. Promoting 12 years of quality education for all girls is a priority for the UK and the Prime Minister. Between 2015 and 2019, we supported no fewer than 5.8 million girls in gaining a decent education. At last year's United Nations General Assembly, we announced a further £515 million to help over 12 million children – half of them girls – into school. The challenge for the next five years will be to ensure that the progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals is not lost as a result of COVID-19. It is a challenge that the UK government is determined to meet.



As the Prime Minister has said, the merging of DFID and the FCO into the new FCDO is about ensuring our development and foreign policy objectives are aligned. The work of UK Aid to reduce poverty will remain central to the new department's mission. Our commitment to spend 0.7 percent of our national income on aid is enshrined in law and we will continue to be guided by our responsibilities under the International Development Act, including a commitment to poverty reduction.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anne-Marie Trevelyan".

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State