**LETTER FOR MPS**

Dear

We wish to bring to your attention the continuing situation in Zimbabwe under President Mnangagwa. During the Covid period no international journalists have travelled to Zimbabwe. As a result there has been little on the news.

We would however like to draw your attention to the award-winning documentary film, “President”. It catalogues the horrific events of the 2018 election and explains graphically what Zimbabwe is up against. Since then the main opposition led by Nelson Chamisa has had its headquarters invaded, its name (MDC) and brand taken away, its MPs recalled and its funding pulled. Remarkably, it has reinvented itself as the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) and has recently won 19 of the 28 seats in the by-elections.

We are very concerned about violence and rigging in the 2023 general elections. As a matter of priority, we feel funding should be put towards preventing this. Approximately a billion US dollars gets given to Zimbabwe in the form of aid each year. The UK as one of the biggest donors needs to prioritise ensuring a free and fair election so that Zimbabwe can return to the rule of law and property rights and root out endemic, institutionalised corruption and lawlessness.

This year a large proportion of the population will once again be in need of food aid. This will play into the hands of the ruling party which controls food distribution. The system of sending EcoCash to villagers - when properly administered - is far less open to corruption and to the use of food as a political weapon. This system needs to be reinstated.

Yours sincerely