

The politics of austerity has taken its toll. Hundreds of thousands of people in Britain are relying on foodbanks for survival. Pensioners are freezing to death in winter as a result of rising fuel bills. The NHS is under severe financial strain. Social care budgets have been slashed, leaving some of the most needy in our society without adequate support. Our young people have been forced into debt by a 200 per cent increase in tuition fees.

Despite this severe economic hardship, MPs and peers in all parties except UKIP voted to massively increase foreign aid expenditure, borrowing money that will increase the national debt we leave to our children. It is now enshrined in law that we must pay 0.7 per cent of our Gross National Income (GNI) on aid every year.

The old parties pushed ahead with this expenditure regardless, ignoring considerable evidence that the money spent on overseas aid is not well directed or controlled and that much is wasted, lost to corruption or handed to countries already wealthy enough to have their own space programmes, nuclear weapons and even overseas aid programmes of their own.

**UKIP will repeal recent legislation committing aid spending to 0.7 per cent of GNI. We object to taxpayers' money being sent to already economically thriving countries; countries with poor human rights' records; and to money being spent on politically correct vanity projects that do nothing to lift developing nations out of poverty. We also believe charity should begin at home.**

UKIP will bring overseas aid spending into line with that of the United States, which has a very similar level of deficit and overall debt as a percentage of GNI to the UK. USA aid currently stands at 0.2 per cent of GNI and this is what we will match.

This change will be phased in over three years and the UK level of overseas aid will remain substantial, not falling below £4 billion per annum, more than given by Spain and Italy combined.

Projects in progress will be completed and any contractual obligations met.

We will require all project expenditure to have clear, definable outcomes and future spending priorities will focus on emergency relief, healthcare, inoculation against preventable diseases and clean water and sanitation programmes.

The contracts for delivery of these programmes will be offered to British providers first, following removal of the EU Procurement Directive.

## TRADE NOT AID

**Removing barriers to trade is a far more effective way to tackle poverty than giving aid hand-outs, which can provide incentives for corrupt leaders to stifle economic progress.**

This is where UKIP will focus: having escaped from the EU's protectionism, which has a negative impact on international development, we will be better placed to help provide sustainable livelihoods for the world's poorest people, by giving them free access to the British market.

## THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)

DFID has already shown itself to be wasteful and lacking in focus on aid outcomes, yet its budget has been protected from recent government cuts. UKIP takes a very different view: when DFID's budget is reduced, we see no reason to keep DFID running as an independent Government department. We will close DFID and merge its essential functions into the Foreign Office, retaining a single Minister for Overseas Development.

