

# HARRIETT BALDWIN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Prime Minister:

Over the last twenty years in Afghanistan, female enrolment in primary school went from zero to over 80%. Thanks to our armed forces and development assistance from the UK and our allies, 3.6 million girls were enabled to go to school.

Following the Taliban's return to power, we know that you share our grave concerns about the implications for the education of millions of Afghan children and young people, especially women, girls, and Afghanistan's ethnic and religious minorities.

Protecting these gains and the right to education for Afghanistan's children will require a significant increase in coordinated international support.

Last month's G7 meeting on Afghanistan was a welcome start. I hope that you will now build on this meeting by working alongside your counterpart in Italy, Prime Minister Mario Draghi, as G20 President, to ensure education is a priority of the 'common international strategy for Afghanistan.

I urge you to secure a commitment from the G20 to develop and fund a plan to support education in Afghanistan and for Afghan refugees in the host countries of the region based on the following four commitments:

1. Increasing humanitarian and development assistance, provided to the UN and international agencies, to ensure schools, colleges, and universities can continue to operate.
2. Providing support to host countries for the education of both existing and newly arriving refugee children and youth.
3. Increasing the number of scholarships for tertiary study overseas, especially for women.
4. Ensuring that a fundamental condition of any working relationship with the regime is that it upholds the right to education.

Very practically the G20 could work with UNICEF and the UN fund for education in emergencies, Education Cannot Wait, to develop a costed plan to protect and promote education for Afghan children, especially girls.

The change of regime and humanitarian crisis engulfing Afghanistan presents one of the single greatest threats to your commitment to ensuring that no matter where in the world a girl is born, they should receive 12 years of quality education.

By scaling up our support for education in Afghanistan and the region in a co-ordinated way we can ensure we live up to the UK's promise to support the education of Afghanistan's children.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Harriett Baldwin MP

Sarah Champion MP

Chris Law MP

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