

# your LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Let's help the UN create a fairer, sustainable planet



BRIGHTON, HOVE & DISTRICT

THIS year we at Brighton, Hove & District United Nations Association Branch, along with UNA-UK supporters across the country, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which is needed more than ever.

Sadly the image of the UN in the media does little to inform of its role and why it is so important for national governments to work through the UN.

For example overseas aid is an investment in our future and we are proud that the UK is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid.

Faced with world challenges such as Ebola and climate change, our future and that of the planet increasingly need the UK to work in institutions like the UN.

This year, the UK has the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues.

Countries will come together at the UN to adopt new global goals to eliminate poverty and promote a sustainable world – for example the crucial climate change conference in November in Paris.

We want the UK to take a lead to goals that are not just ambitious, but inclusive and well-resourced.

As well as exercising leadership on the world stage, we also want the UK to set an example at home.

This includes outlining how the UK will support the new goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a real difference to the most vulnerable people.

As UK and global citizens, we all have a stake in a fair, sustainable world. We don't just want the UK to do its bit – we want it to lead the way.

## Aid as investment

SIR – Aside from the moral case, there is a compelling argument to be made for aid as a good investment for Britain ("Ebola outbreak shows why Britain's overseas aid commitment is worthwhile", [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk), February 3).

The least-developed countries have the greatest growth potential and a large share of the world's strategic minerals and resources. States whose citizens enjoy higher levels of development and opportunity are less prone to violence, terrorism and refugee crises. It is no wonder that many countries see aid as a key part of their national security strategy. **Natalie Samarasinghe**  
Executive Director, United Nations Association-UK  
London SW1

## Overseas aid helps us as a nation build a prosperous future for all

**RICHARD WEST,**  
Chair, United Nations Association,  
Norwich and District Branch, Tanager Close, Norwich.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media recently concerning the amount of aid given by the UK to poorer developing countries. I am pleased that the UK is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7pc of national income on overseas aid. Through this support, the UK is helping to build a more stable, prosperous future for us all.

Overseas aid is an investment in our future. Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola and climate change, Britain's national interests increasingly dovetail with our global responsibilities. Our security and prosperity therefore, depend on us working with other states at international institutions such as the United Nations. This year, we have the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at

**“Britain's national interests increasingly dovetail with our global responsibilities**

the UN to adopt new global goals to tackle poverty and promote sustainable development. I want us to have a leading role in working hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but are inclusive and well-resourced. As well as

exercising leadership on the world stage, the UK must set an example at home.

This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7pc target into law, outlining how this country will support the new goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a real difference to the most vulnerable people. As UK citizens, and global citizens, we all have a stake in international development and in improving conditions for as many people as possible.

Thursday, March 5, 2015 **DAILY ECHO**

## We want the UK to lead the way

LAST month Southampton United Nations Association met to hear about progress on the UN Millennium Development Goals and prospects for improving health worldwide.

We at Southampton UNA Branch are proud that the UK is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income on overseas aid, which is also an investment in our future.

Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola, refugee migration and climate change, Britain's national interests increasingly dovetail with

our global responsibilities.

This year, the UK has the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at the UN to adopt new global goals to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. We want the UK to work hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but inclusive and well-resourced.

We also want the UK to set an example at home. This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7 per cent target into law, outlining how the UK will support the new

goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a difference to the most vulnerable people.

As UK citizens, and global citizens, we all have a stake in international development. We don't just want the UK to do its bit, we want it to lead the way. At our next meeting on March 21 Dr Catherine Royce will speak on Making Clinical Research Work in Africa. For details phone 023 8055 7334 or e-mail [memat11@phonecoop.coop](mailto:memat11@phonecoop.coop).

**MARGARET MATTHEWS,**  
Southampton UNA Branch.

## Letters to the Editor

### Overseas aid will build more stable and prosperous future

YOUR PAPER demonstrates that election campaigns are already 'hotting up' with many domestic issues coming to the fore. We do, however, also need to remember that national welfare depends just as much on how we get along with other countries.

Today's challenges are often cross-border problems. We see this in the Ebola crisis and in global warming. Our security and prosperity depend upon working with other countries in international organisations such as the United Nations. Our welfare is closely entwined with wider responsibilities.

In this respect it is a matter of far greater pride

that Britain is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid. In this way we help to build a more stable and prosperous future for all. The reality of life today is that we are all global citizens as well as residents of the UK.

In the months to come the countries of the world will be coming together to adopt global goals for ending poverty and promoting sustainable development for all. We need a government ready not only to play its part but ready to lead the way.

**- Michael Swindlehurst (Chairman)**  
UNA Saffron Walden Branch,

## Helping the world's poor

I write on behalf of Putney & Roehampton United Nations Association.

We support the Government's continued undertaking of contributing 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for overseas aid (international development).

This very small percentage of our GNP makes a huge difference in raising living standards of people in the developing world.

It is well accepted too, that the aid is ultimately in our own national interest.

We are proud that Britain is one of the few countries in the world that has upheld its commitment 0.7 per cent of GNP to international aid.

We look forward to hearing all the political parties add their voice to this vital pledge.

**PAULINE BRUESEKE**  
Putney & Roehampton  
United Nations Association

## Letter to the Editor...

### Lymington UNA

SIR, — This year we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations (UN). The Lymington branch of The United Nations Association (UNA) will likewise celebrate its 70th anniversary and take stock of its series of talks on the UN's work we have had from September to March each year.

We, along with UNA members and supporters across the UK, are proud that our country is the first G7 country to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid. Through this support, the UK is helping to build a more stable, prosperous future for us all.

Overseas aid is an investment in our future. Faced with cross-border challenges such as Ebola and climate change, the UK's national interests increasingly dovetail with our global responsibilities. Our security and prosperity depend on us working together with other states at international institutions like the United Nations to find workable solutions.

This year, the UK has the opportunity to make a real contribution towards addressing global issues. Countries will come together at the UN to adopt new global goals to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. We want the UK to work hard for goals that are not just ambitious, but inclusive, and well-resourced.

As well as exercising leadership on the world stage, we also want the UK to set an example at home. This includes pressing ahead with enshrining the 0.7% target into law, outlining how the UK will support the new goals in its development programmes and ensuring that UK aid makes a real difference to the most vulnerable people.

As UK — and global — citizens we all have a stake in international development. We don't just want the UK to do its bit — we want it to lead the way.

At our March 28th meeting the Rt. Hon. Desmond Swaine MP will address the public at Lymington Community Centre from 2-4pm and answer the question 'Why is International Development as vital as ever in today's world?'

On April 25th, also at Lymington Community Centre from 2-4pm, there will be a hustings where parliamentary candidates from all national political parties will be invited to answer questions related to the importance of international development.

**Patricia de Mowbray (secretary)**  
**Martina Humber (chair)**  
Lymington UNA branch