

Population growth

Sir, In Hugo Rifkind's lighthearted look at the serious issue of global population growth ("More people doesn't have to mean more chaos", Aug 29) he says that politicians are wary of discussing population growth. The subject delves deeply into the political minefields of sex, ideology and religion, anyone of which makes a politician proceed with caution. Put all three together and they usually find something else to address. Hence the decision of David Cameron and Andrew Mitchell, his secretary of state at Dfid, to host the 2012 global family planning summit required a lot of political courage. That summit set a target to halve Africa's unmet demand for contraception by 2020. Led by Dfid and ably assisted by the Gates Foundation, good progress is being made to reach this target.

SIR RICHARD OTTAWAY

Chairman, foreign affairs select committee 2010-15

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