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We need collaboration to beat cancer

The UK's abandonment of its 0.7 per cent GDP international aid target is commonly recognised as a cruel cut made on the backs of the world's poorest people.

What few people realise is that development programmes are not just limited to hunger or drought. They are also about critical healthcare.

The increasing impact of climate change and military conflict – just this year in Sudan, Ukraine, and most recently in Israel and Gaza – leads inevitably to the degradation of care for already underserved populations of people with cancer.

In such countries, the impact of a cancer diagnosis is not only pain and misery for the patient – a death in one generation can cause catastrophic financial hardship for the next, as years of productive life and income are lost.

And the outcomes are stark. While eight in 10 children diagnosed with cancer here at home go on to live their lives, only one in five do so in lowincome countries.

All countries have something to teach us about how to tackle this challenge. The UK should engage more, not less, with the low and middleincome countries to advance our collective knowledge.

As cancer experts from across the world are gathering now for London Global Cancer Week we call on all governments in high-income countries to invest in cancer care beyond their own shores.

The global rise in cancer incidence calls for global cooperation and collaboration and the UK has a leading role to play.

Mark Lodge, *founder of London Global Cancer Week,*

Professor Sir Walter Bodmer, *head of the CRUK Cancer and Immunogenetics Laboratory at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford,*

Prof David Collingridge, *editor-in-chief, The Lancet Oncology / Publishing Director, The Lancet Group,*

Dr Jane Barrett OBE FRCP FRCR, *consultant oncologist, Cork University Hospital*,

Richard Sullivan FRCS PhD FFPM MC*, director, Institute of Cancer Policy / professor, Cancer & Global Health,*

Sarah Quinlan MBE, *director of Radiotherapy UK*,

Professor Pat Price*, Department of Surgery & Oncology, Imperial College London,*

Prof Annie Young*, co-founder of Global Power of Oncology Nursing (GPON),*

Prof Julia Downing, *chief executive International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN),*

Wil Ngwa, *chair, Lancet Oncology Commission on Cancer in subSaharan Africa and founding director Global Health Catalyst at Johns Hopkins and Harvard,*

Annie Young, *emerita professor of Nursing, Warwick Medical School,*

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Julia Downing, CEO, International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN)

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