



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to Trade & Global Poverty Reduction – March 2017

Thank you for contacting me about the role that trade can play in helping the world's poorest.

Following our decision to leave the EU, the UK now has the ability to shape its own trade policy. There are many opportunities and responsibilities that come with this. We must now capitalise on harnessing new export opportunities, attracting inward investment and building UK dynamism by making the UK the best place in the world to do business.

As you correctly highlight, alongside the great opportunities increased trade brings to this country, we must ensure that developing nations share in these benefits. I have always believed that free trade is one of the most powerful tools we have to help those in the greatest need around the world. Research shows that trade is one of the best liberators of global poverty, as seen in China and India. The UK will seek to be a global advocate for free trade ensuring that government works together to help eradicate global poverty, including as part of a future UK trade policy.

As well as through trade, I welcome this Government's commitment to helping the global poor through aid. The Government is continuing to honour its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on Official Development Assistance, and is determined to make sure that this aid is spent where it is most needed.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP