



**FOR THE  
MANY  
NOT THE  
FEW**



# **The Labour Party Manifesto Summary – 2017**

## **A message from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn**

"Every election is a choice. What makes this election different is that the choice is starker than ever before. You can choose more of the same: the rich getting richer, more children in poverty, our NHS failing and our schools and social care in crisis. Or you can vote for the party that has a plan to change all of this – The Labour Party.

"Let's build a country where we invest our wealth to give everyone the best chance. That means building the homes we need to rent and buy, keeping our communities safe with more police officers, giving our children's schools the funding they badly need, and restoring the NHS to its place as the envy of the world.

"Don't let the Conservatives hold Britain back.

"Let's build a Britain that works for the many, not the few"

## **1. Creating An Economy That Works For All**

**Labour's economic strategy is about delivering a fairer, more prosperous society for the many, not just the few.**

Our National Transformation Fund will deliver the investment that every part of Britain needs to meet its potential. Our industrial strategy will support businesses to create new, high- skilled, high-paid and secure work across the country.

Ours is a plan that will deliver Labour's vision of an economy that works for the many, not just the few.

## **A Fair Taxation System**

**Taxation is what underpins our shared prosperity. All of us, including business, benefit from a healthy, educated and skilled population and secure housing.**

We will close down tax loopholes and give HM Revenue and Customs the resources to clamp down hard on tax avoiders.

95% of taxpayers will be guaranteed no increase in their income tax contributions. Only the top 5% of earners will be asked to contribute more.

We will protect small businesses by reintroducing the lower small profits rate of corporation tax and exclude them from costly plans to introduce quarterly reporting whilst taking action on late payments.

## **Balancing The Books**

**Our manifesto is fully costed, with all current spending paid for out of taxation or redirected revenue streams. Our public services must rest on the foundation of sound finances. Labour will set the target of eliminating the government's deficit on day-to-day spending within five years.**

At the same time, Labour will invest in our future. To maintain good fiscal health, we will have a firm rule to guide all taxation and spending decisions. Our Fiscal Credibility Rule is based on the principle that government should not be borrowing for day-to-day spending, but that future growth depends on investment.

## **Upgrading Our Economy: Labour's Industrial Strategy**

**Our economy is suffering from years of neglect by governments that have refused to support our industries, businesses and workers. This wasted potential is holding us all back. Inequality has ballooned as the economy has shifted towards low-paid, insecure jobs.**

Britain's manufacturing base has declined and we have relied too heavily on the financial sector, centred on London and the South

East. Only a credible industrial strategy can reach this untapped potential and deliver prosperity to every corner of our country.

The first missions set by a Labour government will be to:

1. ensure that 60% of the UK's energy comes from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030
2. create an innovation nation with the highest proportion of high-skilled jobs

We will require firms supplying national or local government to meet the high standards we should expect of all businesses: paying their taxes, recognising trade unions, respecting workers' rights and equal opportunities, protecting the environment, providing training, and paying suppliers on time. We will expect suppliers to reduce boardroom pay excesses by moving towards a 20:1 gap between the highest and lowest paid.

## **Transforming Our Financial System**

**A decade after the devastating international financial crisis, our financial system is still holding back too many of our small businesses and local economies.**

We will establish a National Investment Bank with £250 billion worth of lending power. It will fill existing gaps in lending by private banks, particularly to small businesses, and by providing patient, long-term finance.

This new public institution will support a network of regional development banks that, will be dedicated to supporting inclusive growth in their communities.

Labour will overhaul the regulation of our financial system, putting in place a firm ringfence between investment and retail banking that will protect consumers. And we will extend existing Stamp Duty Reserve Tax, ensuring that the public gets a fairer share of financial system profits.

Labour will change the law so that banks can't close a branch where there is a clear local need, putting their customers first.

## **A New Deal For Business**

**The majority of businesses play by the rules: they pay their taxes and their workers reasonably and on time, and they operate with respect for the environment and local communities. That is why it is vital that government ensures that businesses doing the right thing are rewarded rather than undercut or outbid by those unscrupulous few that cut corners, whether on taxes, workers' conditions, environmental standards, or consumer safety and protection.**

By reforming the rules our companies operate under, we can make sure they stay focused on delivering shared wealth. Labour will amend company law so that directors owe a duty directly not only shareholders, but to employees, customers, the environment and the wider public.

Labour will amend the takeover regime to ensure that businesses identified as being 'systemically important' have a clear plan in place to protect workers and pensioners when a company is taken over.

Labour will also legislate to reduce pay inequality by introducing an Excessive Pay Levy on companies with staff on very high pay.

Our small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of our economy, providing 60 per cent of private-sector jobs. Technological changes, like the spread of digital manufacturing and rapid communication, mean smaller, faster businesses will be the future of our economy.

We will also bring forward legislation to create a proper legal definition for co-operative ownership. The National Investment Bank and regional development banks will aim to double the size of the co-operative sector in the UK.

## **Widening Ownership of Our Economy**

**Britain is a long-established democracy. But the distribution of ownership of the country's economy means that decisions about our economy are often made by a narrow elite. More democratic ownership structures would help our economy deliver for the many and lead to a fairer distribution of wealth.**

In government, Labour would give more people a stake – and a say – in our economy by doubling the size of the co-operative sector and introducing a "right to own," making employees the buyer of first refusal when the company they work for is up for sale. We will act to 'insource' our public and local council services as preferred providers.

We will:

- Bring private rail companies back into public ownership as their franchises expire.
- Regain control of energy supply and transition to a publicly owned, decentralised energy system.
- Replace our dysfunctional water system with a network of regional publicly-owned water companies.
- Reverse the privatisation of Royal Mail

## **Sustainable Energy**

Labour understands that many people don't have time to shop around, they just want reliable and affordable energy. So the next Labour Government will:

- Introduce an immediate emergency price cap to ensure that the average dual-fuel household energy bill remains below £1,000 per year, while we transition to a fairer system for bill payers.
- Take energy back into public ownership to deliver renewable energy, affordability for consumers, and democratic control.

Labour will insulate four million homes as an infrastructure priority to help those who suffer in cold homes each winter.

Homeowners will be offered interest-free loans to improve their property. For renters, Labour will re-establish the Landlord Energy Saving Allowance to encourage the uptake of efficiency measures.

Labour will ban fracking because it would lock us into an energy infrastructure based on fossil fuels. We are committed to renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons.

Nuclear will continue to be part of the UK energy supply. We will support further nuclear projects and protect nuclear workers' jobs and pensions.

A Labour government will put us back on track to meet the targets in the Climate Change Act and the Paris Agreement.

## **2. Negotiating Brexit**

**Labour accepts the referendum result will put the national interest first. We will prioritise jobs and living standards, build a close new relationship with the EU, protect workers' rights and environmental standards, provide certainty to EU nationals and give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.**

We will scrap the Conservatives' Brexit White Paper and replace it with fresh negotiating priorities emphasising the benefits of the Single Market and the Customs Union.

We will guarantee existing rights for all EU nationals living here and secure reciprocal rights for UK citizens living in the EU.

Labour recognises that leaving the EU with 'no deal' is the worst possible deal for Britain and will reject it as a viable option.

We will drop the Conservatives' Great Repeal Bill, replacing it with an EU Rights and Protections Bill to ensure no detrimental change to workers' rights, equality law, consumer rights or environmental protections.



We will introduce a 'presumption of devolution' where powers transferred from the EU will go straight to the relevant region or nation. We will ensure there is no immediate drop in EU Structural Funding.

Labour will ensure there is no return to a hard border with the Republic of Ireland and that there is no change in Gibraltar's status.

We will guarantee Parliament has a meaningful vote on the final deal.

## **Immigration**

**Labour offers fair rules and reasonable management of migration. In trade negotiations our priorities favour growth, jobs and prosperity. We make no apologies for putting these aims before bogus immigration targets.**

Freedom of movement will end after Brexit but Labour will not scapegoat migrants. We will end indefinite detentions and distinguish between migrant labour and family attachment. We will replace income thresholds with a prohibition on recourse to public funds.

We will take decisive actions to end the exploitation of migrant labour undercutting workers' pay and conditions.

For areas where immigration has placed a strain on public services we will reinstate the Migrant Impact Fund.

Refugees are not migrants. They have been forced from their homes, by war, famine or other disasters. We will uphold the proud British tradition of doing what is right and taking our fair share.

## **International Trade**

**Labour is pro-trade and pro-investment. The UK's future prosperity depends on minimising tariff and non-tariff barriers that prevent us from exporting and creating the jobs and economic growth we need.**

We will ensure that trade agreements cannot undermine human rights and labour standards, and that UK Export Finance support is not available to companies engaged in bribery or corruption.

We will work with other WTO members to end the dumping of state-subsidised goods, such as steel, on our markets.

Labour will champion the interests of SMEs, ensuring all new trade agreements include a commitment to support their needs.

We will create a network of regional trade and investment champions to promote export and investment interests.

## **3. Towards A National Education Service**

**Education is what empowers us all to realise our full potential. When it fails, it isn't just the individual that is held back, but all of us. When we invest in people to develop their skills and capabilities, we all benefit from a stronger economy and society.**

Labour will create a unified National Education Service (NES) for England to move towards cradle-to-grave learning that is free at the point of use.

## **Early Years**

**Currently, there is a gap between the end of maternity leave and the beginning of full-time schooling. This gap can make it difficult for parents, particularly women, to return to work, unless they have access to informal childcare support. There is also extensive evidence that early years education has a major impact on child development, and that time in a formal education setting for young children can improve performance at GCSE and beyond.**

Labour would transition to a system of high-quality childcare places with direct government subsidy with a qualified, graduate-led workforce, benefiting staff and improve child development, extend the 30 free hours to all two- year-olds and increasing funding for Sure Start.

## **Schools**

**Conservative cuts are starving schools of the funding they need to deliver a first class education. Crippling underfunding is driving up class sizes and forcing schools to cut corners. A narrow curriculum and a culture of assessment is driving away teachers, creating a recruitment and retention crisis.**

Labour will oppose any attempt to force schools to become academies.

Labour's schools policy will be built on the following four foundations:

Investment, quality, accountability and inclusion

To give all children the best start in life, we will reduce class sizes to less than 30 for all five-, six-, and seven- year-olds.

To aid attainment, we will introduce free school meals for all primary school children.

We will tackle the teacher recruitment and retention crisis by ending the public sector pay cap, giving teachers more direct involvement in the curriculum, and tackling rising workloads.

We will extend schools-based counselling to all schools to improve children's mental health.

And we will deliver a strategy for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and it more substantially into training for all staff.

## **Skills**

**At a time when technology is changing demand for different kinds of skills, and evolving patterns of work mean that people are more likely to pursue several careers during their working lives, it is crucial that our education system enables people to upskill and retrain over their lifetimes. As part of our dynamic industrial strategy, lifelong training will deliver productivity and growth to the whole economy while transforming the lives of individuals and communities.**

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Labour will introduce free education in Further Education (FE) colleges, enabling everyone to upskill or retrain at any point in life.

We will restore the Educational Maintenance Allowance for 16 to 18 year olds.

We will increase capital investment, equipping colleges to deliver T-levels and a pre-apprenticeship trainee programme.

## **Apprenticeships**

Employer-led training is the most effective way of meeting our growing skills gap.

Labour will:

- Maintain the apprenticeship levy and require the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to report annually to the Secretary of State on quality outcomes of apprenticeships
- Set a target to double the number of completed apprenticeships at NVQ level 3 by 2022

## **Higher Education**

Labour believes education should be free, and we will stop the average student graduating with £44,000 by scrapping fees. We will also reintroduce maintenance grants for university students.

## **4. A Fair Deal At Work**

**Work should provide people with security and fulfilment. But for too many people work is insecure and does not make ends meet.**

We will create a new Ministry of Labour to empower workers.

At the same time as strengthening workers' rights, we will make work more fulfilling by using public investment to create high-quality jobs.

### **Our 20 point plan for workers:**

1. Give all workers equal rights from day one
2. Ban zero hours contracts
3. Legislate to ensure that any employer wishing to recruit labour from abroad does not undercut workers at home
4. Repeal the Trade Union Act
5. Guarantee trade unions a right to access workplaces
6. Four new public holidays

7. Raise the Minimum Wage to the level of the Living Wage (expected to be at least £10 per hour by 2020)
8. End the Public Sector Pay Cap
9. Amend the takeover code to ensure every takeover proposal has a clear plan to protect workers and pensioners
10. Roll out maximum pay ratios of 20:1 in the public sector and in companies bidding for public contracts
11. Ban unpaid internships
12. Enforce all workers' rights to trade union representation at work
13. Abolish employment tribunal fees
14. Double paid paternity leave to four weeks and increase paternity pay
15. Strengthen protections for women against unfair redundancy
16. Hold a public inquiry into blacklisting
17. Give equalities reps statutory rights
18. Reinstate protection against third party harassment
19. Use public spending power to drive up standards, including only awarding public contracts to companies which recognise trade unions.
20. Introduce a civil enforcement system to ensure compliance with gender pay auditing

Stagnating incomes have forced many to take on more debt. Labour will introduce a version of Scotland's Debt Arrangement Scheme to give breathing space to households struggling with high debts.

## **Self-Employed Workers**

**Self-employment can bring many benefits, freedoms and flexibilities to people – and is a vital and often entrepreneurial sector of our economy.**

Labour will clamp down on bogus self-employment by:

- Shifting the burden of proof, so that the law assumes a worker is an employee unless the employer can prove otherwise.
- Imposing punitive fines on employers not meeting their responsibilities.
- Giving the Ministry of Labour the resources to enforce all workers' rights.
- Banning payroll companies, sometimes known as umbrella companies.
- Giving employment agencies and end-users joint responsibility for ensuring that the rights of agency workers are enforced.
- Rolling out sectoral collective bargaining.

We would also extend the rights of employees to all workers and set up a dedicated commission to modernise the law around employment status.

## **5. Social Security**

**After seven years of rising poverty and inequality, Labour will rebuild and transform our social security system. It is there for all of us in our time of need, providing security and dignity in retirement and the basics in life should we become sick or disabled, or fall on hard times.**

### **Dignity For Pensioners**

Labour will ensure security and dignity for older people in retirement.

Labour will guarantee the state pension 'triple lock' and ensure its rise by at least 2.5% a year or keep pace with inflation or earnings, whichever is higher.

The Winter Fuel Allowance and free bus passes will also be guaranteed as universal benefits.

Over 2.5 million women born in the 1950s have had their state pension age changed without fair notification. We are exploring options, to ensure that all these women have security and dignity in older age.

Labour will commission a new review of the pension age, specifically tasked with developing a flexible retirement policy to reflect both the contributions made by people, the wide variations in life expectancy, and the arduous conditions of some work.

## **Dignity For Those Who Cannot Work**

Labour will act immediately to end the worst excesses of the Conservative's punitive cuts. We will:

- Scrap the punitive sanctions regime
- Scrap the Bedroom Tax
- Reinstate Housing Benefit for under-21s
- Scrap cuts to Bereavement Support Payment.

The cuts to work allowances in Universal Credit (UC), and the decision to limit tax credit and UC payments to the first two children in a family, are an attack on low-income families and will increase child poverty. Labour will reform and redesign UC, ending six-week delays in payment and the 'rape clause'.

With nearly four million children currently living in poverty, the majority in working families, we will tackle child poverty. Labour will repeal the following cuts in social security support to people with disabilities. We will:

- Increase Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) by £30 per week for those in the work-related activity group, and repeal cuts in the UC limited capacity for work element.
- Increase Carer's Allowance by £11 to the level of Jobseekers' Allowance.



- Implement the court decision on Personal Independence Payment (PIP) so that there is real parity of esteem between those with physical and mental health conditions.
- Scrap the Work Capability and Personal Independence Payment assessments and replace them with a personalised, holistic assessments.

## **6. Secure Homes For All**

**Home is at the heart of all of our lives. It's the foundation on which we raise our families, the bedrock for our dreams and aspirations. But for too many people, the housing pressures they face are getting worse not better. Britain has a housing crisis – a crisis of supply and a crisis of affordability.**

Labour will build at least 100,000 council and housing association homes a year for genuinely affordable rent or sale.

We will establish a new Department for Housing to:

- 1. Make the building of new homes, including council homes, a priority through our National Transformation Fund.
- 2. Insulate new homes to help people manage the cost of energy bills.
- 3. Address the need for older people's housing.
- 4. End rough sleeping, starting by making available 4,000 additional homes.

### **Home Ownership**

**The number of home-owning households has fallen by 900,000 for the under-45s since 2010.**

Labour will build thousands more low-cost homes reserved for first-time buyers.

We will also give local people buying their first home 'first dibs' on new builds.

A Labour government will give leaseholders security from rip-off ground rents and end the routine use of leasehold.

## **Private Renters**

**We will end insecurity for private renters by introducing controls on rent rises, more secure tenancies, landlord licensing and new consumer rights for renters.**

Labour will make new three-year tenancies the norm, with an inflation cap on rent rises.

We will legislate to ban letting agency fees for tenants, empower tenants to call time on bad landlords by giving renters new consumer rights, and reinstate housing benefit for 18 to 21-year-olds.

## **Council And Social Tenants**

**Under the Conservatives, affordable housebuilding has fallen to a 24-year low. Labour will build the genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy that the country needs.**

We will give council tenants security in their homes.

Labour will scrap the punitive bedroom tax.

Labour will suspend the right-to-buy policy to protect affordable homes.

## **7. Healthcare For All**

### **NHS**

**In the aftermath of war and national bankruptcy, it was a Labour government that found the resources to create a National Health Service – providing universal healthcare for all on the basis of need, free at the point of use.**

By guaranteeing access to treatment within 18 weeks, we will take one million people off NHS waiting lists.

We will guarantee that patients can be seen in A&E within four hours and we will end mixed-sex wards. We will deliver the Cancer Strategy for England in full by 2020, helping 2.5 million people living with cancer. And we will end the scandal of slowing ambulance-response times.

We will increase funding to GP services and review provision to ensure all patients have access to pharmacy services.

Labour will fund free parking in NHS England.

## **Public Health**

We will take action to significantly reduce infant deaths and to ensure all families who lose a baby receive appropriate bereavement support.

Labour will invest in children's health and fight health inequalities to break the scandalous link between child ill-health and poverty. Labour will increase the number of health visitors and school nurses.

## **NHS Funding**

Labour will commit to over £30 billion in extra funding over the next Parliament through increasing income tax for the highest 5 per cent of earners.

Labour will halt and review the NHS 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans', which are looking at closing health services across England.

The next Labour government will reverse privatisation of our NHS and return our health service to expert public control.

We will introduce a new legal duty to ensure that excess private profits are not made out of the NHS at the expense of patient care.

Labour will legislate to ensure safe staffing levels, scrap the NHS pay cap, and give our NHS workers the pay they deserve.

## **Towards A National Care Service**

**Our social care sector is in crisis, with severe consequences for the quality of care, public finances, personal assets, pressures on unpaid carers of family and friends, and delays to discharging patients from hospitals.**

Labour will lay the foundations of a National Care Service for England and increase the social care budgets by a further £8 billion over the next Parliament

Labour will also increase the Carer's Allowance for unpaid full-time carers.

## **Mental Health**

**Mental ill-health is the biggest unaddressed health challenge of our age. Around one in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year.**

In order to protect services, we will ringfence mental health budgets.

Labour will invest in early intervention and ensure that access to a counselling service is available for all secondary schools children.

## **8. Safer Communities**

### **Police And Crime**

**Last year, there were an estimated 6.1 million incidents of crime experienced by adults in England and Wales. Almost every police force in the country recorded an increase in crime, with worrying rises in some of the most violent offences, including gun and knife crime and homicide.**

Police numbers have been cut by 20,000. Cuts to the police force endanger communities and endanger police officers too.

Labour will recruit 10,000 more police officers – equivalent to at least one more for every neighbourhood in the country.

The level of violence against women and girls is not acceptable. Labour will appoint a commissioner to set new standards for tackling domestic and sexual violence. We will establish a National Refuge Fund and ensure stability for rape crisis centres.

### **Security and counter-terrorism**

We will always provide our security agencies with the resources and the powers they need to protect our country and keep us all safe. We will also ensure that such powers do not weaken civil liberties.

### **Border Security**

**Border security is vital in preventing serious crimes including child abduction, people trafficking, smuggling of drugs and guns, terrorism and modern day slavery.**

Labour will recruit 500 more border guards to add to our safeguards.

### **Fire And Rescue Services**

**Labour will halt cuts to the Fire Service. The Conservatives have cut 10,000 firefighter jobs and closed dozens of fire stations. As a result, response times have got slower and lives have been put at risk.**

Labour will recruit 3,000 new firefighters.

## **Justice**

**We all need access to the justice system to protect us from those who would deny us our rights. Labour will make Britain a fair society with liberties for all, governed by the rule of law, and in which the law is enforced equally.**

The Conservatives threaten our Human Rights Act and the European Convention of Human Rights. Labour will retain the Human Rights Act.

We will open inquiries into Orgreave and blacklisting. We will release all papers relating to the Shrewsbury 24 trials and the 37 Cammell Laird shipyard workers.

Labour will consider the reinstatement of legal aid entitlements.

## **Prisons And Probation Service**

**Labour is tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, but we won't make the lives of workers in the criminal justice system tougher. Prison officers, probation officers and other workers need the resources to do their jobs safely, effectively and successfully.**

Our prisons are overcrowded. Staffing levels are too low. Violence against prison officers is rising. Prison escapes cause distress to people living near prisons.

A Labour government will publish annual reports on prisoner-staff ratios. We will recruit 3,000 more prison officers.

Prison should always be a last resort. It should never be a substitute for failing mental health services, or the withdrawal of funding from drug treatment centres.

## 9. Leading Richer Lives

### Local Communities

**Councils deliver vital local services to our communities, but their budgets have been slashed by Conservative cuts. This has led to a deterioration of local services, from bin collection to road repair, and the loss of important community assets such as libraries, youth centres and women's refuges.**

Labour believes in devolving power to local communities but that requires the necessary funding follows.

A Labour government will give local government extra funding next year. We will initiate a review into reforming council tax and business rates and consider new options such as a land value tax, to ensure local government funding for the long term.

Labour will fund child burial fees for bereaved parents, ensuring that they are scrapped in all council areas.

We will ensure libraries are preserved for future generations and updated with wi-fi and computers to meet modern needs.

We will reduce the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2.

Rural infrastructure and industry has been neglected. Labour will invest in broadband, housing and transport to create jobs and ensure that the nation's prosperity is felt beyond our large towns and cities.

### Transport

**Labour will invest in a modern, integrated, accessible and sustainable transport system that is reliable and affordable.**

Our transport systems illustrate the abject failure of Tory policies: relentless deregulation, privatisation and fragmentation.

On our railways, we pay some of the highest fares in Europe for increasingly unreliable and overcrowded services.

Labour will prioritise public service over private profit. We will start by bringing our railways back into public ownership, as franchises expire.

In public ownership, we will deliver real improvements for passengers by capping fares, introducing free wi-fi across the network, ensuring safe staffing levels, ending the expansion of driver only operations, and introducing legal duties to improve accessibility for people with disabilities.

Across the country we will enable councils to provide first-class bus services by extending the powers to re-regulate local bus services, and support the creation of municipal bus companies that are publicly run for passengers not profit.

A Labour government will invest, so that every area gets its fair share of transport investment.

We will invite the National Infrastructure Commission to recommend the next stages for upgrading the National Cycle Network.

We will continue to upgrade our highways and improve roadworks at known bottlenecks.

## **Environment**

**Investing in our environment is investing in our future. We will defend and extend existing environmental protections. We will champion sustainable farming, food and fishing by investing in and promoting skills, technology, market access and innovation.**

The Conservatives broke their promise to be the greenest government ever. They have allowed fracking in national parks, evaded their responsibilities on air quality and cut the funding for flood defences. Labour will introduce a new Clean Air Act to deal



with the Conservative legacy of illegal air quality. We will safeguard habitats and species in the 'blue belts' of the seas and oceans.

We will protect our bees by prohibiting neonicotinoids. We will work with farmers and foresters to plant a million trees of native species to promote biodiversity and better flood management.

## **Animal Welfare**

**Animals in our food chain need welfare standards. Domestic animals require stronger protection from cruelty. Wild animals need a sustainable ecosystem.**

Labour ended fox hunting, deer hunting and hare coursing. Only a Labour government will maintain the bans.

## **Culture For All**

**Britain's creative industries are the envy of the world, a source of national pride, a driver of inward investment and tourism, and a symbol of the kind of country we are now and aspire to be in the future. As Britain leaves the EU, we will put our world-class creative sector at the heart of our negotiations and future industrial strategy. We need to do more to open up the arts and creative industries to everyone.**

We will introduce a £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund to upgrade our existing cultural and creative infrastructure to be ready for the digital age.

Labour will end cuts to local authority budgets to support the provision of libraries, museums and galleries.

Labour will introduce an arts pupil premium to every primary school in England – a £160 million annual per year boost for schools to invest in projects that will support cultural activities.

Labour will ensure that tech companies are obliged to take measures that further protect children and tackle online abuse. We will ensure that young people understand and are able to easily

remove any content they shared on the internet before they turned 18.

## **Media**

**The BBC is a national asset which we should all be proud of. Unlike the Conservatives, Labour will always support it and uphold its independence.**

We are concerned about closures of local media outlets and the reductions in number of local journalists. Labour will hold a national review local media and into the ownership of national media to ensure plurality.

## **Sport**

**Sport must be run in the interests of those who participate in it and love it, not just for a privileged few. We will give football supporters the opportunity to have a greater say in how their clubs are run. We will legislate for accredited supporters trusts to be able to appoint and remove at least two club directors and to purchase shares when clubs change hands.**

We will push sports authorities to make rapid improvements on access provision for fans with disabilities.

## **10. Extending Democracy**

**As we change our constitutional relationship with Europe, we must also adjust our own arrangements. Just as many felt that power was too centralised and unaccountable in Brussels, so many feel that about Westminster.**

That's why we'll establish a Constitutional Convention to advise on extending democracy both locally and nationally.

Labour will:

1. Work towards an elected chamber to replace the House of Lords
2. Reduce the voting age to 16

3. Repeal the Lobbying Act
4. Extend the Freedom of Information Act to private companies running public services
5. Create a Minister for England and restore English Regional Offices to increase contact between local and central government.
6. Build on the Development Bank of Wales using more than £10 billion from Labour's new National Investment Bank.
7. Oppose another Scottish independence referendum which is unwanted and unnecessary.

In Northern Ireland, we will continue to fully support the principles and structures of the Good Friday Agreement and remain committed to working with all sides to deliver peace and prosperity.

## **11. A More Equal Society**

**The Labour Party is the party of equality and seeks to build a society and world free from all forms of racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Labour has a strong record on progressing women's rights and freedoms.**

Labour will enhance the powers of the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure it can support people to challenge any discrimination.

### **Women**

**The advances for women in Britain and around the world have been fought and won by determined women working together for real change, often in the face of resistance and even abuse.**

Ours will be a government for women, with a cabinet of at least 50 per cent women.

A Labour government will gender audit all policy and legislation for its impact on women.

Labour will continue to ensure a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion – and we will work with the Assembly to extend that right to women in Northern Ireland.

Labour will appoint a new commissioner to enforce minimum standards in tackling domestic and sexual violence.

## **LGBT Equality**

**Labour has a proud record of championing the fight for LGBT equality. However, there is still a long way to go on issues such as education, equal access to public services, levels of LGBT hate crime, and mental and physical wellbeing.**

A Labour government will reform the Gender Recognition Act and the Equality Act 2010 to ensure they protect Trans people.

Labour will bring the law on LGBT hate crimes into line with other hate crimes, by making them aggravated offences. And we will ensure that the new guidance for relationships and sex education is LGBT inclusive.

## **Diverse Communities**

**Now more than ever, we need to celebrate the profound and enriching transformation brought by the diversity of people in this country, with all their different experiences, talents and contributions.**

The Labour Party is the party of equality. We seek to build a society free from all forms of racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

We will end racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Black and Asian workers still suffer a massive pay gap. By introducing equal pay audit requirements on large employers, Labour will close this pay gap.

## **People With Disabilities**

**Over the last seven years people with disabilities have been failed by the Conservative government.**

Last year the UN published a report concluding that the Conservative government had committed "grave, systematic violations of the rights of persons with disabilities". The next Labour government will sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into UK law.

In addition Labour will legislate to make terminal illness a protected characteristic under the Equality Act and make British Sign Language a recognised language.

## **12. A Global Britain**

**Labour will take all necessary measures to protect the security of our citizens and country. We will put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, commit to working through the UN, end support for unilateral aggressive wars of intervention and back effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis.**

### **Diplomacy**

**We are deeply ambitious for our country's future and will draw on our international networks to make Britain a champion of multilateral engagement.**

We will invest in the UK's diplomatic services.

Labour will work tirelessly to end the conflict in Syria and get the diplomatic process back on track and investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of war crimes.

Labour is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution of Israel and Palestine.

We will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront the evil of Daesh.

We will reclaim Britain's leading role in tackling climate change, working hard to preserve the Paris Agreement and deliver on international commitments to reduce emissions.

We will appoint dedicated global ambassadors for women's rights, LGBT rights and religious freedom to fight discrimination and promote equality globally.

We believe that strong export controls have a vital role to play in sustaining a legitimate trade in arms.

We will immediately suspend any further arms sales for use in the conflict until that investigation is concluded.

## **Defence**

**The primary duty of any government is to protect and defend its citizens. We will order a complete strategic defence and security review when it comes into office, to assess the emerging threats facing Britain, including hybrid and cyber warfare.**

Labour's commitment to spending at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence will guarantee that our Armed Forces have the necessary capabilities to fulfil the full range of obligations.

Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. As a nuclear-armed power, our country has a responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Labour will lead multilateral efforts to create a nuclear-free world.

We have a duty to properly reward our Armed Forces and we will drive up standards in Service Accommodation, and take action where private companies have failed to deliver.

We will also roll out a Homes Fit for Heroes programme that will insulate the homes of disabled veterans for free.

## **Development**

**Labour has a proud record on international development. We will continue to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income based on the principles of redistribution, social justice, women's rights and poverty reduction.**

We will meet our international obligations on the refugee crisis.

Labour will act decisively on tax havens by introducing a public register of owners, directors, major shareholders and beneficial owners for all companies and trusts.



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