



Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

25 November 2020

*Dear Prime Minister,*

It is with sadness that I write to resign from the Government.

It has been a privilege to work as a Minister for Sustainable Development, the Overseas Territories and the Caribbean on important global issues close to my heart – ending extreme poverty, promoting gender equality, advocating for the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights and building a fairer, more sustainable world. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the first UK Special Envoy for Girls' Education. We have made great progress in this area and I know we share the belief that educating every girl will solve many of the world's biggest problems.

I have valued working on our unique relationship with the British Overseas Territories and I am proud of the support the UK provided them during the pandemic. It has been a pleasure to deepen the relationship with our friends in the Caribbean.

Many in our country face severe challenges as a result of the pandemic and I know the Government must make very difficult choices in response. But I believe it is fundamentally wrong to abandon our commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on development. This promise should be kept in the tough times as well as the good. Given the link between our development spend and the health of our economy, the economic downturn has already led to significant cuts this year and I do not believe we should reduce our support further at a time of unprecedented global crises.

For me, as for many in our Party and the country, it is a source of great pride that the United Kingdom has been a development superpower and contributed so much to the world. Our support and leadership on development has saved and changed millions of lives. It has also been firmly in our national interest as we tackle global issues, such as the pandemic, climate change and conflict. Cutting UK aid risks undermining your efforts to promote a Global Britain and will diminish our power to influence other nations to do what is right. I cannot support or defend this decision, it is therefore right that I tender my resignation.

I will continue to support our hard-working front bench team in the House of Lords from the back benches. I will continue to advocate for the importance of the 0.7% commitment and for ways to improve its impact. I hope to see the Government return to 0.7%, fulfilling our pledge to those who need it most.

I am grateful to my ministerial colleagues and the dedicated and talented civil servants with whom I have worked across three departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a Minister in a job that I love.

*I wish you and the government all the best for the future.*

**BARONESS SUGG**