Press release: Women and girls set to benefit from £15 million Tampon Tax Fund

Thousands of women from across the UK will benefit from £15 million from the latest round of the Tampon Tax Fund, the Minister for Sport and Civil Society Tracey Crouch announced today.

Projects that tackle sexual violence, address social exclusion among BAME women and improve mental health and wellbeing will receive funding over the next two years. The money will also be used to make grants to smaller organisations so they can deploy services that support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women and girls in the country.

Tracey Crouch, Minister for Sport and Civil Society, said:

The money generated from sanitary products is being invested in good causes that tackle the serious issues that women of all ages face. It will be used to support vulnerable women and girls and help build a Britain fit for the future.

The ten projects receiving funding from this round of the Tampon Tax are:

<u>UK Community Foundations</u> £3,400,000 — The Tribewoman project will support vulnerable and excluded women by making onward grants to smaller charities across the UK

<u>Arhag Housing Association</u> £1,040,000 — The BME Women Hub project will alleviate poverty and social exclusion among women in England

<u>Brook Young People</u> £1,500,000 — The 'Let's Talk. Period.' project will aim to address period poverty in England.

Rape Crisis England & Wales £1,400,000 — This digital transformation project is a new approach to tackling sexual violence delivered through member Rape Crisis Centres In England

<u>Women's Aid Federation of England</u> £1,509,850 — The 'Ask Me' project will improve the community response to domestic abuse across the UK and includes onward grants opportunities

<u>Hestia Housing and Support</u> £1,000,000 — The 'Tools for the Job' pilot project aims to transform the way that employers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland deal with domestic abuse, by improving their HR policies and delivering awareness raising for staff.

The RCJ & Islington Citizens Advice Bureaux £1,090,488 — The FLOWS project

will provide online-tools to improve the capacity of front-line domesticviolence agencies in England to provide legal support to women and children

<u>Mind</u> £1,785,554 — This project will increase the provision of mental health peer support for women experiencing, and at risk of, mental health problems and includes onward grant programme in England and Wales

<u>St. Giles Trust</u> £1,077,158 — The 'Footsteps' project aims to improve service provision to women in the Criminal Justice System in England with mental health and complex support needs

<u>One Parent Families Scotland</u> £1,049,590 — This Scotland only project will offer a free support and counselling service for the most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised women most in need.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1) Over 70 charities are already receiving grants through previous rounds of the fund, with a total of £32m of funding having been announced since Autumn Statement 2015. This latest funding brings the total investment awarded from the Tampon Tax Fund to £47m.
- 2) The government is committed to continuing the fund until EU rules allow a zero rate of VAT to be applied to women's sanitary products. A decision will be made on the future of the Fund once this has been achieved. Current EU laws prohibits any Member State from applying a new zero rate of VAT. We therefore currently apply the lowest rate we can to these products (5%).