

Party manifestos

As the party manifestos have now been released, we have put together some of the key points from each party that may support discussions gathered from the election activity.

Conservatives

- We have made protecting women and girls from violence and supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence a key priority. We will now work with local authorities, the NHS and Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges and rape crisis centres. We will ensure that all publicly-funded.
- The next Conservative Government will scrap the Human Rights Act, and introduce a British Bill of Rights. This will break the formal link between British courts and the European Court of Human Rights, and make our own Supreme Court the ultimate arbiter of human rights matters in the UK.
- We aim to be number one in Europe and in the top five worldwide in the World Bank's Doing Business rankings by 2020 and to lead Europe in attracting foreign investment.
- We will continue this leadership. We will stand up for the freedom of people of all religions – and non-religious people – to practise their beliefs in peace and safety, for example by supporting persecuted Christians in the Middle East.
- We will strengthen the Commonwealth's focus on promoting democratic values and development. We will drive forward the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative.

Liberal Democrats

- In 2020 Britain will be a force for good in the world, leading global action against climate change, tax avoidance and international crime, working to prevent conflict and offer humanitarian aid, and promoting trade, development and prosperity.
- As a major global economy, we must promote open markets and free trade, both within the European Union and beyond.
- Protect the Human Rights Act and enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law. We will take appropriate action to comply with decisions of UK courts and the European Court of Human Rights.
- The UK has a proud record of playing a leading role in the European Union and in international institutions like the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth and should continue to do so, wherever possible promoting our values of freedom and opportunity for all.

- Use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to focus UK policy on conflict prevention. This will require a joint approach across the MOD, FCO, DFID and other departments, and we will continue to assess UK government actions for their impacts on conflict prevention and security.
- Remain fully engaged in international nuclear disarmament efforts.
- If the UK were to leave the EU, trade rules would be made without us, our voice would not be heard in climate change negotiations and our borders would be more vulnerable. There is no doubt the UK would be poorer and weaker if we walked away from our closest neighbours and most trusted allies and left the EU.
- Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK Gross National Income on overseas development, which the International Development Act 2015, introduced by a Liberal Democrat, now enshrines in law. We will adhere to the OECD's definition of what activities qualify.
- Develop a whole-government approach to development.
- Continue to promote private sector economic development, ensuring this benefits local people and small businesses not just multinational corporations. We will lead international action to ensure global companies pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, including tightening anti-tax haven rules and requiring large companies to publish their tax payments and profits for each country in which they operate.
- Maintain our commitment to spend 0.7% of UK Gross National Income on overseas development, which the International Development Act 2015, introduced by a Liberal Democrat, now enshrines in law. We will adhere to the OECD's definition of what activities qualify.
- Conduct a full Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Review to ensure that the Department for International Development continues to work in the right places and through the right channels.
- Continue building the resilience of poorer countries to resist future disasters, investing in healthcare and infrastructure and training emergency response volunteers, and respond generously to humanitarian crises wherever they may occur.
- Work to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals aim to:
 - Safeguard the sustainability of the planet.
 - Leave no one behind, helping the most vulnerable as well as improving average living standards. We will ensure people do not suffer discrimination or disadvantage because of gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic origin.
 - Eliminate absolute poverty by 2030.

- Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support public and private research and development into treatment for these and other deadly diseases and infections.
- Create a new civil society partnership scheme to build links between peoples in rich and poor countries, including partnerships between communities, trade unions or emergency services.
- Liberal Democrats have always been champions of liberty and human rights. No one can make the most of their lives if their basic freedoms are violated. As we've set out in our 2015 manifesto, we will protect the Human Rights Act and enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law. We will take appropriate action to comply with decisions of UK courts and the European Court of Human Rights.

Green party

- Address the issue of climate change. We need huge investment in using energy more efficiently and generating energy sustainably. This will not happen without public investment
- Make equality before the law a fundamental constitutional right. But this is only a reality if all can afford to use the law. We would restore the cuts to Legal Aid, costing around £700 million a year.
- A new, holistic and consistent approach to peace and defence, which is focused on genuine peacekeeping and respect for the sovereignty of peoples around the world.
- A fundamental restructuring of our global economy, with power held at the local and regional level and only passed upwards when international cooperation is necessary. We call this 'subsidiarity' – this principle is the basis of our approach to the European Union and other international organisations.
- Making UK foreign policy genuinely independent, based on the principles of shared responsibility, cooperative security and human rights.
- We support the proposal to have an in–out referendum so that the British people can have their say.
- Seek through our international policies to reduce war and discourage repressive regimes that lead to the creation of refugees.
- Make a global deal on climate change a priority of our foreign policy, and help poorer countries cope with the climate change.
- Promote policies in the EU that improve opportunities across the Union and refocus on social and environmental benefits, rather than economic liberalisation.
- Promote fair trade, in particular seeking to ensure that workers in poor countries receive decent pay and conditions within International Labour Organization (ILO) standards.

- Increase the overseas aid budget from 0.7% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP over the Parliament, costing around £6 billion a year in 2019. Aid will not be tied, and will be distributed in ways that are focused on poverty eradication, supporting grassroots initiatives, women's rights and environmental sustainability while respecting local priorities.
- Help poorer countries to fund climate change adaptation and build resilient communities through the UN Adaptation Fund. We recognise that the UK owes them a climate debt for our disproportionately high emissions and contributions to global pollution and climate damage.

UKIP

- Leave the EU and take back control of our borders.
- Scrap the 2008 Climate Change Act and the EU's Large Combustion Plant Directive.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to unacceptable 'cultural' practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Take back our vacant seat at the World Trade Organisation.
- Seek to establish free trade agreements across the globe.
- Negotiate a bespoke UK-EU trade deal.
- Join the ranks of over 60 prosperous, independent countries that have profitable, mutually beneficial trade relationships with the European Union.
- Put our faith in trading with our neighbours as a sovereign nation as the best way to avoid conflict.
- Encourage peace efforts in the Middle East and support a peaceful two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- Increase defence spending to 2% of GDP as required by our membership of NATO.
- Cut the overseas aid budget from 0.7% to 0.2% of GNI, on a par with the USA.

SNP

- It is essential that fundamental rights across Europe are protected, especially those of minority and disadvantaged groups. The SNP considers the EU charter of fundamental rights as a positive force for Scotland and Europe, and we will strongly defend the principles enshrined in the European convention on Human rights.
- We believe that the EU should be ambitious in driving forward initiatives on environmental protection and climate change, with the role of member states enhanced. There should be greater flexibility in target setting and coherence across policies. We are seeking structural reform of the Emissions Trading System and want to encourage EU

action on developing new technologies such as offshore wind, marine energy, carbon capture and storage, and energy storage in general.

- Our plans will see 130,000 jobs in the low carbon economy by 2020 and we will increase Scotland's renewable generation target to 100% by 2020 We will protect the Climate Challenge Fund supporting community-led initiatives as we work to meet our target of a 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Plaid Cymru

- We support the Human Rights Act and will work with international organisations to ensure that LGBT rights are understood and implemented on a global scale.
- Wales will provide humanitarian aid to the best of our ability whenever required and accept displaced persons and refugees where possible and appropriate. International agreements on arm sales must be strengthened to restrict access to deadly weapons, particularly those intended for civil repression, and we want arms trade promotions with despotic countries ended. We will ensure international cooperation to prevent modern slavery, female genital mutilation (FGM), cyber-crime and other serious cross-national crimes.

Labour

- We will continue to promote women's rights. We will join with those campaigning to attain gender equality, the eradication of poverty and inclusive economic growth.
- We will appoint a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom, and establish a multi-faith advisory council on religious freedom within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- We will appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT people, and work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide.
- We are proud that Labour MPs passed the historic law that commits Britain to spend 0.7 per cent of our gross national income on international development.
- We will work in fragile and conflict-affected states to improve the lives of those affected by violence, prioritising the protection and education of women and children. We will rebalance the budget to focus funding on the world's poorest countries.
- We will work with other countries at this year's Sustainable Development Goals Summit to unite the world to eradicate extreme poverty, tackle growing economic inequality, and place human rights at the heart of development.
- The effects of climate change hit the poor, the hardest. We will expand the role of the Department of International Development to mitigate the risks of a changing climate, and support sustainable livelihoods for the world's poorest people.

- Labour will never cut Britain off from the rest of the world. Our economy and our society benefit from the talent and investment of people who come here, including university students coming to study. But the system needs to be controlled and managed so that it is fair. We need to strengthen our social integration and ensure that migrants can play their part in British society.
- We will build alliances in Europe, promoting our country's interests and security, and standing up for human rights and social justice.
- We will work to reform the EU, and we will retain membership of it. The economic case for membership of the EU is overwhelming. Over 3 million jobs in the UK are linked to trade with the European Union, and almost half of our trade and foreign investment comes from the EU. Labour's priority in government will be protecting the NHS and tackling the cost-of-living crisis. It is not to take Britain out of Europe.
- We will protect our national interests, and strengthen our long-standing international alliances, in particular, our membership of NATO and the European Union. We will advance our international engagement, rather than retreating into isolation.
- We will continue to uphold our key alliances. These include the United States, our allies in Africa and Latin America, and our partners from across the Commonwealth. They include the EU.
- Most immediately we will work with our allies to counter and confront terrorism. A Labour Government would not propose the use of military force without judging whether reasonable diplomatic efforts have been exhausted. A long-term multinational political strategy, with regional actors playing a central role, is essential for tackling the rise of extremism across the region.