

The Coalition for Global Prosperity

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GLOBAL BRITAIN

INTERVIEWS WITH



Chairman Ed Royce



The Rt Hon
Anne Marie Trevelyan

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COALITION
FOR GLOBAL
PROSPERITY
Britain as a force for good

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WELCOME

Since our last edition the Coalition for Global Prosperity has taken Parliamentarians overseas to Lebanon to view taxpayers' money in action, and to see the life-changing work of UK aid. As Covid showed, what begins in far off lands soon comes to Britain, and so the best course of action is always to try and tackle problems at their source.

We were also pleased to provide a platform for Ed Royce, former Chairman of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, who joined UK Parliamentarians to discuss the positive contribution made by the UK in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Finally, the Government's new International Development Strategy sets out a bold change in direction for UK Aid, responding to the world as it is, not how it used to be. Do read on for further analysis.

Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoy our July edition.

Ryan Henson
Chief Executive



THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

At last, we have an International Development Strategy for the year 2022, not 2002, one that responds to the world as it is, not the world of years gone by.

Twenty years ago, the UK enjoyed year after year of economic growth, Russia was a member of the G8, and everyone believed China was on a path of integration and reform. Fast forward to today and although the UK has the fastest growing economy in the G7, a cost-of-living crisis threatens household incomes, Covid's legacy will be with us for years to come, interest rates are rising, Russia has invaded Ukraine, and China has become increasingly belligerent and ambitious.

To put it another way, Francis Fukuyama's End of History has been replaced by a far more dangerous and uncertain world, and it is right that the UK's approach to international development has been updated accordingly.

The new International Development Strategy asserts that the FCDO will substantially rebalance its ODA investments from multilateral towards bilateral channels. By 2025 the FCDO intends to spend three-quarters of its aid budget allocated at the 2021 Spending Review, bilaterally. This is to be expected following the UK's departure from the EU, and should provide greater oversight and scrutiny of taxpayer's money.

Another big shift in the Strategy is an increasing focus on using British Investment Partnerships to deliver 'honest, reliable investment' for low and middle-income countries providing them with an alternative form of investment, thus reducing their dependence on 'malign actors'. This leveraging of British expertise can both serve those most in need, and help make the world freer, fairer, and less vulnerable to authoritarian states.

The Strategy is also right to state that 'trade helps countries to grow their economies, raise incomes, create jobs and lift themselves out of poverty.' The Foreign Secretary should be applauded for having the courage to pursue a proven approach to poverty alleviation, when she will be heavily criticised by those ideologically opposed to free markets and free trade.

There are now four clear priorities for international development: Honest and reliable investment; freedom for women and girls; life-saving humanitarian assistance; and a focus on climate change, nature, and global health programmes. This disciplined approach should mean the UK can provide effective, integrated support, without over-promising and under-delivering.

Finally, it was always wrong for international development to be treated as an optional add-on to the UK's foreign policy offering, or worse – something entirely separate. This new Strategy makes clear that international development will now be 'a central part of a coherent UK foreign policy' and that 'defence, diplomacy, and development activities' should be mutually supportive. Amen.

Honest, realistic, and unapologetically pro-freedom, democracy, and the rule of law, this is a forward-looking International Development Strategy fit for the challenges we face.

Article written by Ryan Henson, Coalition for Global Prosperity Chief Executive

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

This interview took place at Conservative Spring Forum in Blackpool in April 2022.

How did your Ministerial career begin and what has that journey been like for you?

I began my ministerial career in that military space which of course, particularly defence procurement, is all about exports and kit and those global networks of infrastructure so I had by default landed in what was an outward facing and global department.

I speak fluent French and I have family all across the world so I think of the world in a very familiar way anyway. I was very comfortable in that space and then the Prime Minister asked me to take on International Development. Similarly, that was an area I've done quite a lot of work in some of those spaces and both of us were very, very keen to champion the 12 years of education for girls.

That was my central focus of what we wanted to try and do and really - slightly re-jig the way International Development had been run across government. It had become slightly too separated from government direction and had become almost like an agency so we wanted to really bring it back in. In fact the PM then decided to bring it right in so that what we see across the world, in every embassy and high commission is a completely coherent policy. Here is all of the tools of UK Government in a specific country - Ethiopia, India, Costa Rica - in a much more holistic way and I think it's really starting to work much better in terms of demonstrating and showing the UK's assets being able to reach into those countries and bring that mutual relationship to a much stronger level than it was.



How important are personal relationships with counterparts around the world in your role?

A few years ago I was sitting out there listening to a former Secretary of State thinking: how do they do that - meeting people all the time, move through the system? It's so important and it's so impactful because politics is delivered between people. It's not very sophisticated at the end of the day - it's people. It's people you know, it's people you trust and people whose agenda you can understand.

When you know someone who was a junior minister in another country, who I met early on as the energy minister last year, is now - through a government change in his country - very senior and I've been able to have some really good conversations with him and we're making some really good progress on some clean energy projects.

Similarly, President Zelenskyy phones the PM - very regularly - that's a relationship that's just a human relationship. From that comes the ability to use the tools at our disposal as politicians for good to try and support a country in incredible crisis and an outrageous situation uh having been invaded.

From your experience, how do you find that the UK is perceived overseas?

I think we massively undervalue and do ourselves down here. I don't think the average British citizen has any sense of this and I don't know how we fix that sense of just how respected and loved we are across the world. It's extraordinary - it's the greatest honour. You know I get showered with love and affection and warmth in every country I've been to and you kind of want to pass it on and say it's not me but thank you. I'll take it on behalf of the nation. It's fascinating but it stems from the desire to have a strong trading and cultural relationship with us. It's as strong as it ever was.

We are an honest broker. For example, the PM was recently in Saudi, it's a trusted relationship, but that won't have stopped him for a moment saying how cross he is with some of their human rights activities. But that's okay and that's respect. It doesn't stop the relationship on the issues of the day that needs sorting out. I've been genuinely amazed and really heartened by the warmth in which we are welcomed everywhere. What we need to do is find a way to understand that better. It's not a matter of arrogance. It's why are we so respected and and loved. It's because we do things right. It's really simple. Our values are sound and they go right the way through.

Actually there's that sense of fair play, that sense of honour, that sense of respect of encouragement and appreciation of diversity is genuine and it's right through when it is seen with amazement from across the world. From the USA to Indonesia. From New Zealand to Trinidad and Tobago where I was last year.

Thinking more about trade and also the soft power aspect of the UK offer alongside your previous Cabinet

position, to what extent can International Development support the International Trade agenda?

I think there is more that we can do and we're working on a number of things which I can't tell you about yet but you'll be hopefully be pleased to hear about in the coming months. So we talk about trade for good and actually in bringing what was DFID into the old Foreign Office and creating FCDO we've been able to embed that in a much more holistic way. I have trade advisors across the world - trade advisors who are dealing with getting to know the businesses and the Mayors and understanding where their infrastructure investments are, bringing UK business in and also helping those countries to export to the UK. Those networks can and should be much tighter.

I was in Malawi last year where 11% of the population are on the grid. So 89% of the country is not connected to mains electricity - that is the third poorest country in the world. Basically nobody except those living in the main cities - the richest people living in the main cities and a few businesses - have mains electricity. How is that possible in 2022? So we're very keen to bring more electricity down as there is a fantastic opportunity to grow clean energy. I was there to support a UK-Dutch social enterprise that had decided to take on this challenge and a built 40 acre solar farm. That's a lot of solar when you look at it all in one go. They had taken 700 local people who were almost entirely uneducated just farming you know just their little patch of land educated them trained them. 700 people to become engineers - an extraordinary effort.

So we can do much more and these countries want it to be the UK.

IN CONVERSATION WITH CHAIRMAN ED ROYCE

How did you decide to start a career in politics? What made you want to run?

I think early in my career, I just had an interest in international issues. And in high school, I used to get students together from across the political spectrum to discuss ideas. When I got to college, I found out at that period of time, you could actually start your own classes and myself and a classmate started a class beyond left and right alternatives and political thought. It's a little sophomore the title. But listen, we had a great time with it, brought in a lot of speakers, I got to invite some economists to give remarks. And I guess it was then that I knew I had the bug in terms of public policy and political economy especially.

You served as Chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee - how was that experience for you?

Well, for me, it was a long slog getting to that position. I spent 26 years in the House - a great deal of experience internationally. And so I had chaired the the Africa subcommittee for eight years, that worked on these issues, such as PEPFAR had worked on the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which will meshed with what the UK was doing and what Europe was doing at that time, which is to say, open our markets to, you know, remove the tariffs so that we could have goods from across Africa, tariff free come into our markets. But in exchange, there was an expectation sort of a requirement that in doing so, those African states move towards the rule of law independent, the judges on courts move towards a position of democratic government, governance and empowering civil society and all of that. So along the way,



Electrify Africa a bill to further encourage the right kind of development there did a lot of work on empowerment of women in Africa. And all of this increasingly began to understand the role that Britain played in sort of a loose alliance of states, which understood that a lot of this had to do with leadership and cooperation among states that believed in empowering not only people in the developing world, but also resisting authoritarian models, and trying to develop sustainable development. But with that sustainable development, a concept of doing this in the right way that encourage markets, further empowering people. So I would say this all laid a foundation later for chairing the full committee. And I would say a lot of my focus still remains on developing countries, and what we can do to really make a difference.

Do you think that democracies have almost taken their foot off the pedal when it comes to standing up for democratic values on the world stage?

Well, I think it's a reminder that what we take for granted, the idea that a rules based

system, and one that is going to have some concern over humanitarian consequences and human suffering and in both the rights of people.

It seems to me that this was a wake up call that showed a US, in the West, and in the developing world, all of us who aspire to a world with an increasing system have more rights, more responsible governance, that in fact, there are those who are willing to tear this down on a whim, there are those who are quite willing to undermine this order. And as we're speaking now about Ukraine, let's speak for a minute about the consequences. health consequences, the consequences inside Ukraine, for a generation of people who are, you know, losing their lives, but also for their children losing the opportunities, there's going to be massive malnutrition, the British are doing great work in terms of, you know, trying to address this, and trying to wake up all of Europe to the, to the consequences, but the the farmers who are going to, you know, lose the capability of getting their crops to market, maybe they don't plant next year, maybe those families do not have sustenance going forward in terms of what they do for a living.

But then let's look beyond that. Let's look to the Horn of Africa, where the Ukrainian grains, you know, basically are the lion's share of what is coming into that region at the same time that we're seeing drought, again, in Somalia, and we have, you know, 350,000 young children at risk. So we're watching a 38% increase in the price of food, and food simply not reaching those markets. What do we think is going to happen with all the malnutrition you see there that you see in South Sudan, across North Africa, communities in Yemen? Well, we know what's going to happen is sub Saharan Sahara and North Africa, we know what's going to happen in these parts of the globe in Central Asia, it's going to be a compounding of malnutrition, stunted birth, starvation. I mean, this, this is what is unfolding before our eyes. And this

was a choice by by the government in Russia, by their head of state Putin, to block the ability to use food as a weapon, and block the ability of grains to get to people in need. It is now the responsibility of people across this globe, to push their governments to do everything we can to break that siege, and to get, you know, get that food, get those grains, before they rot out there onto the work world market.

Do you think that multilateral institutions such as the UN are up to the challenge of handling a powerful China and standing up for democratic values whilst also supporting sustainable development?

I think that what we need to do is recognise that leadership, by governments that share our values, need to redouble our efforts in these institutions. Because Beijing has spent an inordinate amount of time over the last few decades, especially figuring out how to wrest control of the wheel. I think to return this to balance, the traditional role that we've seen the UK and the US play and a number of governments around the world that are more focused on on a rules based system, we need to all steel our resolve to get engaged in these institutions, take it seriously and demand the types of reforms that you're alluding to that are necessary from a standpoint of transparency. But also in terms of getting the results we have a right to expect and that people on this planet have a right to expect out of a multilateral organisation like the UN. Now with the five permanent states each has a veto, so there's the in the Security Council, so there's a limit to just how much damage can be done by a malign actor. But that said, there's so much good that could be done if we would all work together to reform these institutions, in terms of accountability.

Ed Royce served as Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee from 2013-2019.

PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO LEBANON

Over the Easter Recess, the Coalition for Global Prosperity organised a Parliamentary visit to Lebanon for Members of Parliament to see the work of UK based NGOs in the area. We were joined by Jo Gideon MP, Fleur Anderson MP and Bambos Charalambous MP.

The visit marked the first in a new programme of overseas visits for UK Parliamentarians by CGP. On the first day, the MPs were able to visit the Southern border, also known as the "Blue Line" to see for themselves the process of mine clearance work and the impact that it can have on local people.



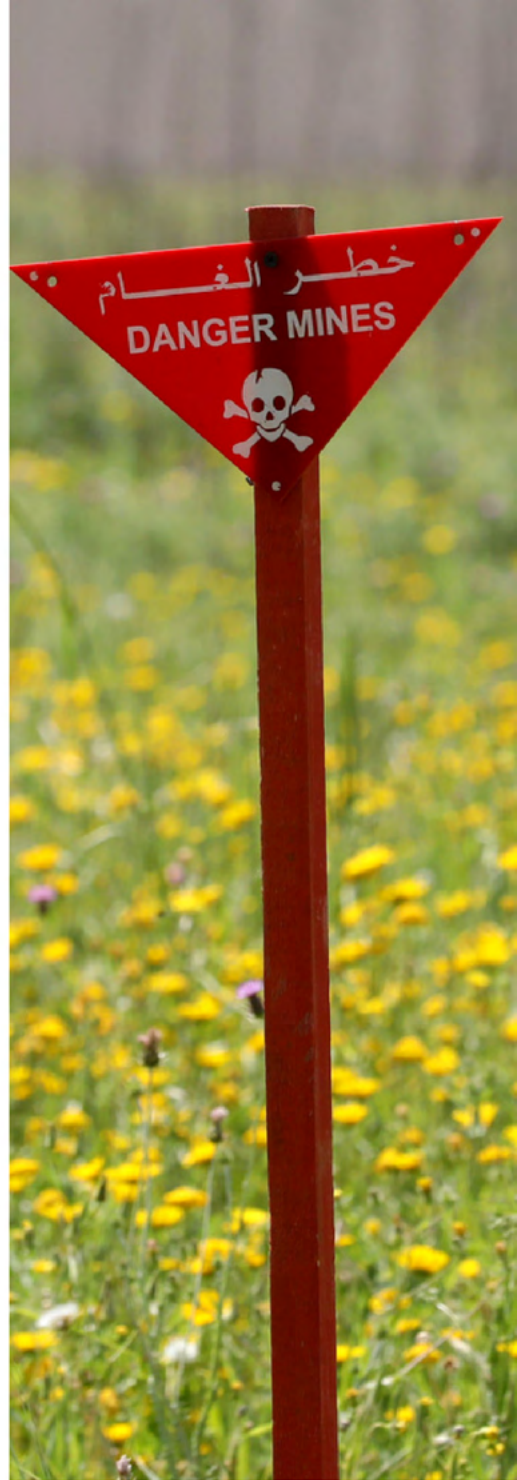
The Mines Advisory Group are teaching Lebanese people how to safely find and remove landmines in order to reclaim much needed land for agricultural use. Once the land has been cleared, farmers can then plant crops which not only help to alleviate the situation around food security but also create financial security.

The delegation then visited the site of the Beirut explosion of 2020 to speak with local entrepreneurs and business owners who had been effected by the blast to see how they had been helped by UK based NGO Save the Children. MPs also spoke with refugees who had fled conflict and were now based in refugee camps in Lebanon which were run by Save the Children.



The situation in Lebanon remains bleak with a worsening financial crisis, the impact of the COVID pandemic and the fallout from the Beirut blast of 2020.

The Coalition for Global Prosperity will be organising more visits such as this throughout the year as part of our new Overseas Visits programme. If this is of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.



CLEARING LANDMINES IN LEBANON

Lebanon is a country beset by economic and political challenges but I have witnessed first-hand the life-saving impact which British expertise is having on some of the poorest communities in that country.

On a visit there with the Coalition for Global Prosperity I walked through the minefields of the Blue Line, on Lebanon's southern border with Israel, and met families living right next to land littered with deadly cluster bombs.

But I also met farmers who were able to cultivate land for the first time in decades because those precious acres were, at long last, free of landmines.



This work to free communities from the fear of landmines and unexploded ordnance is being done by British charity the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), which is headquartered in Manchester and employs some 5,700 staff in 27 countries.

In Lebanon, their work is not just about saving lives and limbs but, crucially, brings back into use fertile agricultural land in a country which desperately needs to increase its productivity and lessen its reliance on foreign imports. In a country facing a spiralling food crisis, with the cost of food surging nearly 400% in one year, and which normally imports 95% of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine, any increase in farmable land will be life-saving.

I witnessed the highly skilled MAG staff patiently finding and destroying the landmines and watched as they searched for unexploded cluster munitions in the Bekaa Valley, dropped some four decades ago but still claiming lives and contaminating farmers' fields today.

The landmine problem is a legacy of decades of civil conflict ended in May 2000. Lebanon's cluster munitions problem is a combined result of the conflict with Israel in the 1970s and 80s, as well as the period between July–August 2006, when Israeli forces fired four million submunitions on south Lebanon, of which an estimated one million failed to detonate.

In 2021 alone, 30 victims of mines were reported in Lebanon, including eight fatalities. This is more than triple the number of victims in 2020, with the economic crisis causing many more people to risk increased exposure to landmine and cluster munition contamination in search of money for survival. Victims were in many cases farmers using contaminated land for agriculture purposes or people searching for scrap metal for resale.

A 2019 study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) and the Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC) on the socioeconomic benefits of mine action in Lebanon shows that every US \$1 invested in mine action generates US \$4.15 in socioeconomic benefits.

The achievements of MAG represent Britain as a force for good in the world in the most tangible way imaginable. British expertise applied globally, and in partnership with local communities and host governments, to achieve demonstrable outcomes.

Lebanon's situation is a striking example of the often-ignored long-term impacts of conflict – and a reminder that the war currently raging in Ukraine will continue to devastate lives long after the guns have fallen silent.

And the lesson that I take from my experiences in Lebanon is that Britain can and must play a leading role in helping countries recover from conflict, and that the expertise of British organisations such as MAG will be crucial not just in countries in the Middle East, or Africa or South East Asia, but closer to home too whenever a sustainable ceasefire or peace agreement is forged in Ukraine.

Jo Gideon MP is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Stoke On Trent Central.



GLOBAL BRITAIN: THE UK'S ROLE IN UKRAINE

The Coalition for Global Prosperity hosted a panel discussion to look at the UK's role in Ukraine and what future role the UK can play after the conflict.

On the panel were Alicia Kearns MP, Flick Drummond MP, former Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee Ed Royce and Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns at Save The Children, Kirsty McNeill.

The session looked at the importance of ensuring that democratic nations stand together in the face of threats on the world stage. Throughout the panel, we heard how the humanitarian situation in some of the worst hit areas was increasingly bleak with with Kirsty McNeill from Save the Children telling the audience that at least 250 children had been documented as dead.

Flick Drummond MP gave her opening remarks and said the response from the UK had been unequivocally supported and it was important that Ukraine got all it required militarily. She said the troops were well trained and what they currently required was fairly basic.

It was important for the world economy that Ukraine also economically recovered, she said, as they supplied 10 percent of the world's grain.

On refugees, Drummond said it was vital neighbouring states were supported economically. The wider consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine had led to other countries applying to join NATO, which meant that President Putin has already failed in his objective. "It is important that the message goes out to Putin", she said.

Chairman Ed Royce, who served as a member of the United States House of Representatives from California, said the UK had been a "great leader" in their support for Ukraine. The United States had provided \$54bn in assistance, he said, but said the war was intent on creating food insecurity in Ukraine and further afield.

Royce said there was a pattern of Russia trying to block ports to prevent grain from getting to other countries. Many countries were dependent on Ukrainian grain, and an increase in the price of food was inevitable. This meant that millions more people were being pushed into food insecurity, he said. He warned that "this challenge was just beginning". This could be a "crisis which compounds upon itself", he said. Royce said it was children who would carry this malnutrition throughout their lives.

Flick Drummond said there was a big issue with Russian mercenaries involved in other countries and she expected the aid spending to return to 0.7 percent shortly. However, she said it was a balancing act in order to justify aid spending to the electorate in a cost-of-living crisis. Alicia Kearns has said if we did not fight for multilateral organisations then we had failed, and she said there was a real opportunity to create a "respective" and fair system of support for countries struggling.

DEMOCRACY AND LEBANON

How easy is it to take democracy and elections for granted? Every few years we head to our polling station or send off our ballots but, unless you're among the minority of people who follow politics closely or have been to places where elections are a lot harder, it is easy to go through the process without giving the actual act of voting too much thought. Our vote process is safe and respected and we accept that every vote counts. But we also know how fragile the democratic process is. Ukraine is the most vivid example of a democracy under attack from an authoritarian regime. Around the world, the ballot box is still either out of reach, results predetermined or a risk to someone's safety.

I recently visited Lebanon to see mine clearance work being carried out by the British NGO, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Like parts of the UK in May, people in Lebanon recently went to the ballot box to help decide their country's future. Although Lebanon may no longer feature on our TV screens or Twitter feeds as much as it used to, the situation there remains bleak. Lebanon is in a significant financial crisis brought about by chronic corruption, COVID, the Beirut explosion of 2020, and regional instabilities. Inflation currently stands at 230%.

However, even against this backdrop, UK backed projects and UK based organisations such as MAG, and Save the Children, are helping local people in Lebanon rebuild their lives and businesses. I saw dangerous, yet vital work, being carried out to help clear whole swathes of the country from landmines so that farmers can start to plant crops and build livelihoods. The soft power this generates for Britain is significant. In Beirut, I saw how local entrepreneurs were being helped by Save the Children to rebuild their businesses following the terrible explosion in 2020. These aren't handouts, they're a hand up - something all Conservatives can get behind and support.

But the challenge there is far from over and only with the continued support of the UK and other international partners can countries like Lebanon recover. Some will ask, why is the UK involving itself with a country so far from our shores, at a time when families across our nation are struggling to make ends meet? We do it not just because helping people who are struggling through no fault of their own is as British as the Union Jack, but because it's the smart thing to do too. Fail to deal with the consequences of poverty and conflict at their source, and we'll have to deal with them on the streets of Britain, or the shores of Dover, instead. Just as importantly, there are thousands of people in Lebanon who as a result of UK aid projects, have now engaged with our values and who share our commitment to human rights and democracy - a priceless advantage in a world where rogue and authoritarian states are violently working to challenge the rules based system.

What we see around the world is that when UK aid is combined with our entrepreneurial spirit and the expertise of our armed forces and diplomats, Britain is able to punch well above its weight by saving lives and helping to win the battle of ideas. The Government's upcoming International Development Strategy is an excellent opportunity to formalise Development's position as an integral part of the UK's foreign policy offering. Using it to counter the influence of Russia and China in Africa, or Iran in Lebanon and the Middle East, and helping to rebuild Ukraine, and lift millions out of poverty.

Article By Ryan Henson, Chief Executive

GET INVOLVED WITH THE COALITION FOR GLOBAL PROSPERITY

Get in touch with Ryan Baldry, Senior Communications Manager
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