



Department
for International
Development



Baroness Verma
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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6^m October 2015

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 18 September to the Prime Minister about the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with an enclosed petition from Progressio supporters. I am replying as the Minister in the Department for International Development (DFID) responsible for many of the issues raised in your letter.

I welcome Progressio's support for full implementation of the SDGs in the UK and across the World. Progressio and its supporters continue to make an important contribution to the reduction of poverty and supporting women world-wide and I welcome their support in this critical work.

As you are aware, DFID has put girls and women at the centre of its international development efforts. We are supporting work to ensure that girls and women in the poorest countries in the world have a voice, choice and control in the decisions that affect them and are able to live free from violence.

This year is a critical year to make progress on international development and specifically, promoting right of girls and women. That is why we fought hard in negotiations on the SDGs agreed at the UN last month, for a strong standalone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, as well as gender-sensitive targets throughout the framework.

I agree that implementation of the SDGs will have a significant, positive and transformational effect on the lives of women and girls by tackling the causes of gender inequality. Seeing these goals and targets implemented is a top priority for the UK.

The standalone gender goal and the strong gender related targets across the other SDG's, provide a comprehensive package that is critical to achieving transformational change to the lives of girls and women across the globe.

*Kindest regards
Sandy Verma*

BARONESS VERMA