

The Coalition for Global Prosperity

ISSUE 05 / JANUARY 2024

# GLOBAL PROSPERITY



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COALITION  
FOR GLOBAL  
PROSPERITY

*Britain as a force for good*

*ISSUE 05*

# GLOBAL PROSPERITY

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Article by Simon Fell MP

# WELCOME

Welcome to the January 2024 edition of the Global Prosperity Magazine.

Last year saw the Coalition for Global Prosperity's busiest year since we were founded with more overseas visits, events and research than ever before.

With the international stage looking increasingly unstable and 2024 seeing over 50 nations go to the ballot box there will be plenty to focus on in the coming months. At CGP, we will continue to make the case for the UK to act as a force for good on the world stage by bringing together our Defence, Diplomatic and Development expertise to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Last year, we held 29 public and private events engaging almost 100 parliamentarians such as then Foreign Secretary, The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, the former Defence Secretary, The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary, The Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Shadow International Development Minister, Lisa Nandy MP, The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister for Development, and The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Defence.

We will be publishing new research projects, holding an incredible line up of events as well as maintaining our programme of Overseas Visits with Parliamentarians and running the second cohort of our Future Leaders Programme.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with the Coalition's work throughout the year so please do continue to follow us on our social media channels to see what's coming in 2024.

**Ryan Henson**  
**Chief Executive**





# FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME 2023

The Future Leaders Programme featured Labour and Conservative Party parliamentary candidates with an interest in foreign policy and learning more about the UK's role in the world.

In the pilot year of the Future Leaders scheme, the Coalition held two high-level retreats at Windsor Castle and Ditchley Park. These brought together leaders from politics, military, business and faith including Baroness Davidson, Alastair Campbell, a former head of the Secret Intelligence Service, Lord Mandelson and Sir Stephen O'Brien, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

A delegation of candidates were also taken on a visit to Jordan to see UK aid in action at the Za'atari refugee settlement. There they met with the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Senate and the House, UK Diplomatic Staff, and the former Prime Minister of Jordan who now leads on constitutional reform.

Alongside this we held a number of networking drink receptions with MP guest speakers and launched the Future Leaders Essay Collection. This collection of essays concluded the programme and allowed candidates to demonstrate the knowledge they had gained throughout the programme as well as exploring new topics alongside development, such as security, critical minerals, LGBT+ rights and climate change.



Following the completion of the programme, a number of candidates spoke on CGP platforms at Conservative Party Conference and attended numerous roundtables and dinners with senior stakeholders and policy makers.

We are excited to launch the next cohort of Future Leaders in 2024 and will be announcing details of how to apply shortly!



# CONSERVATIVE PARTY

At this year's Conservative Party Conference in Manchester, the Coalition for Global Prosperity held our largest programme of events yet which took place within the Foreign Policy Hub - a new space at Conference where the UK's role on the world stage was the key focus.

Our full day of events covered a range of topics from tackling hunger, climate change, water security and conflict prevention in partnership with a number of NGOs and think tanks.

Parliamentarians featuring on our platform were Attorney General The Rt Hon Victoria Prentis KC MP, then Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Alexander Stafford MP, The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP, Brendan Clarke-Smith MP, Tom Hunt MP and the Minister for International Development The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP.

Thank you to our excellent partners and Parliamentarians for joining us for this excellent programme of events and we are already working hard to ensure that next year's is even stronger!





# CONFERENCE 2023



# LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

At Labour Party Conference 2023 in Liverpool, the Coalition for Global Prosperity hosted a discussion with Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP & Shadow Development Minister Lisa Nandy MP. This event was held in partnership with Labour Foreign Policy Group and the Labour Campaign for International Development.

During the discussion, David Lammy MP & Lisa Nandy MP set out their vision for how a Labour Government would conduct foreign policy. A key element for both was the need for the UK to reengage with European partners and with key global institutions.

On Development specifically, following her speech on the main stage of Labour Conference, Lisa Nandy set out how women and girls would be a key element of her development strategy but also that a new model for development was needed where the sector and Government looked to the long time and stopped funding short term solutions.





# PARLIAMETARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON DC: SEPTEMBER

During the September Parliamentary Recess, CGP took a delegation of Conservative MPs to Washington D.C. to meet with key politicians and experts in the fields of development, defence and diplomacy to discuss how the UK-US relationship can tackle global issues. We were joined by Mark Jenkinson MP, Mark Logan MP, Jane Stevenson MP, and James Gray MP.

The delegation met with Members of the United States House of Representatives and Members of the United States Senate to discuss shared foreign policy challenges such as China, the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine and climate change.

Whilst meeting officials from the USAID Agency, the MPs heard about the importance of UK leadership in development through thought leadership and how the UK response in Ukraine had provided a template for others to follow.

The MPs met with think tanks and business groups such as the Atlantic Council, British American Business Council and the World Bank alongside a meeting with the Deputy Head of Mission for the UK Embassy to the United States.

This visit demonstrated the true depth of the UK-US Transatlantic relationship in terms of ensuring our own security but also the security of our allies and partners around the world and how it can be a true force for good on the world stage.



# PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON DC: NOVEMBER

In November 2023, CGP took a cross-party delegation of MPs to discuss international development, defence and diplomacy with US politicians, policy experts, advocacy groups, NGOs and diplomats in Washington D.C.

As part of CGP's 1946 Forum, a cross-party caucus that promotes the transatlantic relationship as a force for good, the parliamentarians discussed development finance and the impact of climate change and conflict on food security.

The delegation met with Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and John Boozman (R-AR), Members of the House of US Representatives, The World Bank, diplomats from the State Department, military leaders, think tanks and The ONE Campaign's CEO, Gayle Smith.

Across the three-day visit, the parliamentarians were able to discuss wide-ranging topics including AUKUS, climate change, migration, and long-term partnerships to end global poverty.

We were joined by Stephen Doughty MP (LAB), Alex Davies-Jones MP (LAB) Marie Rimmer MP (LAB), Virginia Crosbie MP (CON), Simon Fell MP (CON) and James Daly MP (CON).



# PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO ZAMBIA

In November, the Coalition for Global Prosperity were delighted to host Shadow Cabinet Minister for International Development Lisa Nandy MP on a Parliamentary visit to Zambia to see UK funded projects in action.

We visited projects with the Global Fund, Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases and Sightsavers as well as meetings with local community leaders and the UK High Commissioner to Zambia.

The visit demonstrated the impact of partnerships between private funders and NGO's to deliver life changing results and impacts.

Thank you to all of our partners who helped to make this visit a success.





# ANNUAL LECTURE: LORD MICHAEL HESELTINE

In the first of CGP's Annual Lecture series, we were honoured to hear from Lord Heseltine, former Conservative MP, Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State. Lord Heseltine spoke with Ryan Henson, Chief Executive of the Coalition, and Aliona Hlivco, Managing Director at the Henry Jackson Society and former Ukrainian politician

Titled "A Marshall Plan for Aid", Lord Heseltine spoke in more detail about his proposed idea to tackle the immigration crisis in Europe while driving forward global development. Just as the allies banded together to support Europe's reconstruction after World War II, this "Marshall Plan" would involve throwing a "protective ring" around Europe while simultaneously providing unprecedented development support in those countries most affected by crises, economic insecurity and stagnation.

Lord Heseltine underscored the importance of private/public partnerships in driving forward global development, in order to maximise impact and ensure countries are working towards the same goals. He also spoke about the need to utilise the best of British expertise in the implementation of this plan.







# UN GLOBAL GOALS AND BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2023

The Coalition for Global Prosperity were delighted to sponsor the UN Global Goals and Business Conference which took place in the House of Commons in July 2023.

Speakers at the conference included:

- Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- The Rt Hon Mr Andrew Mitchell, MP, Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Theo Clarke, MP, Chair, APPG on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development
- The Rt Hon. the Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale, Chair, APPG on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development
- Stuart Bruce, Director, Climate Risk & Strategy of KPMG & Chair of ICC United Kingdom Energy & Environment Committee
- Kate Gibson, Director of Diageo in Society
- Kempton White, Founder of The Emissions Capture Company
- Jenny McInnes, Global Head of Sustainability Policy and Partnerships, HSBC
- Abdullahi Alim, Head of Project 30, International Chamber of Commerce





# HOW AID CAN HELP TACKLE THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION

**Article Written By Simon Fell MP, Barrow and Furness**

We live in a contested world. As Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron has returned from his first trip to the US in his new role, the danger and instability facing free, democratic nations is very different to the time when he was Prime Minister.

'It is hard to recall in recent memory a time of such danger and uncertainty,' he said, and he is absolutely right.

Cameron inherits a brief dominated by conflict and competition – a rising China that seeks to expand its influence territorially, technologically, and through trade; a destructive Russia; instability in the Middle East; overarching issues that transcend borders like climate change, pandemics and migration; and technological advancements which will impact the daily lives and work of citizens as well as democratic systems and warfare. Be in no doubt: geopolitical volatility that may seem far away threatens our national security, prosperity and way of life at home.

I recently visited Washington DC with the Coalition for Global Prosperity to deepen transatlantic relations to confront these challenges. Speaking to decision-makers on the Hill, I was struck by the stark terms in which they presented the unprecedented challenge to the international order: an authoritarian alignment of China, Russia and Iran is seeking to undermine global security and prosperity. There is no one threat. Instead, a gamut of global challenges face the liberal democratic orders of the West. Food scarcity and climate change begets political instability and puts people on the march. The aggressive policies of China's Belt and Road Initiative (aid, but at what price?) auctions fragile countries' futures for the geopolitical equivalent of payday loans, and the global instability encapsulated in Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine upsets the comfortable world order that we know so well, turning allies fractious.

The only way to tackle these issues must be an integrated approach to foreign policy – one that champions international development alongside defence and diplomacy as part of our 'smart power toolbox'.

The UK's Integrated Review Refresh and International Development White Paper aims to do exactly that, while setting out how to maximise the impact from our investment, making taxpayers' money go further. What we do in the development space does not belong in a vacuum; it sits within a wider strategy around counterterrorism, collective security and good governance.

Development matters just as much at home as it does abroad. Whether this be stopping small boats, tackling climate change, countering national security threats or even boosting UK economic prosperity through trade, development policy is central to all of these domestic concerns.

Taking back control of our borders includes responding to the challenges that compel people to move within their country of origin, because instability breeds immigration. A country that suffers from conflict, poor governance, and lacks growth and opportunities will suffer. Layer this on top of existing challenges such as poverty, access to nutritious food, inadequate healthcare systems, education and empowering women and girls, and people will look to move elsewhere.

According to the World Food Programme, for every 1% increase in food insecurity, there is a 2% increase in migration. Boosting food, water and energy security across the developing world will therefore lead to lower displacement of people and reduced migratory flows into the UK.

To support stability in the most vulnerable nations, diplomatic and financial support must be focused at the source, in country. Yet instead of focusing our efforts on the root causes of migration, we are spending too much money at the end of the line, on housing migrants here. In fact in 2022, £3.7 billion, or 29% of the aid budget, was spent on supporting refugees in the UK.

This money would be much better spent on supporting development overseas. If we invest in developing countries on the frontline of these challenges we'll help support their reason to stay. We will also win global friends and a remarkable cache of regional soft power – of incalculable value in the future. Not only will this work towards peace and stability in the areas which most need it, it will help realise the Sustainable Development Goals, hitting key UK goals to reduce poverty and boost gender equality worldwide. It will prevent China stepping in to fund infrastructure projects at a high price. It will help solve problems at home by reducing migratory pressures on housing and the quality of services. And it will reduce the risk of people risking their lives in small boats.

So, what can Britain and America do? Next year's NATO summit in Washington DC will mark the 75th anniversary of the organisation, bringing more opportunities for close transatlantic collaboration. We should use this to build momentum. We must bring together authoritative voices from both sides of the Atlantic to champion this effective foreign policy package.

International institutions can also be a necessary tool to unlock finance and have major influence on enhancing development in countries that would otherwise struggle to get loans or grants, or that might look towards China for investment. Under the leadership of its new President Ajay Banga, the World Bank has an appetite to reform. As the Prime Minister said in his COP28 speech, reform of the global financial system is a must, including stretching the balance sheets of multilateral development banks, changing how we lend to developing countries and using climate-resilient debt clauses so lending and taxpayers' money goes further.

The interconnectedness between global and domestic policy priorities has never been clearer. We are at an inflection point and have an opportunity to change the narrative. There is a geostrategic importance of an integrated approach to foreign policy for the UK, US and our allies. Aid is an investment – and a strategically smart one too. The more we champion its smart use, the safer we will be at home.



# GET INVOLVED WITH THE COALITION FOR GLOBAL PROSPERITY

Get in touch with Ryan Baldry, Senior Communications Manager,  
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The Global Britain Podcast



Visiting UK Aid Projects  
First-Hand Overseas



Case Studies and Briefings  
on International Development

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