

**Beacon Collaborative Press Release**  
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**Major New Report on making the UK a Centre for Philanthropy published by**  
**Beacon Collaborative**

A major new report calls for the UK to seize an estimated £180 billion global opportunity to become the leading centre for international philanthropy and social investment.

It highlights an opening for the UK post-Brexit and at a time when Covid-19 is shining a spotlight on domestic and cross-border philanthropy.

Based on calculations which size the global market at USD250bn, equivalent to £182bn, the report makes nine recommendations for the UK Government, HMRC, the Charity Commission and civil society.

The report - The UK as a Centre of Excellence for International Philanthropists and Social Investors - is supported by City Bridge Trust (the City of London Corporation's charity funder) and EY, and is based on research and 40 interviews with experts, including international philanthropists, lawyers, accountants, wealth managers, regulators and policy officials.

The report shows the UK's strengths as a strategic base for global philanthropists and social investors, and examines how it can become even stronger. It takes a comparative look at five other centres (the US, Switzerland, Singapore, Jersey and the Netherlands).

It outlines nine areas for action to strengthen further the UK's position as a centre for philanthropy. These include:

- Amending the Finance Act 2010 to apply UK equivalency regime to charities beyond many European jurisdictions (this would enable overseas charities to enjoy the same tax advantages as UK domestic charities)
- Investing in the UK's Charity Commission and HMRC to support international philanthropists to set up a UK foundation and/ or donate money to UK charities.
- Appointing a "Philanthropy Commissioner" and an International Philanthropy and Social Investment Council.
- Investing more to promote the unique incentives of Gift Aid and Social Investment Tax Relief internationally.
- Considering how the Honours system might be used to encourage international philanthropy in the UK.

**Catherine McGuinness, Policy Chair at the City of London Corporation, said:**

“The UK is a global financial powerhouse and it is right that we should also aspire to be an internationally-recognised hub for philanthropy and social investment. Brexit and the pandemic present many challenges but also offer us an opportunity to take a fresh look at global philanthropy. We want to make sure the UK’s legal and regulatory frameworks make it as easy as possible for overseas investors to support projects which make a real, positive difference to society.”

**Keith MacDonald, Head of Wealth Management, EY, said:**

“The pandemic has challenged global philanthropy and social investment efforts, whilst highlighting important social and sustainability issues that need to be supported. The market is significant and growing, and there are real opportunities for the UK to lead the way, both domestically and internationally. Many of the components are already in place, and with a coordinated effort to build on these, the UK can become a global centre of excellence for philanthropists and social investors.”

**Cath Dovey, report author and Co-Founder of Beacon Collaborative, said:**

“There is an enormous opportunity for the UK to become a hub for wealthy individuals who want to support positive global change. Both Brexit and Covid-19 have caused challenges and uncertainty, but have also highlighted the importance of global collaboration to tackle global issues. We think that more overseas donors could be encouraged to set up foundations in the UK, supporting international needs as well as supporting UK charities and causes. The UK is a world-class financial and cultural centre, and in the future, can become the world-leading philanthropy centre.”

To coincide with the publication of the report, international philanthropists such as Reid Hoffman, James Chen, Romero Britto and Peter Samuelson have produced short videos talking about “Why I do Philanthropy in the UK” ([these can be viewed here](#)).

**ENDS**

Notes to Editors:

1. The Nine Recommendations in the Report are as follows:
  1. Amend the Finance Act 2010 and implement a UK equivalency regime.
  2. Amend accounting guidance to minimise complexity for international philanthropists.

3. Clarify guidance from the Charity Commission and HMRC for international philanthropists.
  4. Invest in the Charity Commission and HMRC to support international philanthropists.
  5. Invest in digital enablement as a backbone for future funding flows.
  6. Appoint a “Philanthropy Commissioner” and an International Philanthropy and Social Investment Council.
  7. Promote the UK as a place where “Philanthropy is Great” and “Social investment is Great.”
  8. Promote the unique incentives of Gift Aid and Social Investment Tax Relief internationally.
  9. Build genuine match funding partnerships between government and international philanthropists in areas of mutual interest.
2. [The Beacon Collaborative](#), formed in January 2018, is a movement encouraging more private assets to be used for public good. It aims to double the UK's giving. [City Bridge Trust](#), the City of London Corporation's charity funder, is London's biggest independent grant giver, making grants of over £25 million a year to tackle disadvantage across the capital.