

Debate Pack

CDP 2022-044

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International Women's Day 2022

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1 International Women's Day 2022

A Backbench Business Committee debate on International Women's Day is scheduled for Thursday 10 March 2022 in the House of Commons chamber. The debate will be led by Mrs Maria Miller MP.

International Women's Day (IWD), held on 8 March, marks a celebration of the economic, social, cultural and political achievements of women. [The first IWD was held](#) in central Europe in 1911.

Since then, IWD has increased in status and is now an official holiday in 27 countries. Organisations and governments around the world hold events in March to inspire women and celebrate their achievements.

The [UN theme for 2022](#) is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", aimed at "recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all".

A second theme chosen by the International Women's Day website is ["#BreakTheBias"](#). The IWD website says:

Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough. Action is needed to level the playing field.

1.1 Gender equality policy

The Minister for Women and Equalities, [Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP](#), is responsible for policy on women and broader, cross-government equality strategy and legislation. Prior to 2014 the role was split between the Minister for Women and the Minister for Equalities. The Minister is the head of the Government Equalities Office (GEO), which sits within the Cabinet Office.

The [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) is the statutory body responsible for enforcing and monitoring equality law, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. In Parliament, the [Women and Equalities Select Committee](#), appointed on 3 June 2015, scrutinises the work of the GEO.

The Scrutiny Unit within Parliament has established a [Gender Equality Policy Hub](#), that publishes gender equality policy maps. [The latest policy map](#) (updated April 2020) provides a useful overview of policy, legislation and publications relating to gender equality.

The key GEO policy documents are [Gender equality at every stage: a roadmap for change](#) and [The Gender Equality Monitor: tracking progress on gender equality \(PDF\)](#), both published in July 2019.

1.2

International women's equality

Internationally, the [UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women](#) monitors implementation by States of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

[UN Women](#) is the UN body dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The UN theme for International Women's Day 2022 is [Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow](#) and a call for climate action for women, by women.

The [UN Women website](#) notes that:

We now understand the vital link between gender, social equity and climate change, and recognize that without gender equality today, a sustainable future, an equal future, remains out of reach.

Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of the climate crisis as it amplifies existing gender inequalities and puts women's lives and livelihoods at risk. Across the world, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources, and often bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel.

It goes on to note that without the inclusion of women it is unlikely that solutions for a sustainable future and gender equality can be realised.

Women and climate change

A 2019 report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights described how [women are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change](#). As examples, it cited the greater exposure of women to food insecurity and discriminatory food allocation, their greater roles in acquiring water, and being more likely to die during extreme weather events than men (primarily due to differences in health care and social prejudice).¹

Vulnerability to climate change is also [influenced by factors](#) such as social status, employment, gender, disability, income level, and discrimination.

¹ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women](#), 1 May 2019, parts A and B

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Press and media articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[Let's build a gender equal economy that can respond to the climate crisis](#)

The Scotsman
Sara Cowan
7 March 2022

[What is International Women's Day?](#)

The Week
7 March 2022

[International Women's Day 2022: History, marches and celebrations](#)

BBC News
4 March 2022

[Breaking The Bias: The Pandemic Is Still Disproportionately Affecting Women and Their Careers](#)

Forbes
Yael Klass
2 March 2022

[Amal Clooney Won't Back Down](#)

Time
Maria Ressa
2 March 2022

[2.4 billion women lack the same economic rights as men: World Bank](#)

Devex
Shabtai Gold
2 March 2022

[Revenge of the Patriarchs: Why Autocrats Fear Women](#)

Foreign Affairs
Erica Chenoweth and Zoe Marks
March/April 2022

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PQs

Development Aid: Equality

02 Mar 2022 | 129857

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much and what proportion of UK aid had gender equality as a (a) significant and (b) principal objective in 2020.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Tackling gender inequality and standing up for the rights of women and girls around the world is a core part of the UK Government's mission. This was reinforced in the Integrated Review.

FCDO's Overseas Development Aid spend, including data against the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gender policy marker, is made publicly available through the OECD statistics portal. The latest figures available (2019) show that approximately 68% of the former Department for International Development (DFID) and the former Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) total bilateral spend was marked principal or significant and equates to £5.2 billion. OECD are due to publish 2020 figures shortly.

Gender Based Violence: Religion

02 Mar 2022 | 127304

Asked by: Mr Barry Sheerman

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking to prevent sexual violence against women because of their religion or belief.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The Foreign Secretary has put ending violence against women and girls at the heart of UK foreign and development policy. Through our £67.5 million investment to the What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale programme, we are scaling up proven violence prevention approaches globally, including sexual violence, for the most at-risk groups of women and girls.

In 2020, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for Human Rights, launched the Declaration of Humanity, which unites multiple faiths and beliefs to challenge damaging societal norms and calls for support for survivors of sexual violence internationally.

Bilaterally, Ministers and officials regularly raise specific cases of concern, and discuss practices and laws that discriminate on the basis of religion or belief.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

28 Feb 2022 | 125510

Asked by: Wendy Chamberlain

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the role of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria in achieving the Government's target to end the preventable deaths of mothers, new born babies and children by 2030.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK launched the Ending Preventable Deaths of mothers, babies and children approach paper in December 2021. The Global Fund has an important role in addressing HIV, TB and malaria which are significant causes of mortality and morbidity in women and children. Our Ending Preventable Deaths paper recognises the important contribution of the Global Fund and outlines ways we will engage further with our multilateral partners to ensure a strong, integrated approach that will support the entire health system and primary healthcare. The UK pledged £1.4 billion in the Global Fund's 6th replenishment (2020-2022), making us the 2nd largest donor. We look forward to reviewing the investment case of the Global Fund's 7th replenishment which will underpin the targets and resources needed to achieve the Global Fund's 2023-3028 strategy.

International Development: Sexual and Reproductive Health

28 February 2022 | 819 cc540-544

Asked by: Baroness Sugg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights a priority in their International Development Strategy.

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, the Government will publish a new international development strategy this spring that will guide our work for the coming decade and beyond. It will align our development work with the aims and objectives of the integrated review and will continue to prioritise women and girls through support to educate girls, empower women and end violence, including by strengthening sexual and reproductive health and rights and working to end female genital mutilation.

Asked by: Baroness Sugg

My Lords, UK investment in sexual and reproductive health not only promotes health and well-being across the whole of life but also leads to improvements in education, gender equality, political stability, economic development and, indeed, environmental sustainability, so it is a very worthwhile investment. Sadly, SRHR and family planning programmes are extremely disproportionately impacted by the cuts to UK aid. Can my noble friend the Minister reassure me that we will retake our place as a global leader on this issue, that SRHR will be an explicit priority in the upcoming strategy and that funding will be returned to previous levels of around 4% to 5% of ODA as part of the Foreign Secretary's commitment to restore funding to women and girls?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I thank the noble Baroness for her campaigning on this issue. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are central to achieving the UK Government's manifesto commitment to end the preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030 and our ambitious commitments on girls' education and Covid recovery. The Foreign Secretary has been clear that we will restore funding to women and girls. The UK plays a vital role in global partnerships and funds to support and strengthen the ability of countries to deliver life-saving maternal reproductive and child health services. We certainly regard ourselves as a world leader in this area and we will continue to be.

Asked by: Lord Purvis of Tweed

My Lords, global donor support for reproductive health fell in 2020 by \$100 million to the 59 low and middle-income countries. That cut was driven by the UK cuts. The place on earth that is the most unsafe for mothers and babies is South Sudan, which I have asked the Minister about before, where one in 10 babies dies before the age of five, but the Government are discussing a new round of cuts for health support for women and babies in South Sudan. If the Government are proposing to restore funding, why are they proposing to cut further in South Sudan? Will the Minister please intervene to make sure that this does not happen?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, as I said, the Foreign Secretary has been clear that we are restoring funding to women and girls. I am not able to answer region-specific questions at the moment because that work is being done and until it has been completed and our spending review settlement translates into programmes on the ground, I am afraid I cannot go into the specifics.

Asked by: Lord Collins of Highbury

My Lords, we know that the cuts this year have resulted in 9.5 million fewer women and couples receiving services. The noble Lord keeps repeating the assurances of the Foreign Secretary in terms of devoting resources to women

and girls, but how much of that will be devoted to sexual and reproductive health? We want to know the answer.

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, we will know the answer, but we will not know it until the IDS is published and the allocations are made and the programmes are chosen. As a principle, the Foreign Secretary has made clear that we are restoring funding and this House and the other House will be able to hold the Government to account against that promise.

Asked by: Lord Deben

My noble friend has said that this is important in order to carry through the Conservative Party manifesto. In that manifesto we committed ourselves to 0.7% for overseas aid. We have cut that, contrary to both morality and our manifesto. When can we expect that to return and us to have the shame removed?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, I start by saying something I have said many times: no one welcomes the cut from 0.7% to 0.5%. Notwithstanding that cut, we will have spent more than £10 billion on ODA in 2021. We will return to 0.7% as soon as the fiscal situation allows. Based on 2020 OECD data, the UK will be the third largest ODA donor in the G7 as a percentage of GNI. We will spend a greater percentage of our GNI on ODA than the US, Japan, Canada or Italy, and forecasts fortunately suggest that government will be able to return to 0.7% on aid in the final year of this spending review.

Asked by: Lord Winston

My Lords, I wonder whether the Minister fully understands the impact of sexual and reproductive health in many parts of the world. There are large areas of the world where, if a woman is infertile, she does not have a roof over her head or a meal to eat; she has to abandon the family and is left completely without support. That is common and it is not just a matter of children and girls, but the education of a whole population and better infrastructure.

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, we fully understand the importance of this area. That is why the Foreign Secretary has made the commitment that she has, and why it appeared in the manifesto. SRHR means that women and girls can have control over their bodies and if, whether and when to have children, giving them the choice to complete their education and take up better economic opportunities. In turn, the children will likely be healthier and better educated. It is central to the effective delivery of a country's universal health

coverage. Good quality maternal and newborn health services and survival outcomes are often used as a proxy for the strength of an entire health system, so we fully understand the importance of this area.

Asked by: Baroness Masham of Ilton

My Lords, is the Minister aware that many countries have very inadequately staffed maternity services and pregnant women who have HIV can get stigmatised? Can the global fund help and make the situation better? Can the Minister ask it to do this?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The noble Baroness makes an important point. Every year nearly 300,000 women die from pregnancy-related causes, 2.5 million newborns die in their first month and 2 million babies are stillborn. Most of these deaths are avoidable with access to better health services to help mothers and newborns through pregnancy and delivery. The UK supports maternal and newborn health through global and country programmes, often integrated with wider work to strengthen health systems.

Asked by: Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top

My Lords, last week I met young people who had been working on programmes on reproductive and sexual health with the International Citizen Service and VSO. That programme was pulled by the Government, meaning that hundreds of young people, here and in the developing country working with them, have now lost that opportunity to work on those issues and make a real difference in local communities. Will the Government commit to refunding that programme and making sure that VSO is able to continue the very valuable work it has been doing in this area?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

My Lords, funding levels for individual programmes across the FCDO will be confirmed after the departmental planning process taking place over the coming months has concluded. I am afraid that is the only answer I can give, but I will take the noble Baroness's comments back to the FCDO, where I am absolutely certain they will be met with a nod of agreement.

Asked by: Lord McDonald of Salford

My Lords, when I joined the Foreign Office in 1982, I learned that there were only two seasons in government: spring and autumn. The curious thing is that each can last for longer than six months. Once again, the Minister has said that the international development strategy will appear in the spring. Can he at least give us a month?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I will go out on a limb and say that the IDS will be published within what is normally regarded as spring. I am afraid that I cannot give the noble Lord a date.

Asked by: Baroness Sheehan

My Lords, improving sexual and reproductive health and rights is among the most cost effective of all development investments and would give personal, social and economic benefits, as well as helping to stabilise population growth and reduce poverty. I ask the Minister the same question as the previous noble Lord: when will the international development strategy be published and the Minister's promises fulfilled?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

I refer the noble Baroness to my previous answer. I very strongly agree with her comments about the importance of family planning for a whole range of issues, including stabilising the populations of relevant countries.

Asked by: Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

My Lords, how will the Government harness the expertise of international medical professionals within the SRHR programmes?

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Most of our programmes across the FCDO are delivered through trusted partners on the ground. Where we do not have the expertise, we look for it. Health is one of the most obvious areas where that is important.

[Developing Countries: Education](#)

04 Feb 2022 | 113166

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department has taken to help advance the two global girls' education targets since the meeting of the G7 in June 2021.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have built on the momentum of the G7 and UK-hosted Global Education Summit to push forward progress on girls' education. At COP26 we shone a spotlight on the links between education and climate and called for countries to prioritise early learning in their efforts to mitigate climate change. In Afghanistan the UK has called for girls' right to secondary education to be restored, and UK humanitarian funds are helping provide safe spaces for learning for 38,000 displaced children, including 28,000 girls.

As of mid-December, more than 647 million school children were still affected by partial or full school closures. Ministers are pressing national governments to reopen schools as a matter of priority, while our bilateral education programmes and flagship Girls' Education Challenge continue to support children to catch-up on the learning they have lost. On 26 January the UK helped launch a new report by the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel focused on recovering children's education, as part of our commitment to increase the global evidence base for education reform.

Developing Countries: Education

04 Feb 2022 | 113165

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans she has to track progress towards her Department's two global targets on girls' education, endorsed last year by G7 leaders.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have committed to publish an annual report tracking progress against the two new global objectives, in collaboration with UNESCO and the UN Girls' Education Initiative. The report is due to be published in the summer of 2022 and annually will highlight the progress that low- and lower-middle-income countries have made in getting 40 million more girls into school and 20 million more girls reading by the age of 10, as well as demonstrating the obstacles that are still to be overcome.

Christianity: Females

02 Feb 2022 | 111575

Asked by: Jim Shannon

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if her Department will make an assessment of the implications for its policies of Aid to the Church in Need's report, entitled Hear Her Cries, published on 28 November 2021.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We have taken note of Aid to the Church in Need's report entitled "Hear Her Cries" published in 2021 and will study its contents.

The UK Government ensures our human rights policy work considers intersectionality of human rights, for example, the importance of gender-based violence, forced marriage and conversion, which is often experienced by women and girls from religious or belief minority communities.

In 2020, the Minister of State responsible for human rights, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, launched the Declaration of Humanity by Leaders of Faith and Leaders of Belief. The Declaration calls upon leaders from many faiths and beliefs to dismantle harmful misinterpretations of religious texts used to justify acts of sexual violence and to tackle the stigma facing survivors of this violence. Over 50 leaders, have already signed it.

Afghanistan: Females

25 Jan 2022 | HL5316

Asked by: Baroness Goudie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase assistance for women and girls in Afghanistan.

Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We continue to raise rights of women and girls in our political engagement with the Taliban, including pressing them to ensure full and equal access to education for all. The Government has doubled our aid to £286 million FY 2021/22. We have now disbursed over £145 million which will support over 3.4 million people in Afghanistan and the region, providing emergency food, health, shelter, water and protection. Our humanitarian programmes will provide assistance to the most vulnerable, including women and girls. We are also funding child protection support and supporting access to gender-based violence services. In addition, we are meeting directly with Afghan women to inform our policies and programmes.

Cost of Living: Females

19 Jan 2022 | 102569

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of any disproportionality in the impact on women and girls of recent rises in the prices of basic foodstuffs.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Conflict, climate change and now Covid-19 have caused food insecurity and acute hunger to reach record levels. Agriculture investment has plummeted, and recovery is not yet visible. Food prices have risen above a 10-year high. The poor are highly vulnerable to food price inflation, and within that are women who are traditionally land poor and more dependent on the informal economy or in poorly paid, precarious jobs.

The UK provides humanitarian aid but also invests in building resilience to crises and supporting sustainable recovery. We provided assistance to 40 countries to help adapting social protection in response to COVID-19,

integrating gender equality and social inclusion to support women and girls and other groups disproportionately impacted by the crisis. The FCDO also adapted ongoing programmes, preventing countries from deteriorating into full-blown emergency and influenced partners, including to promote women's economic empowerment. For example:

- FCDO's CASA programme works to improve food security by attracting investment into the agri-food sector and helping to keep food supply chains flowing. Women account for nearly half of the farmers reached.
- The multilateral GAFSP has adapted its commitments to mitigating COVID-19 impacts and build resilience for the most vulnerable. In 2021 the total share of women reached has increased to 38%, while 54% of the full-time equivalent jobs created has gone to women.

Coronavirus: Females

12 Jan 2022 | 98905

Asked by: Ms Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of Women and Girls Left Behind: Glaring Gaps in Pandemic Responses, published by UN Women on 17 December 2021.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We know that women and girls are amongst the hardest hit by the indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why the FCDO has been working with international partners to ensure the needs and priorities of women and girls are central to every aspect of our response.

This has included donating £10 million for the United Nations Population Fund's COVID-19 response and an additional £1 million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Window. This funding helped address reproductive health supply shortages caused by the pandemic, and scale up reporting, protection, and support services for women and girls affected by the surge in gender based violence (GBV). In addition, FCDO has supported over 40 countries to flex and adapt their social protection systems in response to COVID-19. This integrated a focus on gender equality and social inclusion to support women disproportionately impacted by the crisis. Social protection when well-designed can increase women's economic participation and reduce their unpaid care responsibilities, which have increased during the COVID crisis. The FCDO will continue to champion women and girls rights because that's the only way we will create a fairer, safer and more prosperous world.

Developing Countries: Female Genital Mutilation

10 Jan 2022 | 97009

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to help support international collaboration to ban FGM in other countries.

Answering member: Amanda Milling | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK has a proud record in supporting and accelerating the Africa-led movement to end FGM for which international collaboration is central. Building on a successful first five-year phase (2013-2018), the UK is funding the next phase of our support for the Africa-led movement. This includes funding to the United Nations to get laws and policies in place banning FGM, as part of a multi-year UKaid package working with communities, activists and grassroots organisations, reinforced by global, national and local advocacy and communications to break taboos, promote discussion and amplify changing social attitudes. Through the World Health Organisation the UK has also supported doctors, midwives and nurses to help end FGM and care for survivors, and in Sudan UK aid has driven trailblazing community engagement and national advocacy efforts. Since 2013, UK aid programmes have helped over 10,000 communities, representing over 27 million people, pledge to abandon FGM.

Development Aid: Females

04 Jan 2022 | HL5063

Asked by: Baroness Sugg

To ask Her Majesty's Government what year they will use as a benchmark for the restoration of spending for women and girls to the level it was at before the reduction in Official Development Assistance announced this year.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are restoring funding for women and girls to pre-ODA cut levels over the Spending Review period, focusing on giving more girls a quality education; ending the extremely harmful practice of female genital mutilation, supporting girls' health; and ending the abhorrent use of sexual violence around the world.

Following the Spending Review, decisions on allocations and individual programmes will be published in the usual way.

Developing Countries: Females

22 Dec 2021 | 92916

Asked by: Caroline Nokes

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how her Department measures the effect of climate vulnerability on women and girls in developing countries.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental degradation. Evidence shows that they are more likely to be dependant for their food and income on threatened natural resources, more likely to be responsible for securing increasingly scarce water and fuel, and significantly more likely to die or be displaced during climate-related disasters. There are a number of measures of climate vulnerability that we use to inform our decision making and programming.

At COP26 President Alok Sharma and UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience Anne-Marie Trevelyan hosted Gender Day which helped build momentum internationally to drive implementation of the Gender Action Plan agreed at COP25. This will support a greater focus on gender equality within action to tackle climate change and build resilience to climate-related disasters. The UK announced £165 million of funding to help address the dual challenges of gender inequality and climate change.

Development Aid: Females

13 Dec 2021 | 89538

Asked by: Mr Virendra Sharma

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what (a) organisations and (b) governments will have their development budgets for women and girls restored to the pre-Official Development Assistance reduction levels.

Answering member: Vicky Ford | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

We are restoring funding for women and girls to pre-Official Development Assistance cut levels over the Spending Review period, focusing on giving more girls a quality education; ending the extremely harmful practice of female genital mutilation, supporting girls' health; and ending the abhorrent use of sexual violence around the world.

The UK is firmly committed to defending comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) globally - this includes family planning and maternal health, both central to the empowerment of women and girls. Any funding for SRHR will contribute to UK objectives to improve the lives of

women and girls across the world. No decisions on funding to individual organisations have been made to date. This will be worked through as part of the FCDO's Business and Country Planning process over the coming months. Following the Spending Review, decisions on allocations and individual programmes will be published in the usual way.

Preventing Sexual Violence against Women Summit

02 Dec 2021 | 83409

Asked by: Patrick Grady

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when she will confirm the (a) dates of and 9b) the application process for delegates and observers to the Preventing Sexual Violence Against Women Summit she announced at the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council on 17 November 2021.

Answering member: James Cleverly | Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

In 2022, the UK plans to host an international conference to mark 10 years since the launch of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative. This will be an important opportunity to review progress, identify challenges and agree further action on sexual violence in conflict as well as wider gender and conflict issues. Further information on the conference will be available in due course next year.

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Other Parliamentary material

International Women's Day

11 Mar 2021 | House of Lords | 810 cc737-802GC

Lords debate on a motion that the Grand Committee takes note of International Women's Day and the United Kingdom's role in empowering women in the recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Agreed to on question.

International Women's Day

11 Mar 2021 | House of Commons | 690 cc1055-1112

Motion that this House has considered International Women's Day. Agreed to on question.

International Women's Day

10 Mar 2020 | House of Lords | 802 cc936-1094

Lords motion to take note of International Women's Day and the United Kingdom's role in advancing

International Women's Day

5 Mar 2020 | House of Commons | 672 cc1009-1070

Motion, That this House has considered International Women's Day. Agreed to on question.

International Women's Day

7 Mar 2019 | House of Lords | 796 cc770-822

Lords motion to take note of International Women's Day and the United Kingdom's role in advancing

International Women's Day

7 Mar 2019 | House of Commons | 655 cc1164-1197

Motion that this House has considered International Women's Day. Agreed to on question.

International Women's Day: Progress on Global Gender Equality

8 Mar 2018 | House of Lords | 789 cc1252-1313

Lords motion to take note of International Women's Day and the steps being taken to press

Vote 100 and International Women's Day

8 Mar 2018 | House of Commons | 637 cc496-558

Motion that this House has considered Vote 100 and International Women's Day. Agreed to on question.

5 Further reading

5.1 International women's equality

[International Women's Day 2022](#), IWD, March 2022

[International Women's Day 2022: gender gaps across the world](#), Lords *in Brief*, 4 March 2022

[Bridging the Gap: An Analysis of Gender Pay Gap Reporting in Six Countries](#), Global Institute for Women's Leadership, King's College London, September 2021

5.2 UK equality issues

[Women and the economy](#), Commons Library Briefing Paper, 4 March 2022

[Report of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council 2021 - Building Back Better for Women and Girls](#), Cabinet Office, 28 October 2021

[Gender pay gap in the UK: 2021](#), Office for National Statistics, 26 October 2021

5.3 Women and Climate Change

[Women and SDG13 – Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts](#), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, May 2021

[Women's economic empowerment and climate change: A primer](#), Work and Opportunities for Women, April 2021

[Understanding Why Climate Change Impacts Women More Than Men](#), Global Citizen, 5 March 2020

[Differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men](#), UN Framework Convention on Climate change, 2019

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