

Thank you for your letters of 21 April addressed to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP and Sir Mark Lyall Grant, together with the petition asking for UN intervention in Zimbabwe. I work in the Zimbabwe Unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and your letter has been forwarded to me to reply.

We share your concerns over the potential for violence in the forthcoming elections in Zimbabwe and that the international community, particularly SADC, have a critical role to play in ensuring that this does not happen. We are encouraged by SADC's commitment, as guarantor of the GPA, that necessary reforms must be completed so that elections, whenever held, would be credible and free from violence. We stand ready to assist SADC in any way we can to help them achieve this.

The UK stands ready to assist in any election monitoring effort in Zimbabwe, including through multilateral partners such as the Commonwealth and United Nations, however, any such effort would have to be in response to an invitation from the Government of Zimbabwe. We therefore support calls made by SADC, political parties and civil society for a robust long-term regional observation effort.

Your petition of over 12,000 signatures clearly demonstrates the concerns many have over the credibility of the next elections. We are following the situation closely and are keeping under review whether there is a role for the UN Security Council (UNSC) in supporting a peaceful election process. If you wish to send your petition to the UNSC directly you may do so via the UN Secretary General. Contact details can be found on their website: [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

I would like to assure you that Zimbabwe continues to be of great importance to the UK and this is reflected in our £83 million Aid programme this financial year which supports the constitution review process and will provide essential services, protect

livelihoods of the poorest people and support economic stabilization to the people of Zimbabwe.