

# Funding the Future

## A rare indication of surviving conscience in the Labour...

Published: January 13, 2026, 10:37 am

This post has been put on Twitter in the last couple of hours:



It is with sadness that I have had to tender my resignation as Minister for International Development and for Women and Equalities.

While I disagree with the ODA decision, I continue to support the government and its determination to deliver the change our country needs.



12:14 PM · Feb 28, 2025 · 297.1K Views

I highlight these paragraphs:

Undoubtedly the postwar global order has come crashing down. I believe that we must increase spending on defence as a result; and know that there are no easy paths to doing so. I stood ready to work with you to deliver that increased spending, knowing some might well have had to come from ODA. I also expected we would collectively discuss our fiscal rules and approach to taxation, as other nations are doing. Even 3% may only be the start, and it will be impossible to raise the substantial resources needed just through tactical cuts to public spending. These are unprecedented times, when strategic decisions for the sake of our country's security cannot be ducked.

Instead, the tactical decision was taken for ODA to absorb the entire burden. You have maintained that you want to continue support for Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine; for vaccination; for climate; and for rules-based systems. Yet it will be impossible to maintain these priorities given the depth of the cut; the effect will be far greater than presented, even if assumptions made about reducing asylum costs hold true. The cut will also likely lead to a UK pull-out from numerous African, Caribbean and Western Balkan nations – at a time when Russia has been aggressively increasing its global presence. It will likely lead to withdrawal from regional banks and a reduced commitment to the World Bank; the UK being shut out of numerous multilateral bodies; and a reduced voice for the UK in the G7, G20 and in climate negotiations. All this while China is seeking to rewrite global rules, and when the climate crisis is the biggest security threat of them all.

Page 1/2

Ultimately, these cuts will remove food and healthcare from desperate people – deeply harming the UK's reputation. I know you have been clear that you are not ideologically

Why highlight this?

Firstly, to show that at least one member of this Cabinet has had the courage to resign over Starmer's callousness.

Second, to show that the arguments I have made are known within the Labour Party, and even within the Cabinet.

Third, to make it clear that Starmer really is intent on causing massive harm in the world, all to appease Trump.

I have since heard Anneliese Dodds, with whom I engaged quite a lot when she was an MEP with an interest in tax issues, described as 'hard left'. Whoever thinks so has to be kidding. She is anything but that. She is just still in possession of a conscience. Too few in Labour are.