



Sunday, 14 May 2017

Dear All,

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the United Kingdom's aid budget. I, like you, also believe that helping the most vulnerable is the right thing to do and I recognise the immense benefit international aid can have.

Both myself and the Green Party are committed to reducing global inequalities. I believe the world has become a very unequal place with rich countries such as the UK benefiting from global flows of wealth while poorer countries have tended to lose out. Clearly, international aid can help redress that balance and in doing so pull the poorest out of poverty and therefore save lives.

You will be pleased to know, then, that while our 2017 manifesto is not yet fully published, our 2015 manifesto contained a commitment to *increase the overseas aid budget from 0.7% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP over the term of a Parliament* and I would support including this commitment again. With a Green Party in power, this aid would not be tied and would be distributed in ways that are focused on poverty eradication, support of grass-roots initiatives, women's rights and environmental sustainability while respecting local priorities.

I've included in the next paragraph some other aspects of Green Party policy relating to aid and trade that you may be interested to know about.

The Green Party will:

- Fight for the writing-off of *international debts* for the poorest countries and limit repayments for other low-income countries, to ensure they can fund decent public services for their people.
- Promote fair trade, in particular seeking to ensure that workers in poor countries receive decent pay and conditions within International Labour Organization (ILO) standards.
- Initiate democratic discussions, alongside international trade unions, citizen groups and the ILO, to investigate the potential for a global minimum wage to address in-work poverty and exploitation.
- Help poorer countries to fund climate change adaptation and build resilient communities through the UN Adaptation Fund. We recognise that the UK owes them a climate debt for our disproportionately high emissions and contributions to global pollution and climate damage.

If elected I would fight to keep these issues at the top of the agenda.

Yours Sincerely,



Stuart Tuckwood
Parliamentary candidate for Cambridge