

*Nick Hurd MP, Charities Minister*

***Question: How do you see the role of charities in 2015 and beyond?***

I see a growing role for charities. I think we have the most successful not for profit sector in the world. I see a continuing role for delivering services to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the country. I see a very important role for campaigning and an independent voice for people speaking the truth to power, and I see a very important role for what charities and social enterprises do around the country to bring people together, to pull together networks of people; create the space where people can work together for the common good. The building what is called Social Capital which is enormously important.

***Question: What steps would you like to see Government take to support the sector?***

What I think is important over the next few years is that we work together to maintain the integrity of the charitable system. This is very important because the charity sector is trusted arguably more than any other sector of society in Britain at the moment. That is very important, that is very valuable, we cannot take it for granted, it needs to be managed, and therefore the role of a very rigorous regulator is very important. Secondly I think we need to work together to create more opportunities for the British public to make a difference with their time and their money, to build a culture of contribution. Thirdly we have a big role to do in government to make sure that we are more intelligent in the way that we commission services because we face a big challenge of meeting the public's demand for better public services when there will be less public money. That requires all of us to think differently about how we face the social challenges that this country faces. And the social economy, charities & social enterprises are going to be a very important part of that.