



Department
for International
Development



The Rt Hon The Lord Bates
Minister of State

Shabana Mahmood MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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January 2017

Dear Shabana,

Thank you for your letter of 5 January to Priti Patel (ref: SM28283), writing on behalf of your constituent about DFID's work to ensure that people living with disabilities are included in the fight against global poverty. I am replying as the Minister with responsibility for these issues.

I share your constituent's concern about the treatment of people with disabilities. People with disabilities are amongst the most marginalised in society, and consistently fare less well than their non-disabled peers, often facing appalling levels of stigma and discrimination. I want to reassure your constituents that people with disabilities will be included in the UK's fight against global poverty. DFID will ensure people with disabilities are systematically and consistently included in, and benefit from, international aid and humanitarian assistance. For example, DFID have recently launched the Disability Catalyst Fund, providing up to 300 small grants over the next three years to support disabled peoples organisations across the world.

As the Secretary of State announced on the International Day of Persons with Disability in December, DFID will lead changes to the way efforts are directed to end extreme poverty by pushing disability up the development agenda. This announcement builds upon my commitment in the recently published Bilateral Development Review that DFID will become a global leader on disability. But we cannot do this alone, and I will be expecting and encouraging our partners around the world to join us. DFID will build a global coalition to ensure people with disabilities access a quality education, productive employment and no longer face stigma and discrimination.

Lord Bates

LORD BATES