

# Campaigning before the snap election

Actions to take in the run up to June 8<sup>th</sup> and top tips for contacting your election candidates.

The General Election will result in a new Parliament and creates the chance to inform the next Government and a new intake of MPs about the Global Goals and ending poverty. It's important to remind parliamentary candidates of the great work the UK has been doing on international development. Here are some ideas for actions you can take:

## Meet your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

Find out your candidates' views on international development and share yours with them. Candidates will be keen to hear what people think their priorities should be if they are elected. This is a chance to explain why international development is a priority and why the UK should continue to be a global leader in the fight to end poverty. When acting as part of a RESULTS group, you'll need to contact all candidates for separate meetings and not just your current MP – see [Background Sheet 2](#) for more details. Some ideas for questions you can ask each of your candidates:

1. Have you ever visited a developing country before, and what was your most memorable experience?
2. How knowledgeable do you consider yourself to be about international development issues?
3. What particular development issues interest you specifically and why?
4. To what extent do you support UK overseas aid spending and why?
5. Have you met with groups interested in ending global poverty issues before?
6. What are your priorities as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate?
7. If elected, would you be willing to take action on international development issues?

If you get any statements of support from some of your candidates, make sure that you don't publicly share only some of them – again, see [Background Sheet 2](#) for guidance on how to be seen to remain impartial.

## Attend or organise a hustings

[A hustings](#) is a public meeting, usually organised by local people, at which local candidates can be asked questions about their policies. They are a great opportunity to meet the candidates in person and to hear their opinions on a variety of issues, including international development. We suggest you and your group either attend a hustings already taking place in your community; or, if you are confident and have the time, organise a hustings yourselves.

### Top tips for organising a hustings:

- Don't wait to start looking for a date – candidates are busy and you'll need to book a venue well in advance.
- Book a venue that is well known or easy to get to. Make sure it's fully accessible and well sign-posted.
- Promote it! Get out and flyer, post on local forums, and send the information to local newspapers.
- Find a firm and fair chairperson, who will be seen as impartial. It's their job to make sure that candidates speak for equal amounts of time and that questions from the audience are short and to the point.
- Thank the candidates afterwards and publicise the key points raised through local media, newsletters or websites – again, ensuring impartiality between candidates. You can thank them on social media, which will be warmly welcomed.

## Write a Letter to the Editor

Media – whether on or offline – is a great way to show that you are supportive of international development and want the UK to lead in the fight against poverty. Writing a letter to the editor the day with some facts about international development can be a great way of getting your message to the public and to parliamentary candidates.

## Social Media- Get tweeting!

It's well worth questioning candidates on social media such as Twitter, or wherever they are active. Remember to remain neutral and contact all candidates equally – think about what your contributions would look like to others. It's OK to thank them but not to criticise, compare policies, or suggest that you or RESULTS endorses them or their party.

You can also use your own social media channels to create messages in support of international development which are likely to be seen by local candidates. You can use **#BiggerBritain** which is also being used by other international development charities or refer to the [RESULTS social media guidelines](#) and [official twitter channel](#) for further ideas.

## Sample social media suggestions

What has #UKaid ever done for anyone? Turns out, quite a lot. #BiggerBritain <http://bit.ly/2phFWLD>

UK aid is saving lives all over the world, it's not time to walk away. Aid makes us a #BiggerBritain <http://bit.ly/2phFWLD>

Foreign aid spending is something the UK should be proud of. All parties should commit to build a #BiggerBritain <http://bit.ly/2phFWLD>

## What the UK's international development efforts achieve

The UK's excellent track-record on international development has saved many lives. It must continue into the future if we are to meet the aim of the Global Goals to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Here are some examples you can refer to when communicating with your candidates and the local media.

### Education Counts

UK aid has helped to get over 10 million children in developing countries in school in the last 5 years. But despite progress, over 50 million children are still out of school around the world. With inequality in access to education rising, it is the most marginalised and vulnerable that are left behind. The UK has been the leading contributor to [the Global Partnership for Education](#) since its establishment, and since the last replenishment in June 2014, the UK has contributed £210 million. We'd like to see this support for education to continue.



### Healthy Lives – Nutrition matters



The UK has played an important role in raising the global focus on malnutrition, which leads to millions of unnecessary child deaths and wasted human potential. Since 2010, the UK has been scaling up nutrition programmes such as vitamin supplementation, and in 2013, hosted a 'Nutrition for Growth' conference, pledging £1.2 billion towards nutrition. Despite this, 3 million children still die each year from malnutrition, and over 200 million children don't achieve their true potential.

### TB- UK contribution to The Global Fund

TB is the world's worst infectious disease, killing 1.8 million people in 2015, more than HIV and malaria combined. UK aid achieves incredible and inspiring things, including pledging £1.1 billion to [The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#), the principal international financing institution working to end the epidemics last year, ensuring 8 million more lives are saved by 2019, adding to the 20m lives already saved by the Fund. Drug-resistant TB is on the rise, and we are way off track to stop TB as a global epidemic, which is why we need UK support to end TB to continue.

