



## DEBATE PACK

CDP 0219 (2019) | 4 October 2019

# UK co-operation with Tanzania

**Westminster Hall**

**9 October 2019**

**2.30pm to 4.00pm**

**Debate initiated by Jeremy Lefroy MP**

Compiled by:  
Tim Robinson  
Eleanor Gadd

Subject specialist:  
Jon Lunn

### Contents

1.	Background	2
2.	Press Articles	4
3.	Gov.uk	5
4.	PQs	7
5.	Parliamentary debates	15
6.	Further reading	16

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Background

The UK's relationship with Tanzania is deep-rooted and multi-faceted. According to the UK Government, its mission is:

We develop and maintain relations between the United Kingdom and Tanzania. We deal with a wide range of political, commercial, security and economic questions of interest to the UK and Tanzania. We support British nationals in Tanzania, both in the mainland and Zanzibar.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provides further [insight](#) into the UK view of the relationship between the two countries:

The Tanzanian economy has grown at around 7% per year for the last 15 years. But 25 million Tanzanians still live on less than \$1.90 a day 800,000 young Tanzanians enter the job market every year with few job opportunities. While most children go to school and the quality of education is improving, education outcomes in Tanzania remain very poor: only 7% of students reach the international benchmark in reading fluency and 8% reach the benchmark for addition and subtraction skills. With the UK as the largest provider of Foreign Direct Investment in Tanzania, our work to strengthen the economy will create further investment opportunities for British business. At the same time, a stronger economy will help to manage the stability, migration and security risks associated with a large, young and disillusioned population.

To find out how the UK will respond to the opportunities and challenges, what is being achieved for the UK and who we are working with please read the full [country profile for Tanzania](#).

DFID's planned budget for 2019/20 is [£153 million](#), with spending heavily focused on: education; water, sanitation and hygiene; and economic development.

In recent years, human rights groups have expressed concern that Tanzania is moving in a more authoritarian direction under President John Magufuli, who was elected in 2015. His nickname is the '[Bulldozer](#)'. Human Rights Watch [said](#) in its 2019 Annual Report:

Since the election of President John Magufuli in December 2015, Tanzania has witnessed a marked decline in respect for free expression, association and assembly. Rhetorical Attacks on rights by authorities are increasingly accompanied by implementation of repressive laws and the harassment and arrest of journalists, opposition members and critics. Self-censorship and fear of reprisals have stifled criticism. Women

and girls, particularly young mothers seeking to study, continue to face discriminatory policies.

In August 2019, the UK High Commission and US Embassy, which are based in the capital of Tanzania, Dodoma, issued a [statement](#) expressing concern about the “steady erosion of due process in Tanzania, as evidenced by the ever more frequent resort to lengthy pre-trial detentions and shifting charges by its justice system.” The statement continued: We are particularly concerned about a recent case – the irregular handling of the arrest, detention, and indictment of investigative journalist Erick Kabendera, including the fact that he was denied access to a lawyer in the early stages of his detention, contrary to the Criminal Procedures Act.” Kabendera remains in detention. On 1 October, Amnesty International [accused](#) the authorities of “targetted harassment” after a court hearing of his case was delayed for a sixth time. He has reportedly been denied medical treatment while in detention.

## 2. Press Articles

**[UK holidaymakers warned of possible Ebola threat in Tanzania](#)**

Telegraph  
Sarah Newey  
1 October 2019

**[Tanzanian journalist could face up to five years in jail without trial](#)**

Guardian  
Ruth Maclean  
12 September 2019

**[UK, U.S. urge Tanzania to respect 'due process' after journalist arrested](#)**

Reuters  
Omar Mohammed  
5 August 2019

**[From an abusive orphanage to a family home: the UK student who opened up a house for Tanzanian street children](#)**

Telegraph  
Harriet Barber  
12 March 2019

**[Tanzania arrests 65 'witchdoctors' over ritual killing of at least 10 children](#)**

Independent  
Samuel Osborne  
5 March 2019

**[World Bank withdraws £235m loan Tanzania loan over pregnant schoolgirl ban](#)**

Independent  
Toyin Owoseje  
15 November 2018

**[Denmark withholds aid to Tanzania after anti-gay comments](#)**

BBC News  
15 November 2018

**[A very bitter pill for UK taxpayers to swallow: Britain funds £45 million family planning programme in Tanzania and still they won't tell us if £125m goes to terrorists](#)**

Mail Online  
Mark Wood  
15 September 2018

### 3. Gov.uk

#### [Tanzania: US-UK issue joint statement on recent indictment of investigative journalist](#)

**British High Commission Dar es Salaam  
9 August 2019**

The U.S. Embassy and the British High Commission are deeply concerned about the steady erosion of due process in Tanzania, as evidenced by the ever more frequent resort to lengthy pre-trial detentions and shifting charges by its justice system. We are particularly concerned about a recent case – the irregular handling of the arrest, detention, and indictment of investigative journalist Erick Kabendera, including the fact that he was denied access to a lawyer in the early stages of his detention, contrary to the Criminal Procedures Act. We urge the Government of Tanzania to guarantee due process to each of its citizens, which it has recognized as a basic human right as signatory to multiple UN Human Rights Convention.

#### [New UK aid package will improve the quality of education in every primary and lower secondary school in Tanzania](#)

**Department for International Development and Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
10 August 2018**

Young people in Tanzania will be empowered to take control of their future prosperity through a new package of UK support, the International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced today. On her visit to the country Ms Mordaunt unveiled plans for the UK to work in partnership with Tanzania to help harness the potential of young people, who hold the key to unlocking the country's economic growth.

Ms Mordaunt has set out a package of UK support which will help improve the quality of education in every primary and lower secondary school across the country. This includes making sure that girls move on to secondary schools and that disabled children can access education. By giving the next generation the vital education and skills they need for the future, the UK is working with Tanzania to help their economy grow – giving millions of young people the chance to build the future they want to see for their country.

Ms Mordaunt also visited a family planning clinic to see how UK aid will be scaling up its provision of modern, voluntary and safe family planning methods. This will enable 800,000 women every year across Tanzania to have greater control over when and how many children they have.

The expansion of family planning access will not only prevent 6,200 maternal deaths, but allow women to make the most of their education and opportunities so that they can contribute to the growth of their societies and communities.

The International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:  
As Tanzania grows, it's essential that young people and women are empowered to take control of their lives, education and health, fulfil their potential and play a role in the future prosperity of their country. The resulting economic growth is opening up opportunities for UK business in the country, as we move towards a future of shared prosperity.

Also during her visit, Ms Mordaunt travelled to Dar es Salaam port to see how the UK is sharing expertise to help Tanzania crack down on organised crime and corruption which hold back development. This includes strengthening border posts to prevent trafficking of products from the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

## 4. PQs

### [Tanzania: Press Freedom](#)

09 Sep 2019 | 284690

**Asked by: Liz McInnes**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of media freedom in Tanzania since the arrest of investigative journalist Erick Kabendera.

**Answering member: Andrew Stephenson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

On 5 August, I said publically that we were concerned at Mr Kabendera's continued detention and that the charges kept changing – a tactic commonly used to stop journalists from doing their job. On 9 August, our High Commission and the Embassy of the United States in Dar Es Salaam issued a joint statement expressing concern about Mr Kabendera's detention and the steady erosion of due process in Tanzania. The British Government believes that media freedom is vital to functioning societies and that journalists must be able to investigate and report as they see fit. The Government of Tanzania is well aware of our stance given that the Foreign Minister Kabudi attended the Media Freedom Conference in London last month.

### [Tanzania: Non-governmental Organisations](#)

18 Jul 2019 | 275785

**Asked by: Alberto Costa**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the treatment of NGOs by the Tanzanian Government.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are concerned about the treatment of Non-Governmental Organisations in Tanzania and increasing restrictions on the democratic space in which they operate. The UK Government is working closely with civil society, including through the Department for International Development Accountability in Tanzania programme, to strengthen civil society and promote positive and constructive engagement with the Tanzanian authorities on difficult issues. I raised our concerns regarding the protection of civil and political rights with the Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Defending Media Freedom conference in London on 11 July 2019

[Tanzania: Politics and Government](#)

20 May 2019 | 252892

**Asked by: Paul Girvan**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Tanzania on the promotion of the right to peaceful and democratic opposition in that country.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

On 10 April 2019, our High Commissioner in Tanzania raised our concerns about the deterioration of political and civil society space with President Magufuli. We continue to work with diplomatic partners and civil society to ensure the Government of Tanzania hears the concerns from a range of stakeholders.

[Tanzania: Refugees](#)

18 Mar 2019 | 231385

**Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to help the Government of Tanzania to host 335,000 refugees.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Department for International Development**

DFID is one of the largest donors to humanitarian work in Tanzania. We have provided support such as food, shelter and protection to over 328,000 Burundian and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers since 2015, and funded reintegration assistance for over 3,600 refugees who chose to return to Burundi, as well as providing additional support to host communities.

[Overseas Trade: Tanzania](#)

12 Mar 2019 | 227983

**Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what steps he is taking to increase trade between the UK and Tanzania.

**Answering member: George Hollingbery | Department for International Trade**

After leaving the EU, the UK will create a trade preference scheme which will provide duty-free, quota-free access to Least Developed Countries, including Tanzania.

The UK is a strong global player on Aid for Trade (AfT). Our comprehensive AfT programmes help partner countries break down the barriers to trade and take better advantage of trade opportunities.

As the Prime Minister set out during her visit to Africa last Summer, the Government is committed to seeing a step change in our relationship with Africa in order to drive forward trade and investment.

The Department for International Trade supports UK businesses to both export and invest overseas. And last August the Government launched a new export strategy, setting out how we will encourage, inform, connect and finance UK businesses of all sizes to enable them to take advantage of the demand for UK goods and services in markets such as Tanzania and around the world.

### [Tanzania: Diplomatic Relations](#)

**06 Mar 2019 | 226627**

**Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps he has taken to strengthen the UK's diplomatic relationship with Tanzania.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We have enjoyed good relations with the United Republic of Tanzania since its independence in the 1960s. A range of Whitehall Departments, including Department for International Development (DFID) are represented in our High Commission in Dar es Salaam covering the broad range of interests we share with the Government of Tanzania. Tanzania is one of the largest recipients of British Overseas Development Aid (around £150m per annum).

In a sign of our deep and long-term relationship with Africa, we are increasing the British diplomatic presence in sub-Saharan Africa, including Tanzania, so we can develop more effective partnerships and achieve our mutual goals. And finally the appointment of the Hon Member for Romford as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Tanzania will only serve to cement further our bilateral relationship.

### [Tanzania: LGBT People](#)

**22 Feb 2019 | 221764**

**Asked by: Chris Evans**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Tanzanian counterpart on human rights abuses toward LGBT people in that country.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I continue to be concerned by any reports of targeting or threats against the LGBTI community in Tanzania. As I said in my tweet on 2 November, language that invites violence against any community in society should be rejected. The British High Commission, alongside international

partners, carried out a demarche on the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urging the authorities to respect human rights and protect all citizens from discrimination. I welcomed the statement by the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 4 November restating the protection of rights enshrined in their Constitution and distancing themselves from comments made by their officials. We continue to urge the Tanzanian authorities to respect the rights of sexual minorities and protect all Tanzanian citizens from discrimination. I personally raised discrimination and human rights abuses towards LGBTI people in Tanzania when I met Foreign Minister Mahiga in Brussels on 21 January. I wrote to him in similar terms in November last year and the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Secretary of State for International Development, has also raised the issue with President Magufuli.

### [Tanzania: Christianity](#)

**23 Jan 2019 | 208808**

#### **Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has received on the persecution of Christians in Tanzania; and if he will make a statement.

#### **Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The promotion and protection of the right to freedom of religion or belief is a priority for the UK. We regard freedom of thought, conscience or belief as a fundamental human right. Our officials in Tanzania engage with civil society organisations, religious groups and the Tanzanian Government to promote tolerance and trust across communities. We have received no recent representations on the persecution of Christians.

### [Tanzania: Press Freedom](#)

**23 Jan 2019 | 208773**

#### **Asked by: Andrew Rosindell**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of restrictions on media freedom in Tanzania; and what representations he has made to the Government of Tanzania on that subject.

#### **Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

Over recent years, we have noted a shrinking of public space in Tanzania through increased restrictions on the activities of civil society organisations, political parties and the media. Respect for human rights and the rule of law have been repeatedly undermined. We have made our concerns about this known to the Government of Tanzania at both Ministerial and official level. The UK is fully committed to the promotion of media freedom and the protection of journalists. The Foreign

Secretary announced on 31 October 2018 the launch of an international campaign on media freedom and that the UK will host an International Conference aimed at promoting the value and benefits of a free media and to mobilise an international consensus on the protection of journalists as the guardians of our freedoms.

### [Tanzania: Politics and Government](#)

**14 Nov 2018 | 188766**

#### **Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the prospects for fair and impartial trials of members of the Tanzanian parliament facing criminal charges in that country.

#### **Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The British Government is concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of opposition parliamentarians in Tanzania and the deteriorating space for democracy and human rights. Most recently on 2 November, following the arrest and detention of an opposition MP the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam raised the case with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, urging the Tanzanian authorities to follow due process. We have subsequently also raised the case with the Minister of Home Affairs.

### [Tanzania: LGBT People and Political Parties](#)

**14 Nov 2018 | 188230**

#### **Asked by: Christian Matheson**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations his Department has made to the Government of Tanzania on the level of the threat to (a) the LGBT community and (b) supporters of opposition parties in that country.

#### **Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I am concerned by reports of threats against the LGBT community in Tanzania. The British High Commission, alongside international partners, carried out a demarche on the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 November, urging the authorities to respect human rights and protect all citizens from discrimination. I welcome the Government of Tanzania's statement on 4 November making clear that such threats do not represent government policy, and that it will protect human rights as enshrined in the country's constitution. We must all reject language that invites violence against any group in society. The UK will also continue to raise the importance of wider political freedoms with the Government of Tanzania.

[Tanzania: Politics and Government](#)

**14 Nov 2018 | 188229**

**Asked by: Christian Matheson**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect of charges of sedition against former members of the Government of Tanzania on the democratic process in that country.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK remains concerned about the closing down of political space in Tanzania. Following the recent arrest and detention beyond the period allowed without charge of Zitto Kabwe, a prominent opposition leader, the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam raised the case with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 November, urging the Tanzanian authorities to follow due process. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Government of Tanzania.

[Tanzania: Homosexuality](#)

**14 Nov 2018 | 187989**

**Asked by: Kate Hoey**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps he plans to take to protest the Tanzanian government's recent steps against gay citizens; and if he will make a statement.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

I am concerned by reports of threats against the LGBT community in Tanzania. The British High Commission, alongside international partners, carried out a demarche on the Tanzanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 November, urging the authorities to respect human rights and protect all citizens from discrimination. I welcome the Government of Tanzania's statement on 4 November making clear that such threats do not represent government policy, and that it will protect human rights as enshrined in the country's constitution. We must all reject language that invites violence against any group in society.

[Tanzania: Politics and Government](#)

**13 Nov 2018 | 188765**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will ask the Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Advisory Group to initiate an inquiry into the recent conduct of the Government of Tanzania to assess its potential infringement of the Commonwealth's shared political values.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are in close contact with the Commonwealth Secretariat and with other Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) members on a range of issues related to the observance of the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretary General assess whether there has been a serious or persistent violation of the Commonwealth's political values, including by bringing matters to CMAG's attention. However, discussions between CMAG members are by convention not disclosed. Alongside international partners we will continue to raise our concerns at the deteriorating human rights situation with the Government of Tanzania.

**[Tanzania: Family Planning](#)**

**22 Oct 2018 | HL10517**

**Asked by: Baroness Tonge**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made or plan to make to the government of Tanzania following the banning in that country of family planning adverts by FHI 360; and what assessment they have made of reports that the President described family planning as being for those "too lazy to take care of their children".

**Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development**

Representatives of the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam remain closely engaged with the Government of Tanzania, who have provided assurances that there is no change in government policy which supports family planning. They have been told by the Tanzanian Ministry of Health that a review of mass media communication is underway and they hope to recommence airing of advertisements within the next few months.

**[Tanzania: Electoral Systems](#)**

**16 Oct 2018 | 177229**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Tanzania on the integrity of its electoral process since the decision of that country's main opposition party to suspend participation in future elections.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

On 11 October, I met the Tanzanian Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs during the London Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference. Discussions covered democracy in Tanzania. The High Commission in Dar es Salaam in its regular contact with all political parties actively encourages them to engage constructively in political dialogue.

**[Tanzania: Statistics](#)**

**16 Oct 2018 | 177228**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his counterparts in Tanzania on the proposed amendments to the 2015 Statistics Act in that country criminalising the collection and dissemination of information contradicting official statistics.

**Answering member: Harriett Baldwin | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The promotion of transparency and freedom of expression remains an important priority for the British Government. We are concerned about the recent amendments to the Statistics Act 2015 in Tanzania, which are out of line with international standards such as the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The British High Commissioner and Head of DFID in Tanzania have both raised our concerns with the Tanzanian Authorities including the Minister of Finance and Planning and the Bank of Tanzania. During CHOGM in April I also raised concerns over democracy and human rights in my meeting with the Tanzanian Foreign Minister. We supported the World Bank's statement of 2 October and will continue to work with partners to express our concerns. We believe it is important for countries to use statistics laws to ensure official statistics are of a high quality and are trusted, and also support openness and transparency.

## 5. Parliamentary debates

[Central and East Africa](#)

25 January 2016 | 605 cc83-121

## 6. Further reading

### [Tanzania](#)

#### **DfID**

Find out how the UK will respond to opportunities and challenges, what is being achieved for the UK and who we are working with.

### [Tanzania \(webpage\)](#)

#### **Amnesty International**

### [Tanzania and Zanzibar \(webpage\)](#)

#### **Human Rights Watch**

### About the Library

The House of Commons Library research service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents.

As well as providing MPs with a confidential service we publish open briefing papers, which are available on the Parliament website.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available research briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing only with Members and their staff.

If you have any general questions about the work of the House of Commons you can email [hcinfo@parliament.uk](mailto:hcinfo@parliament.uk).

### Disclaimer

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties. It is a general briefing only and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific advice. The House of Commons or the author(s) shall not be liable for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage of any kind arising from its use, and may remove, vary or amend any information at any time without prior notice.

The House of Commons accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties. This information is provided subject to the [conditions of the Open Parliament Licence](#).