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From: TFSR [mailto:tfsrjsy@jerseymail.co.uk]

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To: Scrutiny

Cc: Sam Power

Subject: From Tools for Self Reliance Jersey to Senator Perchard

Importance: High

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Dear Senator Perchard

Tools for Self Reliance Jersey

Thank you for asking us to offer our views about Jersey Overseas Aid.

Our group of volunteers here in Jersey are very supportive of how Jersey Overseas Aid Committee has been contributing to help overseas development. We are particularly grateful of the support that we have received from the Committee and its presidents, the present president, Jacqui Huet and the ex-senator Anne Baihlache.

We think it is important to point out that supporting grass roots organisations that operate on a small scale in very rural and remote locations deserves continued support and hopefully more funding. Supporting village blacksmiths and women's sewing groups in these remote villages helps to hold the village community together and to become self reliant. We feel in a wider picture that this is of great value in preventing the influx of village people to the main cities which are continually becoming overcrowded and poverty stricken slums.

We are also very happy to support the Overseas Aid work parties that Jersey is quite unique in continually sending. On a practical level we are always happy to supply them with our refurbished Jersey tools and it is of great sentimental value to us and to the people that donate the tools that old Jersey tools are being used again to fight poverty.

We are concerned that Jersey should contribute appropriately with its Overseas Aid budget to meet with current guidelines set out by the United Nations. We hope that this contribution can be increased thereby allowing Jersey to continue with its good work with Overseas Aid development.

Generally we feel that the Jersey public is very generous with supporting Overseas initiatives and it is difficult to quantify the time that local volunteers contribute to this aid but we do think that it is commendable.

Another issue which we have some difficulty with is that the local Finance Industry should be encouraged to contribute more financially and that any irregularities and unethical investments opportunities should be investigated and perhaps the Overseas Aid Committee can do more to highlight bad practices that affect the Third World. In simple words, giving with one hand and taking it back with the other.

As you may be aware most of our volunteers are senior citizens who give their time and practical experience in refurbishing old tools and we meet every Tuesday evening at the Drury Lane workshop and would like to invite you to come and visit.

Yours sincerely

Valeria Checchin
Tools For Self Reliance
Practical help to practical people in Africa