

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

7 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister

Ahead of the G7 Summit in Cornwall, we ask you to emphasise your commitment to sustainable overseas development and announce that the UK will once again start to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA).

As you will know, the Government first met the United Nations 0.7 per cent target in 2013, and has been under a statutory obligation to do so since the passage of the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015.

Sadly, in last November's Spending Review the Chancellor announced that the UK would temporarily abandon that commitment, cutting spending from 0.7 per cent of GNI to 0.5 per cent.

We are still learning what these multibillion-pound cuts will mean in practice, but we already know the impact, particularly on women and girls, will be significant. A great many projects stand to lose, particularly those looking to train much needed healthcare professionals, including nurses, midwives and doctors in training^[1]. Dr Natalia Kanem, the Executive Director of UNFPA, which stands to lose £130 million, said^[2] the lost funding would have helped prevent "around 250,000 maternal and child deaths, 14.6 million unintended pregnancies and 4.3 million unsafe abortions."

The lost billions in funding as a result of these cuts will cause direct harm to some of the world's most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls. At a time when humanity faces a global pandemic, the UK Government's obligations to some of the world's poorest should be strengthened and not weakened.

While we recognise that the Government has stated that these cuts are only temporary, no sense has been given as to what 'temporary' means in this case.

With the eyes of the world on the UK for the G7 Summit – and on you, Prime Minister – we ask that you use this golden opportunity to confirm that the UK will once again honour the UN 0.7 per cent spending commitment, and that it will do so without delay.

Yours sincerely

Gill Walton Hon DSc Chief Executive The Royal College of Midwives 10-18 Union Street London SE1 1SZ	Dr Edward Morris President The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 10-18 Union Street London SE1 1SZ	Frances O'Grady General Secretary Trades Union Congress Congress House, Great Russell Street London WC1B 3LS
Pat Cullen Acting Chief Executive/General Secretary The Royal College of Nursing	Christina McAnea General Secretary UNISON 130 Euston Road	Dr Chaand Nagpaul Chair of Council British Medical Association BMA House

^[1] Mitchell, G. and Mitchell, G., 2021. [Exclusive: Anger as government withdraws funding promised for nursing abroad | Nursing Times](#)

^[2] unfpa.org. 2021. [Statement on UK government funding cuts](#)

20 Cavendish Square London W1G 0RN	London NW1 2AY	Tavistock Square London WC1H 9JP
Andrew F Goddard MD PRCP President Royal College of Physicians & Honorary Professor University of Nottingham School of Medicine 11 St Andrews Place Regent's Park, London	Dr Camilla Kingdon President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health 5-11 Theobalds Road London WC1X 8SH	Professor Martin Marshall Chair of Council, Royal College of General Practitioners 30 Euston Square London NW1 2FB
Richard Evans OBE Chief Executive Officer The Society and College of Radiographers 207 Providence Square, Mill Street, London SE1 2EW	Martin Furlong Head of Employment Relations The College of Podiatry Quartz House 207 Providence Square Mill Street London SE1 2EW	Miss Ranee Thakar Senior Vice President for Global Health The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 10-18 Union Street London SE1 1SZ
Papa Diouf Global Practice Area Lead – Health VSO 100 London Road Kingston-Upon-Thames KT2 6QJ	Zeni Koutsis MSc FHEA Board Chair The Hellenic British Midwives Association International House 24 Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2BN <i>Signed on behalf of the Board &</i> <i>Members.</i>	Prof. Julia Downing PhD Chief Executive International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) New Bond House Bond Street Bristol BS2 9AG
Catherine McCarthy Chief Executive Medical Aid Films c/o Doctors of the World 29th Floor One Canada Square London E14 5AA	Professor Billie Hunter CBE Professor of Midwifery and Director WHO Collaborating Centre for Midwifery Development Cardiff University School of Healthcare Sciences Cardiff University Heath Park Campus Cardiff CF14 4XN	Angela Gorman MBE CEO, Life for African Mothers 65 Penarth Road Cardiff
Professor Liz Grant FRSE FRCPE MFPH Assistant Principal and Director Global Health Academy Teviot Quad / Doorway 3 University of Edinburgh Edinburgh EH8 9AG	Shabbar Jaffar Prof of Epidemiology & Head, Department of International Public Health Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Pembroke Place Liverpool L3 5QA	Nafiza Anwar MA MSc BSc BScM Director and Co Founder Sundas Khalid Director and Co Founder & Benash Nazmeen Director and Co Founder Association of South Asian Midwives C.I.C. 15 Devonshire Road Burnley Lancashire BB10 1AP
Dr Ruth Davis	Dr Jennifer McNeill	

Trustee, Heb Ffin 33 Ty Draw Road Penylan Cardiff CF23 5HB	Lead Midwife for Education Queens University Belfast University Road Belfast BT7 1NN	
--	---	--