



## Lobbying and Advocacy Report: April 2017-March 2018

Through 2017-18 the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) had an unprecedented level of engagement across Holyrood and Westminster as it looked to advance the priorities of its members. It did so while remaining its political neutrality and professional credibility.

There were eight major lobbying and advocacy priorities in this period, with significant influence and impact in each:

(1) Awareness of Scotland-Malawi links:	Page 1
(2) Appreciation and Adoption of the SMP model:	Page 2
(3) UK Visas:	Page 3
(4) UN Sustainable Development Goals:	Page 5
(5) UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty:	Page 5
(6) CDC investment into Malawi:	Page 6
(7) DFID:	Page 7
(8) Permanent structures within Parliament:	Page 8
(9) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting	Page 8

### **(1) Awareness of Scotland-Malawi links:**

#### ***Influence:***

All [129 MSPs were briefed by the SMP on Malawi links in their constituency/region](#) in this period, by email, in writing and/or in one to one meetings

All [59 Scottish MPs were briefed about Malawi links in their constituency](#) in this period, by email, in writing and/or in one to one meetings.

The SMP met with and briefed the below individuals on Scotland-Malawi links:

- The UK Government **Minister of State for Africa**, Rory Stewart MP
- And his successor after the reshuffle, Harriett Baldwin MP
- The **UK Government Minister of State for International Development**, the Rt Hon Lord Bates
- The **UK Government Secretary of State for International Development**, Penny Mordaunt MP
- The UK Government **Foreign Secretary**, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
- Senior Officials across FCO, DFID and Cabinet Office
- The **Scottish Government Minister for International Development** and Europe, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP.
- The **First Minister and all five Holyrood Party Leaders**
- **98 of the 129 MSPs** in the Scottish Parliament

The SMP also gave written and oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Europe and External Affairs Committee.

#### ***Impact:***

During almost every month of this period Scotland's links with Malawi were referenced by senior representatives of the Scottish and UK Governments, and by Members of the Scottish and UK Parliament.

For example:

- In the 21<sup>st</sup> September Westminster Hall Debate on [Scotland-Malawi Relations](#), MPs from each political party, spend 60 minutes celebrating the scale of links between the two countries. The work of 55 SMP members was highlighted in this debate by MPs (see Appendix One, pp9-14)
- In the 27<sup>th</sup> October Scottish Parliament [Hydro Nation](#) debate MSPs from all five parties spoke about the importance of Scotland-Malawi links, highlighting SMP members in their constituencies (see Appendix Two, pp15-17).
- In a 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 Westminster Hall debate on the [Future of the Commonwealth](#) three MPs spoke of the relationship with Malawi, highlighting SMP members in their constituency (see Appendix Three, pg18)
- In the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Scottish Parliament debate on [International Policy Framework and Priorities 2018](#), **there were 24 references by MSPs to Scotland's links with Malawi** (see Appendix Four, pp19-20).

When recently [addressing the Scottish Parliament](#) the President of Malawi spoke passionately throughout his speech about the strength of friendship between the two countries and the impact of the countless civic links, citing SMP data.:

*“Nearly half the population of this country can tell you about a personal friend or family member with a link to Malawi. This is what it means to have a people-to-people partnership. The Malawi Scotland Partnership has become one of the strongest north-south relationships in the world.”*

## **(2) Appreciation and Adoption of the SMP model:**

### ***Influence:***

Through this period there has been strong praise for the impact the SMP is having, from the Scottish and UK Governments and within Holyrood and Westminster:

All five meetings of Holyrood's Malawi Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament and all three meetings of Westminster's Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group have recognised, thanked and praised the role of the Scotland Malawi Partnership in the bilateral relationship. When the President recently addressed the House of Lords, the House of Commons Representative (Patrick Grady MP), the House of Lords Representative (Lord Steel) and the President himself all gave personal testimony to the impact the SMP is having.

During the 21<sup>st</sup> September Westminster Hall Debate on [Scotland-Malawi Relations](#), there were 36 references to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, including by every Scottish Party in Westminster, all of which were positive (See Appendix Five, pp21-22).

### ***Impact:***

In May 2017, 98 MSPs, including the First Minister, Presiding Officer, Cabinet and Party Leaders [recorded individuals videos](#) for the Scotland Malawi Partnership as part of the SMP's Global Goals exhibition. A high proportion of these videos spoke passionately about the links between Scotland and Malawi and the work of the SMP.

In responding for the UK Government to the [Scotland-Malawi Relations](#) debate the Minister of State for Africa spoke repeatedly of the *“genius of the Scotland Malawi Partnership”* and outlined how he hoped both the FCO and DFID could learn from the SMP's approach. He said:

*“There are three things from which we can learn. The first is ... the civic multiplier—the way in which the Scotland Malawi Partnership, with a relatively modest amount of money, can draw on all the institutions to create a much richer partnership and be more than the sum of its parts. The second element, which has come through time and again in today's speeches, is mutual respect. Everyone who spoke talked a great deal about equality and about how we can learn as much*

*from Malawi as it can learn from us. Finally, there is the genius of co-ordination and connections. Since 2005 the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership has been not to create the connections, but to find them and mine them—to draw them out of the soil and reveal to us that thick web of connections between two nations, essentially putting Malawians on the board. That is a very important part of the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership.*

*“... We pay a huge tribute to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, but we recognise that there is space for other things.*

*“... More broadly, the big lesson from the Scotland Malawi Partnership may be for the Department for International Development itself. The Scotland Malawi Partnership shows us a great deal. It shows us the powerful example of a man such as David Hope-Jones and what leadership can mean. In a pretty remarkable achievement, this man has succeeded in ensuring that 15 Members of Parliament appear to have read in detail the 1955 double taxation treaty, the 1978 amendment to it and all 16 of its articles. I am delighted that they show such authority and detailed knowledge. That shows David Hope-Jones’s extraordinary success in communicating with Parliament.*

*“... Learning that we cannot necessarily do everything, and that we may want to take a leaf out of the book of the Scotland Malawi Partnership and learn how to operate at a smaller, more human scale in certain designated countries, may be important for the British Government.*

*“... What is so striking about the Scotland Malawi Partnership is that it has found ways of engaging a whole human population. Britain could do that in Malawi or in Tanzania, Uganda or Nigeria. It is a very exciting way of thinking about how to do development in the 21st century. The fact that so many right hon. and hon. Members are here championing international development shows how these human connections give us the legitimacy and centre to make progress.”*

From this debate to the time Rory Stewart MP was moved from this post in the reshuffle, the Minister met with officials and other Ministers to explore how the UK Government could emulate the SMP model. He was openly passionate about this approach and we heard from officials across government that he was doing all he could to encourage government, and those it funded, to follow the SMP’s model. We have since met with his successor, Harriett Baldwin MP, and it does not seem this same energy and enthusiasm is there but we are working to re-establish this sense of momentum and far-sighted vision.

### **(3) UK Visas:**

#### ***Influence:***

We continued to actively consult our members and partners on the treatment of Malawians applying for UK visas when invited to Scotland, using this information to create a [detailed briefing](#) on the many serious shortcomings we see in the current HMG systems. This was used throughout this period to brief MPs, Ministers and officials through this period.

#### ***(i) Parliament:***

Through this period the key points from the SMP briefing were repeatedly raised in Parliament by Scottish MPs, including:

- 21 references in the [Scotland-Malawi Relationship Westminster Hall debate](#) on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (see Appendix Six, pp26-28).
- There were further references to these visa issues raised by Patrick Grady MP in the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 Westminster Hall Debate on the Future of the Commonwealth (see Appendix Seven, pg 29).

It was agreed at the inaugural meeting of the new [Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group](#) established by the SMP that UK visas would be a key priority for this permanent parliamentary group of 41 MPs and Peers, looking to represent the many frustrations raised by the SMP.

*(ii) Government:*

We have written to successive UK Government Immigration Ministers outlining the serious concerns of our members and have had written responses from each Minister.

We have met with the UK Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and laid out in clear and robust terms what we see as the unacceptable manner in which Malawians are treated when invited into the UK and why we feel this undermines much of the UK Government's development and diplomatic efforts in the region.

In the run up to CHOGM 2018 we were in direct correspondence with Cabinet Office, making clear our members' serious concerns in this area and why we felt this was challenging the goodwill around the conference. We have written confirmation that our concerns were raised and discussed at the highest levels of Cabinet Office.

We have also met with the Scottish Government's Minister for International Development and Europe, outlining our concerns on UK Visas and we understand he has in turn made representation to the UK Government.

*(iii) Media:*

We have worked with media outlets to raise awareness of the issue, for example:

- ['Cruel Britannia takes its cue from Trump as a land where dreams die'](#), The Guardian
- ['UK's 'Secret travel ban' preventing the world's best and brightest from entering Scotland'](#) The Herald

**Impact:**

Responding to the many visa concerns raised by Scottish MPs from every Scottish Party, the UK Government's Minister of State for International Development stated:

*"...Two areas of learning ... have emerged for the Department: the questions of the double taxation treaty and of visas. ... but I think we can do more on visas. Progress has been made. We have now identified a designated UK Border Force officer, who will focus on Malawi visas to try to facilitate the Scotland Malawi Partnership. That may save the right hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland from having to spend every Saturday talking to the UK Border Agency. However, there is more that can be done."*

The SMP now has unique channels to support its members' UK visa applications when they invite their partners into the UK. The SMP is able to call on the direct support of the head of visa issuing in Lilongwe and Pretoria (where decision-making is made) and currently enjoys a 100% success rate. We continue to receive extremely strong feedback from our members who greatly appreciate this support role (see Appendix Eight, pp26-28).

As a symbol of the UK Government's eagerness to support SMP visa applications, in Feb 2017 when an SMP member school visit did not secure their visa in time, [the visa officer in Pretoria physically flew to Malawi from South Africa to personally deliver the passports and visa to the group](#) at the request of the SMP.

While we are grateful for the unique channels we have for supporting individual applications, we continue to be deeply concerned and disappointed at what we see as the systemic and fundamental shortcomings of UK Government policy in this area. We therefore continue to raise awareness of these concerns in the media, in Parliament and in Government.

#### **(4) UN Sustainable Development Goals:**

The SMP has been active in encouraging the UK and the Scottish Governments, and both Parliaments, to actively engage the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aka the 'Global Goals'.

For three days in May the SMP had a major exhibition in the Scottish Parliament, with pop-up stands illustrating how its members were already helping deliver all 17 SDGs. 98 of Scotland's 129 MSPs (including the First Minister, Presiding Officer, Cabinet and Party Leaders) had an individual tour of the pop-up exhibition and then [recorded a personal video message](#) making public commitments to advancing one specific SDG. Through that week MSPs reiterated their commitments in parliamentary meetings and in the Chamber.

The SMP developed the concept of having a national website ([www.globalgoals.scot](http://www.globalgoals.scot)) to celebrate and coordinate Scotland's efforts to deliver the SDGs. It was not appropriate for the SMP to deliver this work so the Partnership bought the URL and passed the idea to SCVO, helping to successfully secure major Big Lottery Funding for the work.

The SMP has convened and hosted a number of roundtable meetings with civic society and government, encouraging greater collaboration and coordination in SDG delivery, before successfully handing this work over to SCVO once funding for a staff member was secured.

The Partnership then successfully lobbied the resulting Scottish SDG network to write to the First Minister, all the Cabinet, every Scottish Parliament Committee and every Scottish Local Authority requesting a written briefing on what they were doing to deliver the SDGs. This was extremely successful with the FM and many of the Parliament's Committee and LAs responding with written plans for the delivery of the SDGs. A number of the LA policy officers involved in these responses have privately noted that there had been no discussion, or awareness, of the UN SDGs before this letter was received.

#### **(5) UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty:**

##### ***Influence:***

Through this period we have continued to advance our [campaign with Action Aid UK to update the 1955 UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty](#), which has had [the support of almost every Scottish MP](#).

Perhaps most visibly in this period, in the [Scotland-Malawi Relationship Westminster Hall debate](#) on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 (see Appendix Nine, pp28-29), there were 23 references by Scottish MPs to the UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty, from every Scottish Party.

The SMP and MaSP has helped establish a Malawian civil society network which is coordinating Malawi leadership to update the treaty.

##### ***Impact:***

Responding for the UK Government to the Westminster Hall Debate on [Scotland-Malawi Relations](#), the UK Minister of State for Africa said:

*"More broadly, the big lesson from the Scotland Malawi Partnership may be for the Department for International Development itself. The Scotland Malawi Partnership shows us a great deal. It shows us the powerful example of a man such as David Hope-Jones and what leadership can mean. In a pretty remarkable achievement, this man has succeeded in ensuring that 15 Members of Parliament appear to*

have read in detail the 1955 double taxation treaty, the 1978 amendment to it and all 16 of its articles. I am delighted that they show such authority and detailed knowledge. That shows David Hope-Jones's extraordinary success in communicating with Parliament."

Although the 1955 treaty has not been updated yet we have public and political assurances this will happen imminently:

- UK Government's Financial Secretary (HM Treasury) that negotiations are "close to conclusion".
- The then Secretary of State for International Development said the "negotiations are going well" with the new UK-Malawi tax treaty, and went on to say "...it is time the international tax system worked more effectively. These negotiations are going well. They sit alongside other work the UK is doing, such as on beneficial ownership and tax transparency."
- The Government of Malawi has said: "These discussions are progressing very well, and the governments of the two countries are committed to the conclusion of a fair and equitable revised agreement."
- The FCO has told us the final delay is with the Government of Malawi.

The President of Malawi, addressing the Scottish Parliament, said:

*"The Malawi Scotland Partnership has become one of the strongest north-south relationships in the world. Such relationships are rare and precious in a world where developed countries like exploiting and manipulating poor countries in the name of supporting them..."*

*"Scotland has been our voice. You spoke for us when we needed aid resumption and you speak for us to end the exploitation of double taxation..."*

## **(6) Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC) investment into Malawi:**

### ***Influence:***

The SMP has been active influencing CDC through this period to increase its investments into Malawi. Specifically the SMP has been actively supporting the new Impact Accelerator programme which allows smaller investments which are better suited to a country like Malawi.

The SMP has had a series of discussions and video-conferences with CDC to discuss this, culminating in SMP organising for the Chief Executive of CDC to [address the new Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster](#). This meeting had a live video connection between the Malawi APPG in Westminster and the Malawi CPG in Holyrood: the [first time the two Parliaments have ever been linked in this way](#).

Prior to this, David Linden MP also raised in Parliament the SMP's desire to see increased CDC investment in Malawi:

*"...My third concern is investment in Malawi. It is only fair to point out that the Scotland Malawi Partnership applauds the CDC-DFID impact accelerator programme, which enables smaller investments that are better suited to a country such as Malawi. I echo the Partnership's calls for the Government to build on that and urge the CDC to increase the investment going to Malawi."*

### ***Impact:***

As a powerful symbol of CDC's eagerness to increase its portfolio in Malawi the Head of the Impact Accelerator programme travelled directly from the Malawi APPG meeting in Parliament to fly to Malawi where he met with the President of Malawi to discuss how CDC can increase its Malawi portfolio. He stated in Parliament that his personal hope is that tens of millions of pounds of CDC investments can be made in Malawi in the coming years.

## **(7) DFID:**

Through this period the SMP has had numerous meetings with senior DFID officials and Ministers to, *inter alia*, advance three key areas of influence:

### **(a) Engagement of Civic Society**

The SMP has been active in encouraging DFID to do more to engage civic links such as those represented in the SMP membership.

The Partnership succeeded in influencing DFID's strategy in this area, with DFID's [Civil Society Partnership Review](#) setting out a UK Government Policy for how they will better engage civil society: "*a new approach for meaningful, strategic and efficient engagement with civil society in the UK and overseas.*" The SMP has attended four meetings since then with DFID to support DFID's delivery of this strategic aspiration

As previously noted in this report, while UK Minister of State for Africa, Rory Stewart MP worked tirelessly to develop new systems for the DFID and the FCO to directly emulate the Scotland Malawi Partnership model. Plans for a five year funding commitment running to hundreds of millions of pounds, to roll out the SMP model of country-to-country civic partnerships, across the UK for a dozen developing nations, were discussed with the SMP invited to Whitehall to brief the Minister and senior officials. Sadly, the extent of energy and enthusiasm for this approach does not seem to have continued with Minister Stewart's successor but we continue to actively encourage this approach.

### **(b) Funding for smaller organisations:**

After years of lobbying by the SMP and others, DFID announced its first funding programme to specifically target smaller organisations, the [Small Charities Challenge Fund](#). This is a major success given the number of years the SMP was told this was simply impossible.

While we very strongly welcome this new fund, we have reservations about the some of the details, specifically on the application procedure and the need for small organisations to advance the capital. David Linden MP represented our concerns in Westminster, saying:

*"The final issue I will raise is DFID's engagement with civic links between Scotland and Malawi. The Department's small charities challenge fund aims to better engage smaller NGOs, but there are concerns about the design of the programme, such as the fear that payment in lieu will render the fund inaccessible for smaller organisations in Scotland. Will the Minister undertake to discuss that with his colleagues, so that this well intentioned fund can be tweaked to be of greater benefit to organisations that have the potential to do great work with its support?"*

DFID has since committed to addressing these issues. The Secretary of State for International Development has told a meeting attended by the SMP that she intends to ensure access to this smallest fund is as accessible as possible for smaller organisation, saying she would make this a point of personal commitment and pride.

### **(c) Development Education:**

The SMP had a major influence in this period in helping shape DFID's new development education strategy. The SMP was targeted by DFID, with SMP input to the consultation requested. The SMP had a series of meetings with the heads of the Children, Youth and Education Department. Appendix Ten (pp.30-33) gives the detail of the proposals made by the SMP, representing the interests of our school members. Most crucially, we strongly advocated the return of reciprocal visits to the Connecting Classrooms programme – something our school members have specifically raised with us.



While DFID have not yet released the revised development education policy the strong inference from all we have been told is that our input had significant influence and likely all of the substantive proposals we made will be accepted, including the return of reciprocal visits to the Connecting Classrooms programme. This DFID Children, Youth and Education Department also co-sponsored the SMP's [Youth Congress](#).

### **(8) Establishing and maintaining permanent structures within Parliament:**

The SMP has, for more than a decade, managed the Malawi Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament. This continues to be recognized as amongst the most active and engaging CPGs in the Parliament, with almost every meeting fully booked.

There were five Cross Party Group meetings in this period:

1. On [LGBTQ rights](#) in Malawi, held on 10<sup>th</sup> May with 27 attendees.
2. On [Renewable Energy](#), held on 13<sup>th</sup> September with 44 attendees.
3. On the [Malawi Development Programme](#), held on 15<sup>th</sup> November and attended by 75 people.
4. A joint-meeting of the CPG International Development and CPG on Malawi on 7<sup>th</sup> February, on [global citizenship in the Scottish Health Service and the value of international volunteering](#). It was attended by 49 people.
5. On 7<sup>th</sup> March and was held at the same time as the APPG in Westminster, connected together with a video live-link to celebrate the [Buy Malawian campaign](#). Attended by 26 people.

The SMP also established a [Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\)](#) in this period, with 41 MPs and Peers currently engaged. The APPG has had three meetings in this period:

1. The first was on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and served as the inaugural AGM for the group
2. The second was on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and had the [Chief Executive of CDC speaking](#)
3. The third was on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and had the [President of Malawi speaking](#).

The SMP is also actively supporting Parliamentary visits between the UK and Malawi. For example, it supported a [visit by Scottish MP Hannah Bardell to Malawi](#) with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, and supported Malawian MPs to visit Westminster on a reciprocal basis.

### **(9) Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM):**

The SMP worked with the Scotland Office to record a [special UK Government video](#) celebrating the SMP as an example of the Commonwealth in action. This has been viewed by more than 1,000 times.

At the request of Cabinet Office the SMP hosted a [special Scotland-Malawi Big Commonwealth Lunch](#) on the 12<sup>th</sup> March (Commonwealth Day), helping to launch the campaign running up to CHOGM. This was attended by civic and political leaders, with some of Malawi's best performers playing. Both [SMP](#) and the [UK Government](#) made their own videos of the lunch which have been widely shared on social media with over 1,000 views.

The SMP attended DFID's own Big Commonwealth Lunch, and was invited to speak alongside Lord Bates, the Minister of State for International Development.

The SMP spoke at a special roundtable CHOGM meeting with Lord Ahmad the Commonwealth Minister.

The SMP attended a CHOGM Whitehall reception and was able to speak with the Foreign Secretary, raising the issue of UK visas for those from Malawi.

The SMP's own involvement in CHOGM was focused on:

- Facilitating the President of Malawi speaking in the House of Lords
- Supporting Josephine Mpango to be the SMP's [Scotland-Malawi Youth Ambassador](#) for CHOGM, establishing [social media platforms](#) for her to assess the meaning and impact of CHOGM 2018 from the perspective of young people from Malawi and Scotland.



**Appendix One:**  
**References to SMP Members: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017: Westminster Hall Debate**  
**on the [Scotland-Malawi Relationship](#):**

A total of 55 SMP members were referenced by MPs:

**David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund,
- Classrooms for Malawi,
- Mary's Meals,
- Oxfam Scotland
- 500 Miles
- Glasgow City Council

*"There are 1,131 Scottish organisations and community champions with active links to Malawi, such as the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, Classrooms for Malawi, Mary's Meals, Oxfam Scotland and 500 Miles. Glasgow City Council also has strong links. Successive Lords Provost have made the link a real priority since 2005, with each visiting Malawi and outdoing the last in raising funds, engaging and inspiring more people in Scotland and Malawi to connect for their mutual benefit. I recently met our newly appointed Lord Provost, Councillor Eva Bolander. I take great pleasure in informing the House that she will continue the tradition and is ready for the challenge."*

**Brendan O'Hara (Argyll and Bute) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- Mary's Meals
- Mid Argyll Malawi Twinning Group
- Imani Development Foundation
- Netherlorn Churches' project "Seed for life. Feed for life"
- Rothesay Academy
- Dunoon Grammar School
- Strone Primary School
- Dalmally Primary School
- Iona Primary School

*"Will he join me in recognising and commending the excellent work of a disproportionately large number of people in my constituency to support the people of Malawi? He has already mentioned the excellent work of Mary's Meals, but we also have the Mid Argyll Malawi Twinning Group, the Imani Development Foundation in Oban, the Netherlorn Churches' project "Seed for life. Feed for life", many secondary schools such as the Rothesay Academy, Dunoon Grammar School, and the primary schools of Strone, Dalmally and Iona."*

**David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- Carmyle Primary School
- St Joachim's Catholic Primary School,
- Croftcroighn School,
- Swinton Primary School,
- Eastbank Academy

- Bannerman High School

*“In my constituency, Carmyle Primary School, St Joachim’s Catholic Primary School, Croftcroighn School, Swinton Primary School, Eastbank Academy and my own former high school, Bannerman High School, all participate in programmes to connect our distinct but intertwined communities over thousands of miles. On a recent visit back to Bannerman, I was delighted to learn that the school is preparing for a trip to Malawi next year, which I hope to be able to join.”*

**Colin Clark (Gordon) (Con)**

SMP Members referenced

- Scotland’s Rural College
- Co-operative College
- Williamwood school in East Renfrewshire
- Classrooms of Malawi
- Famine Relief for Orphans in Malawi
- Dalitso Project

*“Malawi obviously has a great effect over all of Scotland, and I will mention one or two of my colleagues who cannot be here today. Scottish organisations such as Scotland’s Rural College, part of which is in my constituency of Gordon, and the Co-operative College have developed innovative solutions for agriculture and trade—which, being a farmer myself, is something that is close to my heart—helping to increase sustainable daily production and helping farmers to get the best return from their crop. That has transformed Malawi into a regional hub for the development of cattle vaccines, which protects livelihoods and food security for hundreds of thousands of people.*

*“The hon. Member for Glasgow East has mentioned a number of schools already; I will not go over them all again. However, Williamwood school in East Renfrewshire, which is in the constituency of my hon. Friend the Member for East Renfrewshire (Paul Masterton), has sent more than a hundred pupils on visits to towns in Malawi and raised more than £25,000 for Classrooms of Malawi, leading to the construction of a local nursery and the completion of 14 classrooms at Ekwendeni Primary School.*

*“In my own constituency of Gordon, Famine Relief for Orphans in Malawi has worked with communities in Malawi for more than a decade. Originally set up to provide food for feeding stations, it worked in response to the floods in Malawi in 2015 and 2017, and over time it has provided funds to build two health clinics, a health worker’s house and two school classrooms with composting toilets.*

*My hon. Friend the Member for Angus (Kirstene Hair) has also supported development opportunities in Malawi for some time now. She told me that she visited an excellent event in her constituency last Saturday, which highlighted the brilliant work of the Dalitso Project, an organisation based in Arbroath, since 2007. It runs two day care centres and orphan residences. It now cares for 310 children and provides jobs for 30 staff.”*

**Mr Alistair Carmichael (Orkney and Shetland) (LD)**

SMP Members referenced

- Church of Scotland
- Orkney Presbytery
- Westray Junior High School
- Sanday Junior High School
- Malawi Music Fund
- Joanna Davies
- Voluntary Services Overseas

*“The links between Scotland and Malawi were well documented by the hon. Gentleman. They have their roots in history, but they are still flourishing now. I suppose that traditionally they existed through the links between the Church of Scotland and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, which remain strong*

to this day. Indeed, my own presbytery in Orkney is linked with the Thyolo Highlands Presbytery in Malawi. These are the sort of direct and meaningful links that exist.

*“Like other hon. Members, there are schools in my constituency that have direct links and partnerships with schools in Malawi. Westray Junior High School and Sanday Junior High School in particular have done a lot in recent years to offer their pupils an opportunity to see the life of their contemporaries in Malawi and to offer people in Malawi a chance to come in the other direction.*

*“Those are very commendable links—the sort of links that should give us confidence that the civic links between Scotland and Malawi will continue to grow and endure, built as they are on links between communities and individuals within those communities.*

*“...There is another link that the Scotland Malawi Partnership was obviously not aware of, because it did not appear on its list. Nevertheless, it is an absolute exemplar of the sort of project that we should see and indeed do see across Scotland. It is the Malawi Music Fund, which is based in Orkney. It was set up by a constituent of mine, Glenys Hughes, who taught music in secondary schools in Malawi in 2006; she took a year out to go there. She came back and with her knowledge and experience she then built up links. The traffic between the two countries has continued to this day. Malawi Music Fund runs residential workshops and also raises funds for bursaries for secondary education, which, as hon. Members will know, is not free in Malawi.*

*“Just this weekend, I met a dance teacher in Orkney, Joanna Davies, who had just been in Malawi with Orkney’s Malawi Music Fund. She told me, with some excitement, of her plans to bring a dance teacher and dancer from Malawi to Orkney—a link that she had built during the visit. I listened with a curious mix of inspiration and despondency. I could not help being inspired by the enthusiasm of somebody who had gone out and made a connection with somebody she had identified, from her own professional experience, as very talented. I was despondent, however, that by encouraging her to go forward with a visit or programme for this young man, I was almost certainly creating my own casework, because from the profile she described, I just know that getting him a visa will be an absolute nightmare.*

*“... Indeed. It strikes at the very heart of the nature of the relationship, which ought to be a partnership. I was struck by the last thing Joanna Davies said on Saturday, after I outlined a fraction of what she would have to deal with before her friend’s visit: “When we go there, we have absolutely none of these difficulties.” That is the experience that many of us have had, and I hope the Minister will take on board the hon. Lady’s good point. It is difficult and occasionally impossible to build the sort of links that I believe the Minister wants, if another part of the Government is operating in a way that undermines the efforts of such groups.*

*“I spent two weeks with Voluntary Services Overseas in Cameroon a couple of years ago. The problems facing people in Cameroon are not dissimilar to those affecting people in Malawi, but there is not the same plethora of local groups and civic engagement across Cameroon. Malawi could bring some of its experience to bear, perhaps through an organisation such as the Commonwealth, to show the opportunities for civic engagement and the results that could be produced when that is made to work properly.”*

#### **Hugh Gaffney (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill) (Lab)**

SMP Members referenced

- Dr Jack Thompson

*“I start by paying tribute to Dr Jack Thompson, one of the Scotland Malawi Partnership board members. He passed away last month. He played a huge role in bringing our two countries together, and he will be missed.”*

### **Stephen Gethins (North East Fife) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- University of St Andrews

*“The hon. Gentleman makes an excellent point about health and wellbeing, and I know of his constituency association with Dr David Livingstone. Will he acknowledge, with me, that the association continues to this day—not least through the University of St Andrews and its connection with the College of Medicine in Malawi? The university is doing some fantastic work and is continuing the good work of David Livingstone.”*

### **Hugh Gaffney (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill) (Lab)**

SMP Members referenced

- Rosshall Academy
- St Marnock’s Primary School
- Coatbridge High School,
- St Mary’s Primary School
- St Michael’s Primary School

*“The hon. Gentleman mentioned education. Rosshall Academy and St Marnock’s Primary School in my constituency are partnered with schools in Malawi. Does he agree with me that two-way communication ensures that generations of young Scots become good global citizens?”*

*“My constituency has a proud and active number of residents building strong links with Malawi. We talked earlier about education, and in my constituency we have schools such as Coatbridge High School, St Mary’s Primary School and St Michael’s Primary School twinning with schools in Malawi, allowing our young people to share ideas, experiences and ambitions. That is at the foundation of building a better world for us all, no matter where we stay.”*

### **Mr Paul J. Sweeney (Glasgow North East) (Lab/Co-op)**

SMP Members referenced

- Mary’s Meals

*“My hon. Friend makes great mention of the level and depth of support in Scotland for Malawi, in particular for its development. Will he take particular note of the Mary’s Meals charity, which supports 320,000 children by ensuring that they have at least one nutritious meal a day as part of their education? That is a vital component of ensuring a resilient education system in Malawi.”*

### **Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- University of Glasgow’s Wellcome Centre for Molecular Parasitology

*“In my own constituency, a number of different projects and schools have connections and partnerships. I would particularly highlight the University of Glasgow’s Wellcome Centre for Molecular Parasitology, which is running the Blantyre-Blantyre project. It is funded by the Scottish Government and a number of other funders to study life expectancy and different health interventions in Blantyre, Malawi and Blantyre, Scotland, and to share the learning experiences and the lessons from both those communities.”*

### **Ian Murray (Edinburgh South) (Lab)**

SMP Members referenced

- South Morningside Primary School,
- Bruntsfield Primary School
- Gilmerton Primary School

*“The hon. Gentleman highlights some of the projects in his constituency, including education projects. South Morningside, Bruntsfield and Gilmerton primaries in my constituency have direct links with primary schools in Malawi. Will he reflect on the fact that that might be why this partnership has grown, flourished and endured for so long—that younger people are involved and they take that through the rest of their lives?”*

#### **Alison Thewliss (Glasgow Central) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- Glasgow-Malawi Leaders of Learning programme that Maureen McKenna

*“My hon. Friend mentioned the links that schools have made. Is he aware of the Glasgow-Malawi Leaders of Learning programme that Maureen McKenna, the director of education in Glasgow, has piloted? It has taken 35 staff from Glasgow since 2012 over to Malawi and fostered really great links between Malawi and Glasgow.”*

#### **Chris Law (Dundee West) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- Dundee University medical school
- Westgate health centre

*“To give one example in my constituency, Dundee University medical school is partnered with the University of Malawi’s College of Medicine and Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, providing outstanding opportunities for final-year Dundee medical students through placements at partner institutions in Malawi. Those placements are used to help to develop medical and educational infrastructure in Malawi by supporting staffing and staff development.*

*“A further example is the twinning project between Westgate health centre in Dundee and Matawale clinic in Zomba. They maintain two-way communication between Dundee and Malawi via internet access at the clinic. They also provide locally sourced equipment for the clinic, and local Dundee artists display their paintings for sale in the waiting room, with 25% of the purchase price then donated to the project.”*

#### **Neil Gray (Airdrie and Shotts) (SNP)**

SMP Members referenced

- St. Margaret’s High School
- New Monkland Primary School,
- Clarkston Primary School
- St Dominic’s Nursery

*“We have heard a lot in this debate about the constituency and school links. In my constituency, St. Margaret’s High School has set up an orphanage. It has improved attendance and attainment at its partner school, Chisitu. New Monkland Primary School, Clarkston Primary School and St Dominic’s nursery are also all doing great work. Does my hon. Friend agree that the work done on fostering those links from an early age is so important for both countries and needs to continue?”*

#### **Mr Paul J. Sweeney (Glasgow North East) (Lab/Co-op)**

SMP Members referenced

- African Challenge Scotland Partnership

*“My hon. Friend makes the point about how the relationship is not simply to do with development, but about how the value added by Malawian citizens making their home in Scotland is a great thing too. I particularly think of the African Challenge Scotland partnership in my constituency, which promotes citizenship and activity with the African community in Glasgow. Is that not a demonstration of the opportunities that better visa relationships with Malawi would offer and a greater cross-pollination of activity and cultural sharing between our two countries?”*

**Liz McInnes (Heywood and Middleton) (Lab)**

SMP Members referenced

- British Council

*“I also emphasise the role played by the British Council in Malawi, which works closely with the Scotland Malawi Partnership, particularly in schools. The British Council in Malawi is working with schools under the Scotland Malawi Partnership. The head of youth and schools at the Scotland Malawi Partnership will be visiting Malawi later this month, where she will discuss how the Scotland Malawi Partnership and the British Council can support each other and work together over the coming year.*

*“The British Council has a strong programme, “Connecting Classrooms”, which focuses on skills development and capacity building of teachers across the country. The British Council has for many years been sharing information on those Malawi schools participating in “Connecting Classrooms” to facilitate links. Of the 180 school links over the last six years, 70% are between Malawi and Scotland. The British Council is working with the Scotland Malawi Partnership and Education Scotland to increase that further, using the Professional Partnership’s visit in February next year as a platform to do that.*

*“...The British Council Scotland has worked closely with colleagues in Malawi on the Future News Worldwide programme—a journalism and media-training project, conceived in 2014. Recently, two young Malawian journalists were selected out of almost 2,000 applicants to attend the annual Future News Worldwide conference, held in the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh in July of this year. There, they received exclusive training from some of the world’s leading media organisations, including Reuters, CNN, Facebook, the BBC and Google News Lab, and connected with 100 young journalists from across the globe.”*



**Appendix Two:**  
**Scottish Parliament [Hydro Nation debate](#) 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017:**

**Opening the debate, Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, said:**

*“I must make special mention of Malawi, a country with which we enjoy a special relationship. We are committed to supporting Malawi through hydro nation’s contribution to the climate justice fund, with the aim of making the sustainable development goal 6 a reality. The programme has already delivered access to clean and safe water to more than 33,000 people, improved water resource management skills for more than 6,000 people, and resulted in more than 4,000 people using new irrigation techniques and conservation agriculture practices. We are building on those successes by extending the scope to include water pump technology enhancement trials, which will increase efficiency, and we are working with major United Kingdom retailers to secure in-country water sustainability for key export products such as tea and coffee.”*

**Donald Cameron MSP (Highlands and Islands) (Con) said:**

*“I am also proud of the fact that, as we continue to build our own water industry and economy, we are sharing those practices internationally, in particular with developing countries such as Malawi—which I will come back to later—to help them develop a thriving water economy.”*

*“...We strongly welcome the work that is being done by the programme to support other countries to develop similar water programmes. I am encouraged by the strength of our continued relationship with Malawi and the manner in which that long-standing and historic connection has allowed us to share ideas, create new success stories for each other, and cement the positive impact that multination partnerships have on that state and its citizens. The report notes many positive steps in that relationship and how we are helping Malawi to develop its water economy, ensuring that its citizens can have the kind of access to water that we often take for granted.”*

*“...Of course, the drive to improve global water access and treatment does not only involve the efforts of the Scottish or UK Governments, because our people have played a strong part in supporting water development abroad. Across Scotland, there are many individuals, small businesses, and charities that have set out to go further and support people whom the state has not yet been able to help. The Edinburgh-based beer firm Brewgooder is one good example of that. It was set up with a mission to donate 100 per cent of its profits to clean water charities and set a target of ensuring that 1 million people can get access to drinking water. So far, since 2016, it has helped 33,000 people and supported 60 different projects in Malawi, and I am sure that everyone in the chamber wishes it the best of luck as it strives to meet its overarching target.”*

**Claudia Beamish MSP (South Scotland) (Lab) said:**

*“In the context of sustainable development goal 6, to which the cabinet secretary has already referred, the Parliament of course recognises the daily and pervasive challenge of water safety and scarcity that many countries around the world face. The hydro nation’s targeted support through the climate justice fund is so important for the empowerment of communities in nations such as Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda. The cabinet secretary also highlighted the work that is being done in India. I know from having been on the cross-party group on Malawi until recently that policy coherence across the portfolios is really important in what the Scottish Government is doing in that regard.”*

*“...I move amendment S5M-08378.3, to insert at end:*

*“reiterates the importance the Hydro Nation’s support through the targeted Climate Justice Fund to water-scarce nations such as Malawi; calls on the Scottish Government to address the devolved barriers to the development of new hydro schemes, and recognises the value that excellent water resources add to Scotland's tourism and food and drink industries.”*

**Peter Chapman MSP (North East Scotland) (Con) said:**

*“I am proud to see that Scotland and the United Kingdom are doing so much internationally to share our knowledge and to help nations all over the world to access clean drinking water and better sanitation—something that we take for granted living in such a water-rich country. Hydro nation contributes to the climate justice fund, which supports work in Malawi, and is a good example of Scotland helping internationally. The UK Government’s Department for International Development is committed to matching the success of the 2011 to 2015 programme by helping at least another 60 million people to get access to clean water and sanitation by 2020. I am pleased to see that the first students who are participating in the hydro nation scholar programme are approaching the completion of their PhD studies. I wish them success for their futures and I hope that they can use their expertise to help with Scotland’s hydro nation future.”*

**Mark Ruskell MSP (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Green) said:**

*“I welcome the hydro nation debate. It has been particularly heartening to hear about the international development work that has been taking place. I went to Malawi a number of years ago and met people who are directly impacted by the issue. Whether people have access to irrigation and sanitation is hugely important and can be the difference between life and death.”*

**Liam McArthur MSP (Orkney Islands) (Lib Dem) said:**

*“I will concentrate on international activity. As the co-convenor of the cross-party group on Malawi, I was delighted to see Claudia Beamish’s amendment highlighting the climate justice fund and the work that is being done specifically in relation to Malawi. I will talk about a couple of projects, one of which was alluded to by the cabinet secretary in her opening remarks.*

*“I pay tribute to the University of Strathclyde, which is heavily involved in a wide range of projects in Malawi. One is to widen access to safe drinking water, and has been enabled through the climate justice fund water futures programme. Professor Kalin challenged his students to come up with a device that could be retrofitted to the almost ubiquitous hand pumps in Malawi. Benjamin McIntosh-Michaelis and his colleagues rose to that challenge. The Afridev Hi-Lift now provides the ability to deliver water well beyond the pump, to premises such as clinics, in a way that was not possible before, when water had to be delivered by hand, usually by women and children, and often over very large distances. I have failed to do the project justice, but there is more information in a recent article in The Scotsman from last month, courtesy of David Hope-Jones, who provides the secretariat to the cross-party group on Malawi.”*

*“The other project is by Tearfund Scotland; it is also supported through the climate justice fund. It deals with food security and the availability of clean and safe water, through better management of water resources. One of the initiatives in that project is being delivered in Salima district, where the community is taking back control. I received earlier this week from Charlie Bevan, who works for Tearfund Scotland, an email that brought home the significant impact that the project is having on that community by delivering safe and clean water.”*

*“We are undoubtedly a hydro nation. Exploiting that is a logical step for us to take because it plays to our strengths. That is not just to the benefit of Scots; it is—as the two projects that I mentioned, and others, demonstrate—to the real and tangible benefit of citizens across the world, in some of its most impoverished nations.”*

**Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, the Minister for International Development and Europe, said:**

*“...while we are enjoying access to excellent-quality drinking water and high standards of sanitation, many, many millions around the world are not so fortunate. Last year, I had the very humbling experience of meeting women in a Malawian village who pointed out the effects of what they themselves recognised as climate change. They explained the practical consequence of that for them, which was that they each had to walk several more miles a day just to get water.*”

*“I am proud that Scotland was one of the first countries in the world to publicly commit to the new sustainable development goals in September 2015, and it is heartening to see hydro nation’s direct contribution to the achievement of those goals in Malawi and other parts of the world. I am pleased that the Labour amendment, which the Government is happy to support, mentions Malawi, not only because of our on-going relationship with that country but because of hydro nation’s contribution to the climate justice fund, which has already ensured access to clean water for more than 30,000 people and supported many more.”*

**Appendix Three:**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 Westminster Hall debate on the [Future of the Commonwealth](#)**

Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP) MP

*“We had the Commonwealth Development Corporation at the all-party group on Malawi not that long ago. The opportunity for co-operation there is very important...”*

*“Scotland also has a relationship with Malawi, and today I welcomed the honourable Juliana Lunguzi, MP for Dedza East, to the House. I thoroughly agree with the idea of improved visas for India, but that should be extended across the Commonwealth. Far too often, people from Commonwealth countries, including politicians, do not have their visas granted in time. That happens time and again with Malawi.”*

Mr Paul Sweeney (Glasgow North East) (Lab/Co-op) MP

*“I hope that at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting we will see a reaffirmed, firm commitment to achieve the UN sustainable development goals through Commonwealth action by the target date of 2030. Recently, I was pleased to meet the high commissioner from Malawi who came to the House of Commons to discuss Malawi matters and how vital Scotland’s contribution has been to promoting development in Malawi. That was a great, heartening discussion. We had a debate on that topic in Westminster Hall recently, too. The depth of good will in the Commonwealth and the huge commercial trading and developmental opportunities that exist are clear. That is critical, and we must reaffirm our efforts to improve them and their resilience in the years ahead.”*

Peter Grant MP

“My hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow North mentioned the close links with Malawi—an example of how the new relationships can be made more positive. I am happy to place on record the extraordinary contribution to that link that was made by Jack McConnell, the then Labour First Minister of Scotland. His drive and determination created what is now probably the closest and best-developed bilateral link between any two nations on the planet. An astonishing 46% of people in Scotland know somebody with direct personal involvement in Malawi. Much of that is due to the fact that Malawians are eternally grateful for the part played by David Livingstone in abolishing the slave trade in their part of Africa and in helping to lead to its abolition elsewhere.

“I cannot mention Malawi without singing the praises of the astonishing Mary’s Meals organisation. If hon. Members have not heard of it, they should hear about it. From literally nothing a few short years ago, it is now feeding over 1 million starving children every day—an extraordinary achievement by some extraordinary people. I hope that is the kind of spirit that can lead to the Commonwealth going from strength to strength.”

**Appendix Four:**  
**Scottish Parliament debate, [International Policy Framework and Priorities](#)**  
**[2018](#), 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop):**

*“While in Government, we set up the partnership with Malawi, along with introducing the international development fund. I am pleased to see those two achievements continuing under the current Government. Ahead of the election, we pledged to increase the fund in real terms over the parliamentary session. I hope that, in her closing remarks, the cabinet secretary can commit to the fund and aim to increase it, to ensure that we can continue to help those who are most in need outwith Scotland. I recognise the introduction of the climate justice fund”*

**Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con):**

*“I very much support the Scottish Government’s global citizenship strategy for international development and believe that the focus on delivering support through the international development fund to our four partner countries— Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan—is the right approach. The funding model that is used for the international development fund, which, rather than providing direct funding to foreign Governments, supports grass-roots development organisations, will give the people of Scotland greater confidence that their money, having been directed at organisations and individuals across the world, will be well spent.*

*“I am a co-convenor of the cross-party group on Malawi and it is encouraging to see the establishment of an investment initiative for Malawi of £1 million, which has been match funded by the private sector. Such schemes are important in the development of sustainable economic growth because they help to ensure that our partner countries make the transition from receiving international aid to becoming more self-reliant. It is important that we support countries to stand on their own two feet.*

*“It is incredibly fitting that Malawi is one of our four partner countries, given the long tradition of links between Scotland and Malawi, which date back more than 150 years. The sheer number of partnerships between the two nations is staggering. According to the University of Edinburgh, 4 million Malawians and more than 300,000 Scots benefit annually from those partnerships. Rather than being about one country simply funding another, those civic links are about working together. It is important that we do that.*

*“Last year, I welcomed the introduction of an annual £1 million humanitarian emergency fund, which started during the current financial year. It is encouraging that the fund has been welcomed by a wide range of organisations. The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund has praised the model’s inclusion of a panel of non-governmental organisations in an advisory capacity. Humanitarian crises are unanticipated and unpredictable, and that dedicated fund will help suffering people across the world.*

*I very much support Scotland’s aim to continue to be a good global citizen. The international development work of the Scottish Government and many civic partnerships in assisting our partner countries is vital in ensuring that we achieve that objective. Working together makes a difference not just in the present but in the future. We must work for the future of our international colleagues and partners throughout the world.”*

**Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (SNP):**

*“I am delighted to take part in the debate and I welcome the international perspective that the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament have had for some time.*

*“I will focus my comments on Inverclyde and Malawi. I joined the cross-party group on Malawi on winning the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency in 2016. In my local authority area, there are 13 partnerships between Inverclyde and Malawi, via the Inverclyde schools Malawi partnership, incorporating 15 local schools. The partnership assists 6,000 local pupils and 16,000 Malawian pupils to learn about each other’s countries and cultures. In addition, that local partnership allows schools to support the aims of Education*

Scotland's international engagement strategy. The 13 partnerships also act as a vehicle to support delivery of a number of national strategies, including curriculum for excellence, learning for sustainability, international engagement, the Scotland Malawi Partnership, global citizenship, language learning in Scotland and rights-respecting schools.

*"Clearly Scotland has long had an international outlook on life, and colleagues in Parliament have spoken on many occasions of their constituency links with Malawi in particular. I am happy to do the same today for my constituency.*

*"Some colleagues have spoken about aspects of business and trade, which are crucial and are part of the third of the four strategic international objectives, but I will not touch on that today because others have done so. I want to highlight an aspect of the strategy that relates to Inverclyde, because strategies can sometimes come across as being esoteric, or as being things that people do not really engage with. However, a partnership in a local authority area, such as Inverclyde's partnership with Malawi, can highlight how important the international perspective is. It brings it down to ground level, where people can understand and engage with it, and can then learn and prosper as individuals.*

*"The Inverclyde schools Malawi partnership has been in existence now for more than 10 years. I want to commend everyone who has been involved with it for their dedication to the work that they have undertaken during that time. In particular, I want to thank John and Anna McIndoe for their tremendous work. The partnership is an example of Scotland's wider international outlook. Between 2015 and 2018, the Scottish Government is funding 20 projects in Malawi—that funding is worth more than £9.2 million—and there is the new £3.2 million Malawi climate challenge programme, which was launched to coincide with the 23rd conference of the parties to the UN Framework on Climate Change, or COP23, in Bonn in November 2017, as part of the £3.6 million package to further support developing countries in accessing clean water and sanitation, and in boosting agricultural production and adaptation."*

**Alex Cole-Hamilton:**

*"...Alexander Stewart made some excellent points about Malawi. That theme was picked up by Stuart McMillan and Ivan McKee, who pointed out excellent local links to international aid projects around the world. That speaks to a philanthropy in these islands that can be measured in the second biggest international aid budget on the planet. Christina McKelvie eloquently picked up on that tradition in her speech."*

**Claire Baker:**

*"In my opening speech, I highlighted the importance of the project work of our charities that work at the front line. Stuart McMillan and Alexander Stewart both raised the local partnerships and important civic links in their areas. The identification of priority countries is important, and that deep connection provides the opportunity for long-term change. The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund has raised the importance of a thorough, impartial needs analysis to ensure that our interventions are effective. I ask the cabinet secretary whether there is scope for the development of thematic priorities in international development."*

**Rachael Hamilton:**

*"...Claire Baker said that we should maintain our commitment to international aid. She also talked about globalisation and climate change. Issues such as flooding, drought and the reduction of emissions are important to us and must be at the heart of our conversations. Claire Baker added that international development work is vital to the countries that receive it, and aid and development charities play an important part in delivering objectives in that regard. Stuart McMillan and Alexander Stewart talked about Scotland's global citizenship strategy and the good work that is being carried out in Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan. Funding from the Scottish Government, alongside private funding, can help countries to become more sustainable and, as Alexander Stewart put it, stand on their own two feet.*



*“Pauline McNeill spoke passionately about how the impact of humanitarian crises cannot be overestimated. Nor can we overestimate the importance of world peace. Where would we be without world peace? We would not be able to develop and negotiate trade deals.”*

**Appendix Five:**  
**Parliamentary references to the SMP: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017: Westminster Hall**  
**Debate on the [Scotland-Malawi Relationship](#):**

There were 36 references to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, including:

**David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)**

*"I pay tribute to the Scotland Malawi Partnership for all its work to promote the relationship between our nations. It has been invaluable in helping me to prepare for this debate. In particular, I thank and pay tribute to David Hope-Jones, its chief executive, who is tireless in his resolve to celebrate the scale, energy and impact of Scotland's bilateral relationship with Malawi. It should therefore come as no surprise that almost 200,000 Malawians are now involved in the Scotland Malawi Partnership, along with 100,000 Scots."*

**Mr Alistair Carmichael (Orkney and Shetland) (LD)**

*"At this point I should also pay tribute to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, which provided me with a briefing for this debate. I suspect that it has done for other hon. Members what it has done for me—namely, listing the links that exist within our communities."*

**Hugh Gaffney (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill) (Lab)**

*"I start by paying tribute to Dr Jack Thompson, one of the Scotland Malawi Partnership board members. He passed away last month. He played a huge role in bringing our two countries together, and he will be missed."*

*"I will say a word about the Scotland Malawi Partnership, which exists to co-ordinate, support and represent the huge number of civic links that Scotland has with Malawi. It is a small charity working independently, but it is changing lives. Organisations from across Scotland include half of Scotland's local authorities, every Scottish university and most of the colleges, as well as more than 100 primary and secondary schools, hundreds of faith groups, hospitals, businesses, charities, NGOs and, more widely, several grassroots community-based organisations."*

*"I urge as many people as possible to join the Scotland Malawi Partnership and attend the 2017 annual general meeting on Saturday 30 September."*

**Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)**

*"The Scotland Malawi Partnership continues to publish evidence of its impact and outreach in both Scotland and Malawi."*

**Ian Murray (Edinburgh South) (Lab)**

*"I think it would be appropriate to pay tribute to David Hope-Jones, the chief executive of the Scotland Malawi Partnership. He has not yet been mentioned in this debate, but he does so much, not only to enhance the partnership but to provide us all with the information we require in this kind of debate."*

**Liz McInnes (Heywood and Middleton) (Lab)**

*"The Scotland Malawi Partnership helps to ensure that Malawi has a continued high profile in Scotland, particularly in schools and among youth organisations. According to the University of Edinburgh, more than 94,000 Scots are actively involved in links with Malawi each year. Separate research suggests that an estimated 46% of Scots now personally know someone with a connection to Malawi—whether a parent with a church link, a child involved in a school partnership, or a friend active in linked communities."*

**The Minister for Africa (Rory Stewart) [Responding for the UK Government]**

*"Member for Glasgow North (Patrick Grady) about the personal experience of his extraordinary year spent teaching in Malawi, shows the genius of the Scotland Malawi Partnership. Those are just a dozen out of*

1,300 different examples of Scottish individuals, small Scottish charities and Scottish institutions linking to Malawi.

*“There are three things from which we can learn. The first is, to use a horrible jargon phrase, the civic multiplier—the way in which the Scotland Malawi Partnership, with a relatively modest amount of money, can draw on all the institutions to create a much richer partnership and be more than the sum of its parts. The second element, which has come through time and again in today’s speeches, is mutual respect. Everyone who spoke talked a great deal about equality and about how we can learn as much from Malawi as it can learn from us. Finally, there is the genius of co-ordination and connections. Since 2005 the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership has been not to create the connections, but to find them and mine them—to draw them out of the soil and reveal to us that thick web of connections between two nations, essentially putting Malawians on the board. That is a very important part of the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership.*

*“... We pay a huge tribute to the Scotland Malawi Partnership, but we recognise that there is space for other things.*

*“... More broadly, the big lesson from the Scotland Malawi Partnership may be for the Department for International Development itself. The Scotland Malawi Partnership shows us a great deal. It shows us the powerful example of a man such as David Hope-Jones and what leadership can mean. In a pretty remarkable achievement, this man has succeeded in ensuring that 15 Members of Parliament appear to have read in detail the 1955 double taxation treaty, the 1978 amendment to it and all 16 of its articles. I am delighted that they show such authority and detailed knowledge. That shows David Hope-Jones’s extraordinary success in communicating with Parliament.*

*“... Learning that we cannot necessarily do everything, and that we may want to take a leaf out of the book of the Scotland Malawi Partnership and learn how to operate at a smaller, more human scale in certain designated countries, may be important for the British Government.*

*“... What is so striking about the Scotland Malawi Partnership is that it has found ways of engaging a whole human population. Britain could do that in Malawi or in Tanzania, Uganda or Nigeria. It is a very exciting way of thinking about how to do development in the 21st century. The fact that so many right hon. and hon. Members are here championing international development shows how these human connections give us the legitimacy and centre to make progress.”*

## **Appendix Six: Visa References in the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017: Westminster Hall** **Debate on the [Scotland-Malawi Relationship](#):**

**David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)**

*“Bannerman High School’s preparations are likely to be a lot easier than those of Malawians who wish to travel to Scotland, however. That brings me to my first substantive issue: the extremely serious shortcomings in the UK Government’s handling of visa applications. The Scotland Malawi Partnership has reported that over the past decade, its members have experienced an increasing number of issues with visa applications. Worryingly, many of them feel that the situation is worse now than it has ever been. Some argue that Malawians who apply for visas to visit the United Kingdom are treated with contempt from the outset, with ever increasing charges and an ever decreasing quality of service.*”

*“The Partnership reports that what it sees as the dysfunctional processing of UK visas not only affects its work and the work of its members across Scottish civil society, but has a serious negative impact on the Government’s own development and diplomatic efforts, causing reputational damage. It is quite clear that this is not an isolated issue. The partnership’s experience is that Scottish churches, schools, non-governmental organisations, businesses, NHS boards, hospitals, universities and community groups have had to cancel visits, often at a considerable cost, because UK visas have not been processed correctly or in time.*”

*“When concerns have been raised in this place, the Government have been quick to point out that around 82% of UK visa applications from Malawi are successful—perhaps the Minister might ask the relevant Minister to break down for me how that percentage was arrived at. I understand that a significant proportion of Scotland Malawi Partnership members who start the process of applying for a UK visitor visa are not able to complete it because of systemic failures, so I would be keen to find out whether those incomplete applications are included within that percentage. I would also like to know if the figure includes visas that are awarded on the day of travel or even after the scheduled travel date.”*

**Colin Clark (Gordon) (Con)**

*“I want to add my voice to that of the hon. Member for Glasgow East. I am aware of the difficulties for Malawian citizens of obtaining a visa for the UK.*”

*“Just this weekend, I met a dance teacher in Orkney, Joanna Davies, who had just been in Malawi with Orkney’s Malawi Music Fund. She told me, with some excitement, of her plans to bring a dance teacher and dancer from Malawi to Orkney—a link that she had built during the visit. I listened with a curious mix of inspiration and despondency. I could not help being inspired by the enthusiasm of somebody who had gone out and made a connection with somebody she had identified, from her own professional experience, as very talented. I was despondent, however, that by encouraging her to go forward with a visit or programme for this young man, I was almost certainly creating my own casework, because from the profile she described, I just know that getting him a visa will be an absolute nightmare.*”

*“It need not be like that. As a constituency MP, I have seen a number of projects over the years in which visitors come from Malawi to the United Kingdom. I have lost count of the number of times I have sat at my desk, bashing the phones and trying to get some common sense out of UKVI, the UK Border Agency, Border Force or whatever it was called at the time. It is the same old story every time: “We don’t believe that these people are going to go back, notwithstanding the basis on which they have been brought here.”*”

**Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)**

*"I apologise for coming late to the debate; pepani chomene, as we say in Chitumbuka. Is it not one of the greatest ironies of visas that the visitors who apply have so often been funded by Government institutions? These are UK Government and Scottish Government programmes that are vouched for by highly reliable organisations, but that does not seem to make a blind bit of difference to the Home Office.*

*"... We need to make sure that there is support for the institutions of Government. I would reiterate the points made about visas, so that we can show that we are genuinely welcoming. People who are sponsored and supported by organisations in Scotland, very often with Government money, are able to come here, take part in those visits and feel the benefits, and the communities they visit are able to feel the benefits."*

**Chris Law (Dundee West) (SNP)**

*"I would also like to draw the Minister's attention to the issue of UK visas, which we have heard about today. Malawians regularly report that getting a visa for the UK is almost impossible because they are faced with endless bureaucracy, failing systems and non-existent customer service, and they can only ever speak with private businesses contracted to work for the UK Government. The failures of that system, week in, week out, have the potential to undermine not only the 150-year-old Scotland-Malawi friendship but the UK Government's own development, diplomatic and trade interests in Africa. I therefore urge the Minister today to support a full public review of the UK Government's visa-issuing processes for those invited to the UK as part of our credible, long-standing civic links."*

**Liz McInnes (Heywood and Middleton) (Lab)**

*"The right hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr Carmichael) talked about the opportunities for Scottish schoolchildren to see the lives of children in Malawi, which we would all agree is an education in itself and an opportunity that not all schoolchildren get. He also talked about the Malawi Music Fund. Many speakers touched on the issues of obtaining visas for Malawian visitors who wish to participate in exchange visits to this country. I am interested to hear what the Minister says about visas."*

**Mr Paul J. Sweeney (Glasgow North East) (Lab/Co-op)**

*"I particularly think of the African Challenge Scotland partnership in my constituency, which promotes citizenship and activity with the African community in Glasgow. Is that not a demonstration of the opportunities that better visa relationships with Malawi would offer and a greater cross-pollination of activity and cultural sharing between our two countries?"*

**The Minister for Africa (Rory Stewart) [Responding for the UK Government]**

*"Two areas of learning that have emerged for the Department: the questions of the double taxation treaty and of visas. My interventions have probably revealed my views on the double taxation treaty, but I think we can do more on visas. Progress has been made. We have now identified a designated UK Border Force officer, who will focus on Malawi visas to try to facilitate the Scotland Malawi Partnership. That may save the right hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland from having to spend every Saturday talking to the UK Border Agency. However, there is more that can be done."*

**Appendix Seven: Visa References in the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018: Westminster Hall**  
**Debate on [The Future of the Commonwealth](#):**

**Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)**

*“Scotland also has a relationship with Malawi, and today I welcomed the honourable Juliana Lunguzi, MP for Dedza East, to the House. I thoroughly agree with the idea of improved visas for India, but that should be extended across the Commonwealth. Far too often, people from Commonwealth countries, including politicians, do not have their visas granted in time. That happens time and again with Malawi.”*



## **Appendix Eight: Selection of Feedback from Members on the impact of SMP support with UK Visas:**

**Alan Kimmitt of the Church of Scotland said:**

*“Without the support of SMP and others, but particularly SMP, the visit of our four partners from Chuluchosema would not have been possible. The SMP’s visa service was invaluable and it’s highly likely that visas would otherwise not have been granted for some or all of our visitors.*

*“Because of your help, we had a wonderful partnership visit which has inspired the communities here and in Malawi. The visit has also paved the way for a possible partnership between the High School here and the Secondary School in Malawi.*

*“When we speak to our partners about the visa process for Malawians, it’s deeply saddening that the UK appears so unwelcoming to them. Your visa service is a step towards dispelling that feeling. You are doing great work – please keep it up!”*

**Jane Geddes of Napier University, said:**

*“I would say that the support we received was of great value. For all of us (the four Malawians and myself as organiser of their stay) the knowledge that SMP was there to support us through what was a stressful process was very reassuring. Submitting all 4 visa applications at one time gave us the peace of mind, particularly as the Malawians were very aware of our visa system and potential delays. The SMP office proved helpful when 3 of 4 visas came through, trying to find the reason why the fourth was delayed. In the event, the outstanding visa led to an arrival delay of 4 days. “*

**Joanna Davies of Just Dance Orkney said:**

*“I am currently in the process of helping apply for a visa for my friend in Malawi. Without the support of David and SMP I would not have had a clue where to start or how to have gone about this. The support I have received so far has been extremely helpful and knowing that they will be with me to the end of the process is very reassuring as it is not an easy task”*

**Keith Murphy of Penicuik High School said:**

*“The support we received from the Scotland Malawi Partnership was absolutely invaluable. One member of staff from our partner school had an issue with their visa application and without the help of SMP the planned visit to our school would not have taken place. We appreciate how much time was spent by the Scotland Malawi Partnership in liaising with authorities in South Africa to review the visa application, as I would not have known where to start with the process. The visa application process for our partners can be difficult and cumbersome and the length of time it takes can be prohibitive when organising a visit. This is especially so if an issue arises during the process. We really appreciate the dedication, hardwork and continued support of the Scotland Malawi Partnership in our work and would hope that the process for applying for visas will become more streamlined as we move forward. Thanks to all the team we had a successful initial visit providing us the opportunity to meet with our friends and establish our school partnership agreement”*

**Trudi Sieland of Water Witness International said:**

*“Thank you for your recent support in obtaining a UK visa for our Malawian colleague, Mrs. Doreen Chanje. We found your service of utmost help. We only had limited time to make the visa application, and opted for priority service. However, there is no guarantee that visa applications are processed in the time provided and SMP’s advice and actions have given us assurance.*

*“The SMP has always been one step ahead in contacting the relevant authorities in Lilongwe and Pretoria ensuring our application is processed in time. The support letters both for the visa application and immigration officials have been a bonus, and the former certainly made an impact on the application outcome. The visa was granted within the 5 day time frame and we were able to make relevant bookings for our colleague in time for her travel.*

*“All in all, we sincerely value the support provided by SMP and look forward to using your services in future.”*

**Lyndsey Rae of Link Community Development said:**

*“We found it extremely helpful to have support to navigate the online system, which isn’t always very clear, and to know that our visa would be processed as a priority through our relationship with the Scotland Malawi Partnership. We feel it is important to nurture our links with colleagues in Malawi, and being able to arrange for them to visit and undertake training for work purposes is very beneficial. Through our colleague’s visit, we were able to undertake training for him that is essential to his working role, make connections with other organisations and NGOs, and raise the profile of our valuable work. Thank you very much for all of your help!”*

**Helen Mein of Glenrothes Church said:**

*“The service that SMP staff, and you in particular, have provided for the visa applicants with whom I have been involved has been personal, prompt and persistent. I know that underlying this assistance has been, and continues to be, some very well judged networking and diplomacy that would have been entirely outwith the capacity [and patience!] of most people. For as long as HMG persists in its current immigration & visa policy for visitors and study/exchanges etc it is vital that SMP has the capacity to continue to support the visa application process AND to continue to lobby for a more enlightened policy and a more humane process.”*

**Appendix Nine:**  
**Parliamentary references to UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty:14<sup>th</sup>**  
**September 2017: Westminster Hall Debate on the [Scotland-Malawi](#)**  
**Relationship:**

**David Linden (Glasgow East) (SNP)**

*“The second substantive issue is the 1955 Malawi-UK double taxation treaty. I appreciate that Ministers may have been somewhat distracted by Brexit and disrupted by the snap general election, but the Government have not yet honoured their promise—and it was a promise—to update that treaty. The final deadline of July 2017 has now passed. My hon. Friend the Member for Dundee West (Chris Law) recently asked a written question about the matter, but I am afraid the Treasury’s answer was disappointingly noncommittal about the timeframe for completion. Its reason for delay—that the Government of Malawi had raised further points for consideration in August 2016—was somewhat at odds with the promise made by the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury last December that: “we hope to conclude soon”.— [Official Report, 16 December 2016; Vol. 618, c. 1142.]”*

*“Nine months on, we seem to be no further forward. I do not think that I am overstepping the mark when I say that the UK Government appear to be dragging their heels. They ought to get on with their day job and bring this matter to resolution. I do not consider it unreasonable to ask them to let us know exactly when they aim to have the treaty signed off. Any update would be most welcome.”*

**The Minister for Africa (Rory Stewart)**

*“Would the hon. Gentleman like to reflect on whether this is an entirely one-sided problem, or whether there are any issues on the Malawian side of the double taxation treaty that may also be holding things up?”*

**Colin Clark (Gordon) (Con)**

*“...the 1955 UK-Malawi double taxation treaty dearly needs updating. Now is the time to use the strength of our relationship to overcome these hurdles.”*

**Mr Alistair Carmichael (Orkney and Shetland) (LD)**

*“The Member for Glasgow East mentioned the 1955 UK-Malawi double taxation treaty. It is to be regretted, to say the least, that we are still speaking about this; I rather thought that we had got beyond that and that we had sufficient undertakings. If there are difficulties at the Malawi end, we need to hear more about them, but surely in a modern agreement the partners should be equal. The characterisation of the 1955 treaty is one of a colonial power to its colony. I hope that when the Minister talks about difficulties coming in each way, that is not an indication of the UK Government’s attitude in the present day.”*

**Rory Stewart**

*“It is a little uncomfortable, but the question of the trade relationships is about technical legal definitions and trade. The problem is not an ideological problem; it is not a problem of colonial history or timetables. It is a problem of such things as very specific legal definitions of geography. These things cannot be resolved by simply standing up, trying to shame the British Government and telling us to get on with it. The Malawian Government have to make some moves in the negotiation. The negotiation cannot be resolved in the way the right hon. Gentleman suggests.”*

**Mr Carmichael**

*“I was a legal practitioner before I came to this House, so I am well acquainted with the issues around interpretation and negotiation. All I would say is that if the Government are experiencing difficulties in revising a 62-year-old treaty with a former colony—now a partner in the Commonwealth—they may have*

*a taste of what is ahead of them in other upcoming negotiations. The Minister may wish to educate some of his ministerial colleagues in that regard."*

**Patrick Grady (Glasgow North) (SNP)**

*"Likewise, there is a need to get the tax treaty correct. The way that we will ultimately help Malawi and countries across sub-Saharan Africa and the developing world is when they are able to mobilise their own resources and invest in their own infrastructure. That means they have to have tax treaties and financial institutions and structures fit for the 21st century."*

**Chris Law (Dundee West) (SNP)**

*"I would like to turn my attention to the 1955 UK-Malawi double taxation treaty. I echo the comments and concerns of my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow East and other colleagues in the room who urged the Government to update that treaty. It is without doubt a completely unfair and outdated treaty. It is so outdated, in fact, that it cannot cover not only digital and IT services but televisions, which go back to before my date of birth. We know that both Governments have committed to updating the treaty. However, in the last Parliament UK Ministers repeatedly stated that it would be imminently finalised, and a final deadline of July 2017 was stated and once again missed. I do not know about your thoughts on this, Mr Chope, but to me, "imminently" means immediately. Here we are, with something so simple still to resolve. I look forward to hearing the Minister's comments shortly."*

**Liz McInnes (Heywood and Middleton) (Lab)**

*"The double taxation treaty of 1955 was also mentioned and remains an issue. Despite the Minister's interventions, I think we would like a response to the concerns raised."*

**The Minister for Africa (Rory Stewart)**

*"Two areas of learning that have emerged for the Department: the questions of the double taxation treaty and of visas. My interventions have probably revealed my views on the double taxation treaty..."*

*"... More broadly, the big lesson from the Scotland Malawi Partnership may be for the Department for International Development itself. The Scotland Malawi Partnership shows us a great deal. It shows us the powerful example of a man such as David Hope-Jones and what leadership can mean. In a pretty remarkable achievement, this man has succeeded in ensuring that 15 Members of Parliament appear to have read in detail the 1955 double taxation treaty, the 1978 amendment to it and all 16 of its articles. I am delighted that they show such authority and detailed knowledge. That shows David Hope-Jones's extraordinary success in communicating with Parliament."*

**Mr Carmichael**

*"I sense that the Minister has said as much as he is going to say about the double taxation treaty. Given that we have not met the deadline that his ministerial colleagues previously identified, what new deadline have the Government set for themselves? Does he not understand that this taxation treaty is more important to Malawi than it is to Britain?"*

**Rory Stewart**

*"I am afraid I do not have time to address that point, but as a lawyer the right hon. Gentleman should be aware that setting arbitrary deadlines is completely irrelevant in that type of negotiation, and his intervention was extremely inappropriate given the time. We can talk about that in much more detail later, and we can discuss the 16 articles if we wish. Deadlines are not the key; the key is the Malawian political position on the treaty. Setting an arbitrary deadline is not likely to help us."*

**David Linden**

*"I thank the Minister for his remarks. We have discussed the double taxation treaty and the issue of the deadline—I should clarify that the deadline was set by the UK Government."*

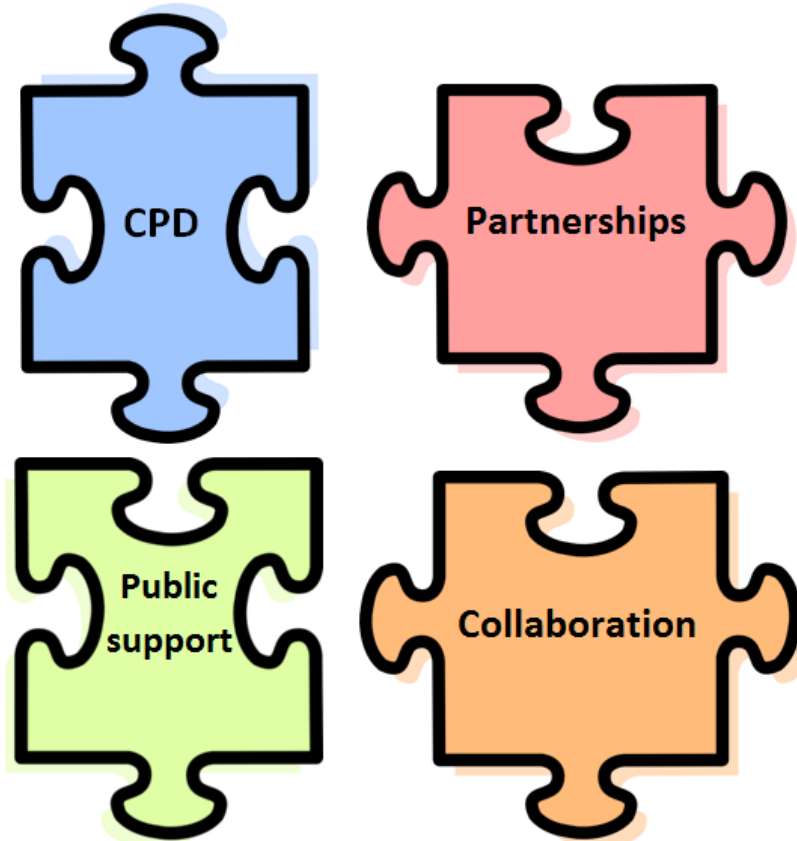
## Appendix Ten: SMP's input to DFID Development Education Consultation

### Reflections & ideas on DFID's Development Education work post-2018:

The Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) is keen that DFID continues its excellent development education work in the UK. In this summary paper the Partnership sets out some reflections and ideas as to how DFID could shape its development education work in Scotland after the existing Connecting Classroom and Global Learning Project programme end in 2018.

The SMP is a member of the International Development Education Association Scotland (IDEAS), we recognise that Scotland has a strong network of support for those working in development education and we support IDEAS' recommendations in this area.

We encourage DFID to continue its good work supporting teacher *continuing professional development* (CPD) and *school partnerships*, and we offer brief recommendations on how we feel these could be strengthened and scaled up in Scotland. Additionally, we encourage DFID to consider two more core strands to its future development education work: *public support* and *collaboration*. Together, we think these four strands of CPD, partnerships, public support and collaboration would offer a strong platform for DFID to support development education in Scotland.



This contribution is in part driven by the three areas identified by the UK Minister of State for Africa in a recent [Westminster Hall debate](#), where he felt DFID could learn from the experience of the Scotland Malawi Partnership:

*“The first is ... the **civic multiplier**—the way in which the Scotland Malawi Partnership, with a relatively modest amount of money, can draw on all the institutions to create a much richer partnership and be more than the sum of its parts. The second element, which has come through*

time and again in today's speeches, is **mutual respect**. Everyone who spoke talked a great deal about equality and about how we can learn as much from Malawi as it can learn from us. Finally, there is the genius of **co-ordination and connections**. Since 2005 the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership has been not to create the connections, but to find them and mine them—to draw them out of the soil and reveal to us that thick web of connections between two nations, essentially putting Malawians on the board. That is a very important part of the work of the Scotland Malawi Partnership.

#### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Engaging local authorities and Senior Management Teams so that support is given for development education CPD and teachers are given time out of the classroom to follow up on learning.
- If these CPD sessions were officially accredited this would reward and incentivise. Ideally Education Scotland, as the schools inspectorate in Scotland, would formally recognise and endorse this CPD.
- CPD sessions need to be delivered in such a way as to support teachers to make direct links to their own classroom practice and – during the sessions – to plan and explore ideas in their own classrooms. They should then be followed up after a set time to check on progress. SMP and the DEC's have good experience in this area.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS:**

- [SMP Partnerships Principles](#) could be used as a reflection, learning and development tool.
- Re-starting reciprocal visits funded by DFID, with additional support for visa applications and supporting southern teachers pre/post visit.
- Working with networks to build upon existing bilateral historical links and existing school partnerships.
- Increasing reach across Scotland by: engaging networks, LAs and DEC's, decreasing paperwork, increasing flexibility for the use of funds and the timing of reciprocal visits, and increasing awareness through outreach work.
- Encouraging schools to embed school partnerships work into the curriculum, across all subjects and included in the school improvement plan.
- Supporting schools to use technology, like WhatsApp, Skype and social media, to support direct exchanges, learning and communications between young people.
- Supporting young people to think critically about what they read in the media and using partnerships to challenge stereotypes and encourage a positive and informed youth voice.

#### **PUBLIC SUPPORT:**

- Recognising there is need for a constant drip-feeding of positive impact reporting – permanent rear-guard action.
- Regular commissioning of independent research showing programme impact & value for money.
- Central website with public/coms engagement officer - clear and consistent narrative.
- Clear expectation of all involved to be generating and sharing innovative and engaging content illustrating the positive impact of the work (videos, blogs, social media, info graphics, artwork, articles, etc).

#### **COLLABORATION:**



- Central support and encouragement given to connect schools with: other schools, colleges and universities, faith and community groups, businesses and employers, diaspora groups, also working in similar.
- Having dedicated channels, staffing and curricular content (webinars, lesson plans, videos, speakers) to connect schools with DFID's own work in these countries: showing the impact DFID is having, the challenges faced and the importance of public support.
- Establishing a website teachers can use to search by SDG to find local links and speakers, content, videos, lesson plans, etc specific to that Goal.

We would be delighted to work with DFID in the coming months to help develop ideas and thinking, and explore further areas of potential collaboration - especially around the 20 Feb 2018 SMP Youth Congress and events through the *Year of Young People* in Scotland.