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Dear Joan,

I am writing to you in your role as Convenor of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee to share Oxfam Scotland's new report: [Care, Climate and COVID-19: Building a Wellbeing Economy for Scotland](#). The paper captures our priorities for the Scottish Parliament, both immediately and beyond the Scottish election in May 2021. It contains significant content which is relevant to the Committee's work. The report also provides useful context and analysis which I hope is of use during the Committee's inquiry into the Scottish Government's Review of the International Development Programme, though the focus of our report extends significantly beyond this refresh.

Oxfam Scotland's vision is of a Scotland, and a world, without poverty. We believe the Scottish Parliament has a key role in building a new 'wellbeing economy' which meets everyone's basic needs within safe environmental limits. While recognising the continuing public health crisis, our report highlights four linked priorities:

- **delivering a wellbeing economy built on care, while leaving no-one behind;**
- **the better valuing of – and investing in – all forms of care work and those who provide it;**
- **caring for our planet by delivering climate justice; and**
- **caring for people in poverty and humanitarian crisis globally.**

The report outlines 20 recommendations, including better valuing and investing in care, and measures to address the continuing high levels of poverty, food insecurity and economic inequality within Scotland. However, I wish to highlight those which are most relevant to the Committee.

As we seek to deliver a wellbeing economy in Scotland, we must ensure we do not do so at the expense of people globally. All of Scotland's National Outcomes must be delivered in ways that enhance our global contribution. Our report therefore endorses a recommendation from Scotland's International Development Alliance for a new **Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill** to ensure that delivery of Scotland's National Outcomes positively impacts people and the environment both within Scotland and low-income countries.

However, amid the additional and far-reaching impacts of COVID-19, the UN has warned that, without major intervention, a "tidal wave of COVID will become a tidal wave of new poverty". It is therefore critical that the Scottish Parliament maintains our commitment to international development and humanitarian aid, while supporting people seeking sanctuary. We therefore make the following recommendations:

- Recommit to a climate-proofed **International Development Fund** focused on tackling poverty and inequality, ensure it meets international effectiveness standards and, as a minimum, restore and then maintain its real-terms value.
- Respond to surging global humanitarian need by, as a minimum, maintaining the real-terms value of the **Humanitarian Emergency Fund** in the next Parliament and by calling for equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines as well as a moratorium on debt payments so that low-income country governments can fund COVID-19 responses.



- **Enhance Scotland's commitment to refugees and asylum-seekers** by bolstering investment in support and integration projects to ensure dignified, human-rights-based support, including maximising the use of devolved powers to protect people, regardless of their asylum status, from the injustice of poverty and destitution.

Our report also contains significant analysis of global climate action and Scotland's progress to date. I am sure you will agree that COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, creates a unique opportunity for Scotland to shape the global agenda. While Scotland's emissions targets are amongst the strongest in the Global North, they demand fast and sustained action – yet our 2018 annual emissions target was missed. The climate crisis is already creating more poverty and hunger. Despite this, Scotland's financial support for those worst impacted by the crisis has been frozen since 2016.

Alongside action to cut emissions by at least 75% by 2030, in line with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, we believe the Scottish Government should demonstrate global climate leadership ahead of the UN talks in Glasgow by immediately **increasing the Climate Justice Fund to at least £10 million per year**. This would better reflect Scotland's past and present role in creating the climate crisis and the increasing impacts on the world's poorest people of a crisis they did least to cause.

Finally, but importantly, the climate crisis, the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement reinforce the need to equip young people with the skills of responsible global citizens. In Scotland, 'enabling young people to become responsible citizens' is one of the four key capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence. Global Citizenship Education can help deliver this: it does not tell young people what to think but shows them that they have a voice and gives them the skills, knowledge and values to use it. Teachers must have the support they need to deliver Global Citizenship Education and it is critical that **the Scottish Government's existing core funding for Scotland's five Development Education Centres, is maintained throughout the next Parliament**.

I hope you find the report useful and we would be very interested to hear your views on our recommendations. I would be delighted to speak with you directly on any of the topics covered.

Yours,

Jamie Livingstone
Head of Oxfam Scotland