



President Joseph R. Biden
Vice President Kamala D. Harris
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

1 March 2021

British citizens welcome the positive influence of your administration to defend truth and defeat lies

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We write to you as a network of citizens' groups from all over the United Kingdom, who are working to re-build Britain's relationships with Europe and the rest of the world. We congratulate you on your resounding election victory and are both delighted and relieved at your election which heralds a new dawn for America.

We were very moved by your inaugural speeches and are aware of the many challenges you face in the years ahead. What particularly resonated for us here in the UK was your commitment to defending the truth and defeating the lies, your promise to uphold decency and dignity, to be a positive role model and make America a beacon to the world. We watched with admiration and longing as these are all the things we wish to see here in the UK. We are also delighted to see the first female Vice President and the championing of women and diversity in your administration.

In America, democracy has prevailed. You have given us hope at a dark time in our own history. Sadly, the Trump legacy lives on in Britain. We are facing at least three more years at the hands of a populist government who have taken their lead straight out of the Trump play book, with consequential damage to our economy and our democracy.

There are many links between Prime Minister Johnson and former President Trump. The Pro-Brexit referendum campaign in 2016, fronted by Johnson, promised the undeliverable and incited hate and fear of immigrants. This has frightening echoes of Trump with his Mexican wall and the politics of division and hate, divide and conquer. Brexit and Trumpism present a shared threat, where we are exposed to influence from Russia,¹ putting at risk 70 years of peace. And so, we found ourselves glued to our TV screens watching the American Election unfold, willing you on to victory. We watched with horror at the insurrection, but we were also filled with hope as we saw the rule of law swiftly upheld.

¹See the '*Russia*' report

<https://docs.google.com/a/independent.gov.uk/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=aW5kZXBlbmRlbnQuZ292LnVrfGlzY3xneD o1Y2RhMGEyN2Y3NjM0OWFI>

Your message of defending truth and defeating the lies is one that has strong relevance to our situation. We anticipate that the forthcoming trials and investigations will uncover the truth and that some of the trails will lead back here to Britain.

As British grassroots campaigners, we have always seen Brexit for what it is: a destructive force causing economic damage and social division, that will make us weaker and poorer, economically and culturally. Recent threats to the Northern Ireland Protocol illustrate the risks that Brexit poses to the Good Friday Agreement. The checks and balances that sustained our democracy are being systematically dismantled². Those in power shirk any attempt to hold them accountable, for example, over their disastrous handling of Coronavirus. They have used the pandemic to feather their own nests, secretly awarding PPE and Test, Track and Trace contracts to private companies owned by their friends and donors. Some of these companies were created overnight and placed in a fast-track lane to snap up government contracts that should have gone to established suppliers. It has been labelled cronyism, but it is a form of corruption, and it has cost lives because much of the PPE they were contracted to supply was either not delivered or was not fit for purpose. This catalogue of corruption is growing daily³ and the High Court has ruled that the Secretary of State acted unlawfully by failing to comply with transparency policy⁴.

We love our country dearly and are committed to rebuilding a constructive relationship with America and with Europe. We very much welcome the positive signals from your administration that Britain should have a closely aligned relationship with the European Union and that the security of Northern Ireland must be protected. Your administration is uniquely positioned to inspire the return of trust, human rights and rule of law at the heart of British government. We urge you to do all that you can to encourage this.

The hope expressed in your speech was beautifully echoed in the moving poem by Amanda Gorman. We wish that we too can find light in this never-ending shade and discover we are unfinished rather than broken. We too desire to be a country committed to all cultures, colours, characters and conditions of man. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all the hundreds of thousands of your citizens who have lost loved ones in the pandemic. We wish you strength and courage to face the many challenges ahead, and we stand in solidarity with the American people in their defence of the truth.

Sincerely,

Joanne Callaghan, Weaver Vale for Europe and Richard Wilson, Chair, Grassroots For Europe

Grassroots for Europe is a network of over 200 internationalist civil society groups in towns and cities around the UK, and British citizens abroad, who are working to rebuild Britain's relationships with Europe, the US and the rest of the world.

² See Financial Times David Allen Green Opinion: how the government wants to limit judicial review <https://www.ft.com/video/1b556897-c5a9-4392-bfcd-ea3b91e65f7d> and Byline Times Ruling by Decree Boris Johnson and Henry VIII Powers <https://bylinetimes.com/2020/06/16/ruling-by-decree-boris-johnson-and-his-henry-viii-powers/>

³ See The Guardian: Under Boris Johnson, corruption is taking hold in Britain <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/09/boris-johnson-britain-corruption-cronyism-checks-balances> and Byline Times <https://bylinetimes.com/2020/11/11/prime-minister-boris-johnson-confronted-about-the-great-procurement-scandal/> and <https://goodlawproject.org/issues/brexit-and-democracy/>

⁴ High Court of Justice, 18.02.21. Case number CO/3610/2020

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We Are For Europe

Weaver Vale For Europe

West London Grassroots for Europe

Whittlebury for Europe

Witney for Europe

Women4Europe

Wycombe for Europe

Y2EU (Yes To Europe)

Yes for EU

Yes to Europe (Bristol)

York for Europe