



## Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

[www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk](http://www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk)

### **Response to Queen's Speech campaign (War on Want) – July 2017**

Thank you for contacting me about the Queen's Speech.

This Queen's Speech is about recognising and grasping the opportunities that lie ahead for Britain as we leave the European Union. We need to get Brexit right, delivering the result of last year's referendum in a way that commands maximum public support. To this end, the Government will work to build a stronger economy so we can improve people's living standards and fund public services.

I am pleased that Ministers have said Parliament will have the fullest possible opportunity to scrutinise Brexit legislation - It is absolutely right that MPs debate our future approach to Brexit. On human rights, I can assure you that the UK signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to guarantee human rights long before it joined the EU. Strong workers' rights similarly existed in this country long before the UK became a member of the EU, and the Prime Minister has promised to protect workers' rights in full.

As the Secretary of State for International Trade has made clear, it has never been the UK's approach to enter into agreements that sacrifice the Government's right to regulate public services. Ministers take the UK's environmental obligations very seriously, and the UK will continue to be bound by around 30 international agreements and treaties when it leaves the EU.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that Britain will continue to play an active, leading role in the world, spending 0.7 of cross national income on assistance to developing nations and international emergencies. Britain's aid spending has achieved many successes, of which we can all be proud.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP