

Green Party calls for lawyer MPs who break rule of law to be suspended from professional bodies



23 June 2022

The Green Party has called for legally trained politicians who vote for legislation which disregards the rule of law to be suspended from the Law Society and the Bar Council.

Co-leaders Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay have written to the two legal professional bodies asking them to consider whether voting for legislation that breaks international treaties would constitute serious professional misconduct and could therefore lead to being suspended [1].

The letter comes as in the wake of the EU launching legal action against the UK to stop Boris Johnson from unilaterally rewriting the post-Brexit arrangements for Northern Ireland [2], and Government plans to override the power of Europe's human rights court and abolish the Human Rights Act – moves described by Stephanie Boyce, the president of the Law Society, as “deepening the government's disregard for the checks and balances that underpin the rule of law” [3].

Carla Denyer said:

“We have learned from history that the slippery slope towards despotism begins with small steps and that institutions outside the political realm can save the rule of law when they step up to defend them.

“This government clearly already shares features of authoritarian regimes in that it believes it can act with impunity and is above the law. From partying in lockdown to trying to rip up international treaties it has itself signed, this government does not feel constrained by the rule of law.

“As so many MPs are qualified barristers and solicitors, we believe the Law Society and the Bar Council both have a particular duty to set out clearly what professional standards are expected of these politicians and to consider suspending any that vote for legislation which breaks international treaties.

“Legally qualified politicians can not be allowed to use their status as a veneer of respectability to their political machinations while at the same time so willingly undermining the rule of law.”

In the letter, the co-leaders point to a series of actions by the government which have undermined the rule of law including:

- The politicisation of the role of Attorney General, who has repeatedly

expressed political support masquerading as legal advice

- The significant diminution of the role of Lord Chancellor, and a failure of successive office holders to stand up for the independence of the judiciary and to defend the judiciary against political attack from government ministers
- Overseeing a raft of constitutionally dubious legislation, including the so-called “Bill of Rights”, the Internal Markets Bill, and the proposed legislation designed to violate the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Adrian Ramsay said:

“We know that non-political institutions can play a key role when democratic values come under threat.

“We welcome the way that the Archbishop of Canterbury has criticised the Rwanda policy and the action by the legal bodies to defend their members against government attacks [3].

“We are now asking them to go a step further and challenge legislators who are undermining the rule of law while themselves members of the legal profession.”

Notes

1. See the [full version of the letter to the Bar Council](#). Letter to the Law Society is identical.
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/15/brexit-eu-plans-carrot-and-stick-approach-to-uk-northern-ireland-move>
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/jun/21/uks-new-bill-of-rights-will-curtail-power-of-european-human-rights-court>
4. <https://twitter.com/thelawsociety/status/1536739630623641600?s=21&t=iJx49j2ydR7Gcc-4xNpfsQ>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

Cost of living crisis is actually an income crisis and inequality scandal, say Greens



17 June 2022

- **Increase minimum wage, ensure public sector wages keep pace with inflation and start restoring real wage losses from years of austerity**
- **Restore the £20 uplift to Universal Credit and double it to £40 per week**
- **Increase tax on the wealthiest to tackle rising inequality and support those on lowest incomes**

As Green Party members join this weekend's TUC Cost of Living march [1], the Party is calling for the government to increase the minimum wage, ensure public sector wages keep pace with inflation, and start restoring the real-terms wage losses from years of austerity. Last year the Green Party was the only major party to support the #NHSPay15 campaign – a 15% pay rise for all NHS workers [2].

The party is also calling for a restoration of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit and doubling it to £40 a week, with equivalent increases for those on legacy benefits. They say measures to support those on the lowest incomes should be paid for through higher income taxes on the wealthy.

Greens point to increasing inequality during the Covid pandemic, and say genuine levelling up must involve a redistribution of wealth and a boost to incomes of the poorest.

Green Party co-leader, Carla Denyer said:

“As Greens we fully support the TUC’s call for an increase in wages, with public sector increases being funded by the Treasury. The cost of living crisis is actually an income crisis. It is vital that wages keep pace with inflation this year. We also need to see a reversing of the real-term wage losses that took place during the Tories’ era of austerity.

“The situation facing those who claim benefits is even more serious – whether or not claimants are in work. This is why Greens have long called for restoring the £20 Covid uplift to Universal Credit and doubling it to £40 per week, with equivalent increases for those on legacy benefits.

“We are also witnessing an inequality scandal in the UK. During the Covid pandemic, the richest 10% of households enjoyed an estimated increase in wealth of £50,000 each on average [3], dramatically widening the gap between the richest and poorest households. We need to raise taxes on the highest incomes to redress this imbalance and fund support for those on the lowest incomes.”

Notes

1. TUC “We Demand Better march on the cost of living” is on Saturday 18th June: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/DemandBetter>
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/03/06/green-party-supports-calls-for-15-pay-rise-for-nhs-workers/>
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/jul/12/uk-wealth-gap-widens-in-pandemic-as-richest-get-50000-windfall>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Not In Our Name – Greens slam ‘abhorrent’ Rwanda plan, calling for safe routes not deportation routes](#)



14 June 2022

Responding to the imminent deportation flight of asylum seekers to Rwanda under the government’s asylum policy, Adrian Ramsay, co-leader of the Green party, said:

“The government’s plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda today is utterly abhorrent and has been widely condemned, from the UN and human rights lawyers to bishops and campaign groups. As Greens we join the chorus crying, Not in Our Name, and call for a humane policy of official and safe routes for refugees to come to this country and claim asylum.

“The strong public opposition to this policy and determined efforts of lawyers to fight deportations on a case-by-case basis reveals that at heart the UK is a compassionate country.

“Greens fully support all efforts to try and prevent the wheels leaving the tarmac tonight – a plane that could end up flying a handful of asylum seekers 4,500 miles away, which makes no economic or environmental sense.

“In 2021 The government spent £11m on deportation flights [1]. This money should be spent instead on supporting thousands of refugees fleeing war, poverty and oppression. We need to open safe routes instead of deportation routes.”

Notes

[1]

<https://www.bigissue.com/news/politics/exclusive-the-uk-government-spent-over-11m-on-deportation-charter-flights-in-2021/>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Green Party condemns Brexit legislation as turning UK into pariah state](#)



13 June 2022

- **Challenges Johnson's suggestion that this is 'not a big deal'**

Responding to the expected publication of legislation to breach the Northern Ireland protocol the UK government signed up to [1], Molly Scott Cato, Green Party finance and economy spokesperson and former MEP, said:

“By publishing legislation to break their own agreement the UK government is showing itself to be an untrustworthy partner as well as undermining peace in Northern Ireland. They are also demonstrating that the claim during the 2019 election that they would ‘Get Brexit Done’ is a lie.

“Boris Johnson's claim that breaking an international treaty he himself signed up to is ‘no big deal’ [2] demonstrates the deceitfulness of a Prime Minister who has lost the support of 40% of his own MPs. His authority to negotiate on behalf of this country is fatally undermined.

“There is a simple alternative available to the government – to negotiate with our European partners to agree a veterinary agreement and to rejoin the customs union. This would remove the need for most of the checks on goods moving between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Instead, the Tories have chosen to sow division, provoke conflict with our closest neighbours and turn the UK into a pariah state.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-61779169>

2

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/bureaucratic-simplification-uks-johnson-defends-nireland-law-2022-06-13/>

[Back to main news page](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Not a Food Strategy at all – it’s junk, says Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay](#)



Commenting on the government’s Food Strategy for England [1], which is launched today, co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay, responded:

“This is not really a strategy at all – it’s junk. The failure to expand free and nutritional school meals or intervene to challenge fast and highly processed food will leave millions of children living in poverty, undernourished and in poor health.

“A genuine strategy would offer something new on the menu – it would look to transform our food and farming sector to tackle the cost of living crisis, improve public health and address the climate and ecological emergency. Instead, we’ve been dished up leftovers from an era that serves Tory paymasters, especially large scale farmers and the processed food industry.

“Up to a third of our carbon emissions are related to the food supply chain while chemical reliant farming has played a significant part in the loss of two-thirds of our wildlife over the last 50 years.

“England and Wales have fantastic examples of regenerative and organic farming methods in action, supplying healthy and sustainable food while capturing carbon in the soil and improving biodiversity. These are the approaches that the government needs to look to in shaping a healthy, resilient and greener food and farming sector.”

Notes

[1] [Food strategy criticised by government’s own adviser – BBC News](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)