

Dr James Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Vale of Clwyd / Aelod Seneddol Dyffryn Clwyd



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for International Development
Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

Dear Priti,

I have been contacted by constituents concerned about Gender Based Violence. I enclose a copy of the correspondence I have received. Please can you provide a response that addresses these concerns and sets out the government's policy in this area?

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,


Dr James Davies MP/AS
Vale of Clwyd/Dyffryn Clwyd

Dear James Davies MP,

I am writing as part of the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-Based Violence.

I support Progressio, an international development NGO committed to helping people overcome the structural barriers that keep them poor.

Progressio have produced a [policy briefing](#) which they launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2016. In the briefing you'll see four key asks which involve writing to the Department for International Development and asking them how they are improving and implementing their work on violence against women and girls, with some suggestions of how this work could be even stronger.

Please read the briefing and share it amongst your colleagues. I'd be grateful if you could share with me the response from DFID when they reply.

Yours sincerely,



Department
for International
Development



The Rt Hon The Lord Bates
Minister of State

Dr James Davies MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

29th March 2017

Thank you for your letter of 11 March to Priti Patel, writing on behalf of your constituent about Progressio's campaign to end violence against women.

Firstly, let me assure you that we share a global commitment to ending all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The UK Government has a strong record on this issue and it remains a priority.

In 2013, DFID launched the Global Call to Action to tackle gender-based violence in emergencies, and championed the establishment of strong language and commitments, agreed by all UN member states, on tackling violence against women and girls at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. DFID organised the highly successful Girl Summit in 2014 to shine a spotlight on female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriages (CEFM), which mobilised commitments from a large number of country governments and international organisations. We have played a strong role in establishing dedicated targets within the Sustainable Development Goals for all countries on ending all forms of violence against women and girls, FGM and child, early and forced marriages at the UN General Assembly in 2015.

As well as mobilising international leadership, DFID has increased UK resources to tackle violence against women and girls (including FGM and child, early and forced marriages) by more than 60% in recent years. This includes £35million to reduce FGM by 30% in 17 countries across Africa. Our £36million programme to end child, early and forced marriages is helping thousands of girls take back control and choice over their bodies and their futures including by providing resources to women's rights organisations to end child marriage.

The Secretary of State, Priti Patel, recently announced a new £6million package to support innovative grassroots programmes in 17 countries, tackling FGM, child marriage and domestic violence. The support includes £3million to Amplify Change, a fund which supports 40 small grassroots groups working to address FGM and child, early and forced marriage. An additional £2.75million will support the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, to fund organisations across the world to tackle gender-based violence, improve access to services such as legal assistance and healthcare and strengthen laws that protect women and girls. The UK and DFID are recognised as world leading on generating innovations and robust evidence on

preventing violence against women and girls before it starts. Since 2013, we have committed £25million through the best research institutions in the world in our 'What Works' programme to ensure future interventions deliver lasting change for women and girls. This includes understanding the specific challenges faced by survivors of violence in some of the worst environments to be a woman or girl, including in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, in DRC and in South Sudan.

As Progressio notes in its briefing, the Independent Commission on Aid Impact thoroughly reviewed my Department's work on violence against women and girls in 2015 and recognised our world-leading role. ICAI's report commended the strong global leadership we have demonstrated in drawing international attention to this issue and generating robust evidence on how to tackle it.

Thank you for your engagement on this crucial issue and I hope this reassures you that DFID is fully committed to stepping up global leadership and support to protect even more women and girls and address the root causes of violence against them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lord Bates', written in a cursive style.

LORD BATES