



Max 10c min -1c

# THE



## SATURDAY

March 22 2014 | thetimes.co.uk | No 71151

Newspaper of the Year

Only  
**£1.50**

# TIMES

THE TIMES | Saturday March 22 2014 1GM

3 Thomas More Square  
London E98 1TY  
E-mail: [letters@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:letters@thetimes.co.uk)  
#letterstoTheTimes



## Bill's Bill showing the world the way

Sir, We would like to register our satisfaction at the passing into law of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, which attained Royal Assent on March 13.

This Act will, for the first time for any government in the world, place a statutory responsibility on the Secretary of State for International Development to take gender into account in decisions relating to how the UK's overseas aid budget is allocated.

The Bill was originally proposed by a British charity, the Gender Rights and Equalities Action Trust (Great), and taken up by Bill Cash as a Private Member's Bill (supported by Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development).

"Bill's Bill" (as the initiative has become known) has received little media attention despite its powerful potential to tackle what Archbishop Desmond Tutu has described as "the greatest human rights abuse of the 21st century," the continuing discrimination against half of the world's population, often denying women the right to make a valuable contribution to the development of their nations or to be protected against violence and abuse.

From now on the Secretary of State for International Development will have to routinely consider issues like access to education and protection under the law against sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

We would like to thank *The Times* for being one of the few newspapers to report this good news story ("Britain shows the world the way — again", Mar 8) and Parliament for its cross-party support for this Act which will directly benefit the millions touched by UK aid globally for years to come.

KAREN RUIMY, MARIELLA FROSTRUP,  
JASON MCCUE (co-founders of Great),  
MARIA SUKKAR (trustee), MIRIAM  
GONZALEZ CLEGG, ELISABETH  
MURDÓCH, GEMMA MORTENSEN,  
VANESSA BRANSON, RENEE  
ZELLWEGGER, ELLE MACPHERSON,  
BARONESS KINNOCK OF HOLYHEAD,  
BARONESS NYE, BARONESS KIDRON,  
BARONESS LANE-FOX OF SOHO,  
EMMA FREUD, LADY TRIMBLE, DR  
SCILLA ELWORTHY, BRIGITTE  
LACOMBE, JEMIMA KHAN





Max 10C min -1C

March 22 2014 | thetimes.co.uk | No 71151

Newspaper of the Year

Only £1.50

# THE



# TIMES

## SATURDAY

THE TIMES | Saturday March 22 2014 1GM

3 Thomas More Square  
London E98 1TY  
E-mail: [letters@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:letters@thetimes.co.uk)  
#letterstoTheTimes



## Bill's Bill showing the world the way

Sir, We would like to register our satisfaction at the passing into law of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, which attained Royal Assent on March 13.

This Act will, for the first time for any government in the world, place a statutory responsibility on the Secretary of State for International Development to take gender into account in decisions relating to how the UK's overseas aid budget is allocated.

The Bill was originally proposed by a British charity, the Gender Rights and Equalities Action Trust (Great), and taken up by Bill Cash as a Private Member's Bill (supported by Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development).

"Bill's Bill" (as the initiative has become known) has received little media attention despite its powerful potential to tackle what Archbishop Desmond Tutu has described as "the greatest human rights abuse of the 21st century," the continuing discrimination against half of the world's population, often denying women the right to make a valuable contribution to the development of their nations or to be protected against violence and abuse.

From now on the Secretary of State for International Development will have to routinely consider issues like access to education and protection under the law against sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

We would like to thank *The Times* for being one of the few newspapers to report this good news story ("Britain shows the world the way — again", Mar 8) and Parliament for its cross-party support for this Act which will directly benefit the millions touched by UK aid globally for years to come.

KAREN RUIMY, MARIELLA FROSTRUP, JASON MCCUE (co-founders of Great), MARIA SUKKAR (trustee), MIRIAM GONZALEZ CLEGG, ELISABETH MURDÓCH, GEMMA MORTENSEN, VANESSA BRANSON, RENEE ZELLWEGGER, ELLE MACPHERSON, BARONESS KINNOCK OF HOLYHEAD, BARONESS NYE, BARONESS KIDRON, BARONESS LANE-FOX OF SOHO, EMMA FREUD, LADY TRIMBLE, DR SCILLA ELWORTHY, BRIGITTE LACOMBE, JEMIMA KHAN