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UK Secretary of State for Development  
Rt Hon. Penny Mordaunt  
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am a British national and UN whistleblower and I request a meeting with you to discuss **the protection of UN whistleblowers and the reporting of child sexual abuse and paedophilia.**

In April 2015, while I was working at the UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR), I blew the whistle to the British and other governments on the allegations of child sexual abuse by foreign troops in the Central African Republic (CAR). I also blew the whistle on the UN leadership's abuse of authority against senior UN official Anders Kompass, for his disclosure to the French Government of the CAR abuse allegations. I provided the governments with the MINUSCA Human Rights and Justice Section Report (attached) which documents horrific child sexual abuse (including forced oral sex and anal rape) being committed against boys aged 8 to 15 in a camp for internally displaced persons in Bangui, CAR. These horrific acts of abuse were being perpetrated against vulnerable children in exchange for food.

An Independent Panel established by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon concluded there had been "*a gross and systematic institutional failure*" in responding to the child sexual abuse and confirmed the abuse of authority against Mr Kompass<sup>1</sup>. Soon after reporting these and other allegations, I lost my job at the UN's Human Rights Office (OHCHR) and I have been blacklisted by the organization ever since.

I note **your statement to the House of Commons** on 20 February 2018:

***"The message from us to all parts of the UN is clear – you can either get your house in order, or you can prepare to carry out your good work without our money."***

In an earlier statement on 14 February 2018, you said:

***"Unless you create a culture that prioritises the safety of vulnerable people and ensures victims and whistleblowers can come forward without fear – we will not work with you."***

***The same message goes out to any organisation or partner which receives UK aid. We want procedures to change. We want leaders to lead with moral authority. And we want staff to be held accountable for their actions, no matter where they are."***

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/cenaficrepub/Independent-Review-Report.pdf>

I am concerned that the UK's Department of International Development (DFID) 2016 Multilateral Assessment Review (MAR)<sup>2</sup> gave positive assessments of the performance of OHCHR and UNICEF, despite the fact that during the same time period the Independent Panel concluded there had been *"a gross and systematic institutional failure"* in the handling of the child sexual abuse in CAR (this involved OHCHR and UNICEF, whose staff had first documented the abuses). Worryingly, the DFID MAR makes no mention of the need to protect whistleblowers to ensure accountability. It should be noted that the UN's Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)'s 2016 review of fraud in the UN *"found that **whistle-blowers alone account for the uncovering of more fraud and corruption than all other measures of fraud detection combined**"* and recommended stronger measures to protect UN whistleblowers<sup>3</sup>.

In his Report on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse issued in February 2017<sup>4</sup>, **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres** committed to the following:

*"44. I will actively enforce the newly issued policy on whistle-blowers, empowering and encouraging staff to report cases of sexual exploitation and abuse — even when, or particularly if, they involve high-level United Nations officials, supervisors or colleagues. **All United Nations personnel must have confidence to report wrongdoing when they see it — every whistle-blower must believe that the Organization will protect him or her when he or she comes forward.**"*

However, despite this commitment, there is **a systematic institutional failure to protect UN whistleblowers**; this serves to deter staff from reporting crimes and corruption. An analysis conducted by the Government Accountability Project in 2012 showed that 97% of applications from UN whistleblowers for protection against retaliation were dismissed<sup>5</sup>. **UN whistleblower protection system fails to meet international best practice standards**, including in relation to independent adjudication, burden of proof, interim measures and 'make-whole' remedies. The revised policy issued by in January 2017 does not address the fundamental flaws, nor does it meet the standards required by the UN's Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the reporting of corruption. The UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, Mr David Kaye, has expressed ongoing concerns about the UN's whistleblower protections, including recently in a letter<sup>6</sup> about the case of **OHCHR whistleblower Emma Reilly**, also a British national, who reported OHCHR for endangering Chinese dissidents by providing their names to the Chinese Government ahead of Human Rights Council meetings.

The UK contributes £90 million in core funding to the UN and substantial additional resources through DFID's programs. Over half of the cases of sexual abuse reported by the

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/573884/Multilateral-Development-Review-Dec2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573884/Multilateral-Development-Review-Dec2016.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu\\_document\\_files/products/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU\\_REP\\_2016\\_4\\_English.pdf](https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_document_files/products/en/reports-notes/JIU%20Products/JIU_REP_2016_4_English.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <http://undocs.org/A/71/818>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.whistleblower.org/blog/120003-gap-responds-critique-united-nations-ethics-office-statistic>

<sup>6</sup> <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=23269>

UN involve UN staff. It is incumbent on the British Government to ensure that British taxpayer funds are not used to pay for the salaries of UN staff who commit sexual abuse or for the salaries and legal defense of those who retaliate against whistleblowers who report sexual abuses and violations of human rights.

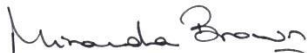
The UN does not have a coherent approach to the **mandatory reporting of child abuse** and this will need to be considered at the system-wide level. If the UN does not protect its whistleblowers, staff will not come forward to report abuses, including for heinous crimes such as child rape.

I have first-hand experience as a whistleblower, and **I have spoken out frankly about the abuses because I care deeply about the UN as an institution.** In April 2016, I testified as a witness before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee at a hearing on “*Do No Harm: Ending Sexual Abuse in UN peacekeeping*”.<sup>7</sup> In November 2016, I participated in the Oxford Union debate on the UN, at which I spoke out about the child sexual abuse in CAR and the retaliation against UN whistleblowers.<sup>8</sup> I am in contact with other British UN whistleblowers, including Emma Reilly and Caroline Hunt-Matthes, who have also suffered retaliation and are eager to have the situation addressed. Ms Hunt-Matthes, a senior investigator at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), reported the corruption of investigations into the rape of refugees<sup>9</sup>.

I have concrete suggestions for **creating a culture in the UN that prioritises the safety of vulnerable people and ensures that victims and whistleblowers can come forward without fear**, and I look forward to discussing these with you. I hope that the other British UN whistleblowers whom I am in contact with might be able to join our meeting.

I look forward to a positive response.

Yours faithfully,



Miranda Brown

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/041316\\_Brown\\_Testimony.pdf](https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/041316_Brown_Testimony.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBrkHa41IAY>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/14/un-united-nations-ostracised-sacked-arrested-whistleblowers>