

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
by email

21 November 2020

Dear Chancellor

International Development Budget

We are writing on behalf of the United Reformed Church to express our strong concern at reports this week that the government is preparing to break its manifesto pledge and abandon Britain's long-standing commitment to spending 0.7% of national income on international development.

The Mission Council of the United Reformed Church, when it met yesterday, unanimously affirmed its belief that a commitment to the poorest in the world should not be an optional extra but at the heart of our country's responsibilities, especially in the context of a global pandemic and a climate emergency.

Aid programmes were already going to be cut significantly because the economy has shrunk this year. The net effect of slashing the aid budget to 0.5% of GNI would be to reduce the figure further, to less than 60% of last year's budget, at a time when people in poverty around the world are facing additional pressures.

We urge you to maintain Britain's 0.7% aid commitment in the current spending review.

We look forward to your response, and assure you of our continued prayers.

Yours sincerely



Revd Clare Downing
Moderator of General Assembly, 2020-2022



Mr Peter Pay
Moderator of General Assembly, 2020-2022

cc Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister
Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and
Development Affairs