

# Speech: British High Commissioner's speaking notes at the Business Cost of Violence Against Women & Girls in Ghana forum

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most systematic, widespread human rights violations worldwide.

Around the world at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, and otherwise abused in her lifetime. Most often the abuser is a member of her own family. In all, women are victims of intimate partner violence at a rate of about 5 times that of males.

Domestic violence is not only a gross violation of human rights; it is a fundamental obstacle towards achieving gender equality and eradicating global poverty.

The UK's theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism will be largely focused on Domestic Violence, driven in part by the PM's personal commitment to tackling the issue in the UK.

Domestic violence, in the form of physical or sexual violence causes immediate devastating consequences to those affected: physical injuries, mental health problems and poor well-being, to name but a few. But it also has long-term, far-reaching effects, including persistent inequalities between men and women, which limit women and girls' abilities to fulfil their potential.

Ending gender inequalities such as domestic violence at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UK is committed to eliminating all forms of gender inequality and uses the full range of our influence to champion women's and girls' rights e.g. collaborating with the new FCO Special Envoy for Gender Equality, Joanna Roper. The Special Envoy's remit covers all Gender Equality issues and focuses on delivering the Foreign Secretary's vision of 'a foreign policy that delivers consciously and consistently for women and girls' under three themes; Equal; Safe; and Empowered.

This three strand framework – Equal, Empowerment and Safe – encompasses our gender equality work by ensuring equality for women and girls by eliminating barriers that limit and hold back women and girls e.g. in accessing education. Helping to harness their full potential by supporting them to achieve greater economic empowerment and ensuring they are safe and secure from all forms of violence.

Our gender equality and foreign policy aims to consciously and consistently deliver for women and girls around the world by tackling violence against

women and girls (VAWG). This includes protecting against modern forms of slavery, tackling radicalisation and countering violent extremism and promoting the role of women in preventing violent extremism and promoting peace.

In light of the significant social, economic and public health problems caused by VAWG in Ghana and the increasing rates of reported cases of VAWG in Ghana e.g. domestic violence, rape and defilement, we found it necessary and timely to launch these preliminary findings from the DFID-funded 'What Works' programme on the costs of domestic violence on businesses in Ghana.

This significant new study will build on existing data to address the dearth of knowledge on the socio-economic cost of VAWG in Ghana. Thus capturing direct tangible and intangible costs at the household, business, community and national level.

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## **News story: Ideas for cutting-edge innovations: apply for business funding**

UK business can apply for a share of up to £19 million to help them develop products and services of the future.

Innovate UK has up to £19 million to invest in the best ideas for new innovations in a wide range of technology and business areas.

Projects could fit into one of Innovate UK's 4 priority areas of [emerging and enabling technologies](#), [health and life sciences](#), [infrastructure systems](#) and [manufacturing and materials](#), or be outside them.

### **Game-changing innovations**

Applications should be for game-changing innovative ideas that will lead to new products, processes or services ahead of the field in any sector of the economy.

They can range from feasibility studies through to experimental development that is closer to commercialisation.

### **Competition information**

- the competition opens on 11 December 2017, and the deadline for applications is 28 February 2018
- projects must be led by a business working alone or with other

organisations or researchers

- we expect projects to range in size from £25,000 to £1 million depending on the type of research, and to last between 6 months and 36 months
- businesses could attract up to 70% of their total project costs

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## **News story: £100,000 cash boost for Magnox communities**

The cash boost is part of the economic development aimed at helping to build sustainable communities around former power stations.

The money has been granted by the company's socio-economic scheme, which is administered on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

The Romney Resource Centre, near Dungeness, and the Maldon District Enterprise Centre, near Bradwell, will benefit from the cash.

The Romney Marsh project will see £38,260 from the pot of funding to help adults gain skills in English, maths and technology, as well as to find work placements and employment. It will also mean three jobs will continue at the project.

In Maldon the £60,000 awarded will continue to drive forward the project to establish an Enterprise Centre in the area, developing business plans and a design for the building.

Nigel Monckton, Magnox Socio-Economic Manager, said:

The opportunity for long-term benefit from these projects is huge, and by working in partnership with our communities we aim to help them develop lasting programmes that meet their specific needs.

We have helped a number of organisations to achieve their goals by providing finance and support, and it is our joint intention to make sure that our socio economic support continues to achieve the greatest possible impact.

Magnox operates both Bradwell and Dungeness A sites.

Magnox, the Cavendish Fluor Partnership and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority work together to support a wide range of projects, from large transformational schemes that receive multi-year funding, to equipment that supports education and skills development.

[Find out more or apply for funding](#)

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## Speech: DFID Ghana Country Director's speech at the launch of Ghana's Business Regulation Reform Strategy

Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Chair – Tony Otteng Gyasi – [chair of BEEP Better Regulation Advisory Committee] Country Director of the World Bank Heads and representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other representatives of private sector institutions Members of the Press Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all.

As Country Director for the UK's Department for International Development in Ghana, it is a pleasure to give remarks at the launch of the Ghana's Business Regulatory Reform Programme.

The UK Government has had a longstanding partnership with Ghana to help to improve the business-enabling environment for investment. As a development partner, DFID recognises the critical role of the private sector in creating jobs, supporting economic transformation and contributing to income growth and therefore poverty reduction. Creating the conditions for the private sector to do this through robust business regulation is key.

The Government of Ghana has set out both an admirable vision of Ghana 'beyond aid' and an ambitious economic transformation driven by industrialisation. Two weeks ago in London, the British Prime Minister met with His Excellency the President and noted that, as Ghana moves beyond aid, the UK-Ghana relationship is changing from one focused on aid to a partnership of mutual economic benefit.

Much of DFID's work is already supporting a Ghana "beyond aid":

- Our Business Enabling Environment Programme works with the Government to take forward reforms around construction permits, support speedy dispute resolution and help to improve taxpayer services. The programme has supported a high level reform taskforce to begin work on cutting business regulation.
- Our Anti-Corruption programme (STAAC) is working with state actors and civil society to strengthen Ghana's response to corruption.
- Our Oil and Gas programme (GOGIG) is helping to improve institutional efficiencies in oil and gas regulatory institutions and ensure that revenues contribute to inclusive growth that benefits all Ghanaians.

- And our support to Ghana Revenue Authority is providing technical assistance to broaden Ghana's tax base.

DFID is also currently designing a new programme to support key elements of the Government's industrialisation plan. The programme will focus on structuring investment promotion and requisite industrial policy to attract strategic trade and investment into priority industrial sectors.

Honourable Minister, I am delighted that you have laid out a compelling strategy for business reforms over the next three years with a focus on addressing system-wide issues.

I particularly concur with the elements of this strategy that focus on addressing the underlying challenges to reforms, so rationalising current business regulations whilst managing the quality and flow of new regulations. I would also like to commend Mr Chairman and the private sector on how you have engaged with the reform process initiated by the Government. The collective effort to identify unnecessary regulation and poor implementation of it demonstrates a real commitment to Ghana's reform agenda.

But we know that implementing regulatory reforms and making them stick will not be easy. Although Government is taking bold steps to become the most-business friendly nation in Africa by 2020, and Ghana is currently ranked as best in West Africa and 12th in Africa on the Doing Business index, the recent drop in Ghana's ranking needs to be a call to action.

Ghana is not alone in facing huge challenges in a reform journey. We in the UK have faced similar challenges. Indeed in the UK, 21,000 statutory rules and regulations were counted to be in force in 2014. Reform measures such as the one-in, one-out regime, transparency and consistency in the analysis of new regulations and making "intelligent regulation" a core competence for the UK Civil Service profession were introduced to drastically cut inefficient regulation.

As Ghana moves beyond aid and development partners switch emphasis from aid to trade, this is essentially the "final push" – we must take advantage of current resources and expertise to really secure and sustain reform gains. These gains have not always been sustained in the past.

For the UK's part, and as we transition from aid, the UK will partner with government to secure greater private sector investment flows and responsible investment, including from the UK, to support economic transformation focused on job creation.

Ghana's business regulatory reforms also need to support government to function efficiently and effectively to deliver on the ground and ensure that the private sector feels confident to invest. This requires sound regulatory frameworks and improved institutional efficiencies. Red tape needs to be firmly cut. From my conversations with potential British investors it is clear that unnecessary bureaucracy is still stifling the incentives for their businesses to invest in Ghana.

As tomorrow is the world Anti-Corruption Day, it seems fitting to mention the role that perceptions of corruption play in trade and investment decisions. Taking bold steps to tackle corruption will be central to improving Ghana's ranking on the ease of doing business index. This will require tackling the vested interests and resistance that otherwise will constrain the government's ability to deliver on the ambitious plans set out here today.

The UK is supporting the government to take forward the commitment they made at the London Anti-Corruption Summit last year on Beneficial Ownership Transparency. This will not only be an important transparency tool for law enforcement agencies – making it harder for companies to obscure or hide their real owners – but will also build confidence for foreign and domestic investors looking to do business in Ghana. Delivering on this would make Ghana a genuine trailblazer, the first country in Africa to establish a public register.

We know that the Government has put in significant work on reforms. Recent efforts on convening over 33 Government agencies around key reform issues, implementing paperless customs and online business registration are commendable. But in a world where other countries are also rapidly reforming to attract investment, Ghana must set the pace.

This afternoon a number of BEEP supported regulators and private sector will be meeting to review progress on reforms over the last year. We are looking to the outcome of these deliberations and the specific actions and commitments that are made for reforms in 2018 and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to conclude, Ghana needs to take further steps to remain “investor friendly” and demonstrate that Ghana is truly open for business. It is competing in a period where favourable conditions for investment flows to emerging markets are now tightening.

The size of the challenge – and the opportunity to really reform Ghana's business regulation – is huge.

Development partners including the UK and World Bank can help, but ultimately it will be up to Ghana to really shift the dial on reforms in order to provide a sounder enabling environment and regulatory framework for businesses to establish, flourish and contribute to Ghana's national development.

We wish you well on the “road to sustainable reforms”.

Thank you.

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# News story: Sarah Bedwell announced as the new Certification Officer

The Certification Officer is responsible for statutory functions relating to trade unions and employers' associations

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy today (11 December) announced the appointment of Sarah Bedwell as the new Certification Officer.

The Certification Officer is responsible for statutory functions relating to trade unions and employers' associations.

Sarah Bedwell will take up her role on 1 January 2018, replacing Gerard Walker, who has held the post since June 2016.

## **Biography**

Sarah Bedwell has been the Director of Regulation at the Human Tissue Authority since 2011. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Governance and Registration at the Nursing and Midwifery Council between 2008 and 2011 and Deputy Chief Executive from 2010 to 2011, the Head of Governance at the General Medical Council between 2002 and 2008 and Head of Screening between 1998 and 2002, and Head of Legal and Fiscal Framework at the Charity Commission between 1995 and 1998.