

➤ We must end the price of womanhood at all costs

The power relations governing gender relations are currently undermining the lives of women and girls living in Zimbabwe, and indeed globally. The full case study report clearly articulates how traditional gender roles are used to reinforce patriarchal values in society. These roles trap young women and girls in a cycle of inequality, with very little say over what happens to their bodies and their futures. The impact of this is not only catastrophic for the women and girls who are affected, but it also has a wider societal affect as it limits women's and girls' empowerment, rights and choices which, in turn, negatively impacts their social and economic participation.

It is women and girls who are bearing the brunt of the burden when their sexual and reproductive health and rights are not recognised or upheld. They are being forced into marriage, experiencing female genital mutilation and not being educated in order to gain the skills and knowledge they need to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy.

Progressio are calling on the Department for International Development to do more. Please send the attached postcard to Priti Patel, Secretary of State for International Development, and ask her to prioritise this issue.

Dear Rt Hon Priti Patel MP,

In light of Progressio's new case study report, through the work of DFID, I would like to see the following:

- A public renewal of the commitment to Article 2(f) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; a report on how the department's programmes are currently contributing to the success of Article 2(f); and for the department to review its current practices to ensure it is investing in community-based programming that is transformative.
- I would like the department to do more to ensure that the voices of young people from DFID priority countries are heard in international decision-making forums and that their voice is continually sought out to monitor progress.
- I would like to see the department conduct further research with NGOs and academia to understand who in society is influencing the passing down of discriminatory social norms, and to better understand how to work within different communities to bring about change.

Yours sincerely,

Name:
Address:
Postcode: Email:

I am happy for Progressio to contact me about how I can get involved, find out more and support by: email [Y/N](#) mail [Y/N](#) *You can update your choices at any time.*

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