

International Development Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From Sarah Champion MP, Chair

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
By email

27 April 2023

UK aid funding to anti-LGBT+ organisations

Dear Andrew

I was concerned to read about the Anti-Homosexuality Bill that the Ugandan Parliament recently passed. If signed into law by the Ugandan President, this Bill would impose capital and life-imprisonment sentences for homosexual relations and penal sentences for LGBT+ people. In light of this, please can you provide me information on how the UK is delivering UK aid to Uganda, and how the UK ensures that that aid does not work against the rights of LGBT+ people abroad.

Government policy

- What is the FCDO's policy on funding (a) organisations and (b) governments that promote and/or pursue anti-LGBT+ policies?

UK aid to Uganda

- Why did the FCDO partner with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda as an implementing partner for its aid programme "aimed to deliver FCDO's ambition for an open society in Uganda" after (a) its support for the Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2014 and (b) considering the FCDO's Supply Partner Code of Conduct embedded into its contract Terms and Conditions?
- What representations has the UK Government made to (a) the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda, (b) the Government of Uganda and (c) Ugandan Parliamentarians about LGBT+ rights, particularly in relation to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill that the Uganda Parliament passed in March this year?
- Does the FCDO plan any further disbursements to the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda under the Uganda - Open Society programme following the Council's support for the anti-LGBT+ law?

UK aid to Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania

- In July 2021, I wrote to the Foreign Secretary because I was concerned that the UK may be directly or indirectly funding conversion therapy and anti-LGBT+ programmes through MSI Reproductive Choices and the Global Fund in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

- What was the outcome of MSI's investigation into whether clinics it ran or funded were offering conversion therapy?
- What was the FCDO's response to the outcome of this investigation?
- What mechanisms did the FCDO put in place to ensure that UK aid does not directly or indirectly fund anti-LGBT+ practices in the future?

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by 18 May 2023. The Committee intends to publish your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Sarah Champion MP

Chair of the Committee