



During my time in Harare I was struck by the strength of the ties to the UK and, strange in a way, the mutual affection. What was clear was that despite the residual antagonism, there is an expectation on the UK to lead the international community in helping Zimbabwe find its way back to normality.

There is little we can or should do to intervene in the on-going factional disputes, but I believe that we should work with the EU to keep the pathway out of Zimbabwe's current troubles clear to encourage and support the reformers.

we should encourage

to keep up the pressure for reform. We should also recognise the challenge of the American legislation, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economy Recovery Act (ZDERA) of 2001

If, in the near future, realists and pragmatists once again have the initiative then there is scope to secure a foreign policy win, and to improve the lot of Zimbabweans by moving the country closer to fulfilling its potential. For this to happen I believe that the international community must establish the right incentives for the reformers and encourage incremental progress – which I understand is the approach of the British government. Overall I was encouraged that there is a prospect for positive change in the country. But it is fragile, and time may be running out ahead of a crisis which threatens to unfold soon.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gordon'.

*I am writing similarly to
Nick Howard at 8/11*

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