

# Amelia Womack warns policing bill would “entrench discrimination” against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities



23 October 2021

- **Amelia Womack says proposed bill is one of the most serious threats to human rights in recent history**
- **Green Party deputy leader tells conference in Birmingham that bill would effectively criminalise group’s way of life**
- **Womack: “It’s down to all of us to stand with a community that has been pushed to the margins, and whose very existence is under threat”**

Green Party deputy leader Amelia Womack sharply criticised the Government’s proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill in her speech to conference today [Saturday 23 October], saying it amounts to state-sanctioned persecution of a protected minority group.

Womack described how Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) people have faced decades of prejudice and said the policing Bill would criminalise their way of life. Extending police powers under the criminalisation of trespass, as the Government intends to, will mean GRT people will face having their homes seized simply for living in them, Womack said.

Addressing party members in Birmingham, Womack said:

“The policing bill currently going through parliament is one of the most serious threats to human rights and civil liberties in recent history. The sweeping new powers in this bill would lead to the harassment of young people, especially black and working class people, and would put vulnerable young women at risk of violence.

“If passed, the bill would also entrench discrimination against gypsy, roma and traveller communities even further. This group have had their rights systematically stripped away for decades – and this new bill would effectively criminalise their way of life.”

In the last two years the Court of Appeal and the European Court of Human Rights have separately made rulings which indicate that criminalising the act of trespass would amount to “a potential breach of both the Convention and the Equality Act”, if the government did not provide more legal sites.[1]

Womack told conference:

“Making trespass a criminal offence and giving police even more powers to seize property is essentially a rubber stamp for discrimination against this

group. Making an element of their culture into a crime.

“Decades of prejudice against GRT people have allowed this creeping criminalisation to take place – and let’s be clear: this bill represents nothing less than state sanctioned persecution of a protected minority group.

“It’s down to all of us to stand with a community that has been pushed to the margins, and whose very existence is under threat. We must continue to fight the police, crime, sentencing and courts bill all the way – in the House of Lords and in the Commons – and on the streets.”

ENDS

## Notes

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<https://www.politicshome.com/thehouse/article/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-groups-fear-new-government-measures-could-harm-their-nomadic-way-of-life>

[Back to main news page](#)

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## [Dzaier Neil Greens of Colour speech Autumn Conference 2021](#)



22 October 2021

I’m really pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you today.

For many of us it wasn’t an easy decision to come here in person but to see so many of my Green Party colleagues here in Birmingham is a real pleasure.

I was asked to deliver this speech in my capacity as a member of Greens of Colour – a group where I hold the position of Disability Officer.

But that isn’t my only role in the Green Party.

I am also convenor of the disability group and I was elected earlier in the year to the role of Equalities and Diversity coordinator on our executive. A role I share with my friend and colleague Rashid Nix.

And I’m giving you that list of roles because it represents a lot of what I want to talk to you about today.

Seeing us all as the beautifully complex multifaceted people that we are is what this party needs to help us engage, appeal, maintain and get a truly diverse group of people elected and running this country.

And I believe that we CAN do this.

So let me introduce myself properly for those that may not have heard my sometimes loud – and sometimes contentious voice – before.

I'm Dzaier Neil. A woman of African heritage – Algeria to be specific – a person of colour, disabled, paralympian, activist, passionate about bringing about social justice and climate action.

For me, none of those things can be – or should be – addressed as stand alone.

Intersectionality is a word that gets thrown around a lot and it can seem niche or abstract. But what it means is incredibly important.

That we are more than the sum of our parts.

That we are more complicated and more important than any label.

That the way we experience life is different depending on all of the elements of who we are.

I am a person of colour and a woman and I have a disability. So my experience of the world and of discrimination in the world is different to many other people even if they are of colour or women or disabled.

The reality as human beings is that we shouldn't be reduced to tick boxes.

I believe that the Green Party can and should be a champion for those who suffer discrimination for whatever reason.

That we have a responsibility to live up to our ideals of doing politics differently.

I sometimes ruffle feathers in my roles – because I don't hold back.

But it's because I know that we can be to all those people out there who feel disenfranchised, who feel they are overlooked, who are put into boxes to be ticked – a place of belonging and understanding but also a place of practical action that show them – not just tell them – that they are valued.

I hold this party to a high standard because I know we can reach it.

I believe we are at a crucial moment for our future.

We are pushing at an open door, not only because the realisation that the climate emergency is now at our door is widespread – but also because so many people have found themselves without a political home in our unjust society.

But just as we can't treat the attributes of individuals as if they are not

connected – we must help people move away from the idea that social and climate justice are not connected.

To transform our society into the one we want to live in, the one that thrives and provides for people in a way that is fair and decent – we have to tackle these crises hand in hand.

Because the situation in our society is a crisis.

Take social care.

We have a government unwilling to address the fact that the system is thoroughly broken.

That millions of people in this country are being left without the basic support they need – and that scenario is only going to get worse.

We are told there is no money to address this but we know in reality there just isn't the will.

The pandemic has shown us that when the situation is one of life and death the funding can be found. And that is where we find ourselves with social care – in a situation of life and death.

I am one of the co-sponsors of a motion to this conference that clarifies and extends our party policy on social care to offer a service that is fully funded, free at the point of use and includes a universal legal right to independent living for all disabled people.

That is the kind of bold policy, which makes a real difference in people's lives.

That is the kind of social justice that the Green Party is all about.

Party diversity and practical solutions

But we can't be on the sidelines criticising others without also looking internally at the things we, as a party, need to do better.

When it comes to the diversity of our party – our membership, the communities we appeal to and operate in most frequently – we have a good deal more to do.

We are a party that champions groups who face injustice and as such we have to make sure we are representative.

We have to make clear to communities from the Global South, and to those don't feel heard by the current political system – they have a home with us.

We cannot focus our attention on rhetoric and grandstanding around equality and diversity and then do nothing behind the scenes.

Our actions must be visible, practical and tangible.

So what does that look like?

One. It looks like proactive action to attract more people of colour as constituency candidates and Councillor candidates. To develop and motivate a diverse group to put themselves forward for elected positions within our party structures.

We must use the Deyika fund – specifically set up for this function – to make sure people of colour feel supported and comfortable in their roles. That they have an equal shot to run and to win.

Two. It looks like doing more to push our social justice policies which would play a crucial role in supporting diverse and lower income communities.

We must make ourselves more relatable – and proactively reach out to and into those communities and demonstrate what we have to offer.

Three. It looks like making resources available to members on lower incomes at a local and regional level so that they can meaningfully contribute to Green Party events and activities.

To champion digital inclusion so that how much money you have doesn't dictate whether you can have your voice heard or not.

These are the things we could and should do as a party to demonstrate – practically – our commitment to equality and diversity.

And our need to diversify – to make clear our commitment to supporting those who need us most – in their day to day lives and in their Green Party journey – is not restricted to people of colour.

15 percent of people in the world have a disability. 15 percent.

A legacy of the Tokyo Paralympics is the 'we are the 15 campaign' designed to end discrimination worldwide against disabled people by 2030.

It brings together the biggest coalition ever of international organisations from the world of sport, human rights, policy, communications, business, arts and entertainment.

It is a global movement that is publicly campaigning for disability visibility, inclusion and accessibility.

Campaigning groups like these are our allies and we must be the political face of this kind of ambition.

In 1984 the Green Party was arguably still in it's relative infancy. It certainly did not have the scope and opportunity we now see in front of us.

At the same time some of you may know that I was a member of Team GB at Stoke Mandeville – the original home of the Paralympic Games.

The first games in 1948 were organised as a sports competition for British

World War two veterans by Sir Ludwig Guttman. It happened in the grounds of Stoke Mandeville hospital where he set up the first spinal injury unit.

When I was a Paralympian Papa Guttman was my consultant – I'm giving my age away now, just to clarify I wasn't there in 1948 – and he used to say 'you have to pick up your life where you left it'.

He believed in the power of sport to change lives.

Almost 40 years later I was taking part alongside more than 200 other athletes from 50 countries and I went on to compete again in 2008 and qualify at top world ranking level in 2016.

I am telling you this not because I want to show off about my medal haul – in 1984 it was 2 golds, 2 silvers and 2 bronzes by the way – but because Guttman was in the business of changing lives and I really believe that we are too.

The experience of being at the games for me was so inspirational, so significant – that I was able to achieve so much, gives me hope that working together – as a team – we can too.

I also take hope from others.

You might have seen Ade Adepitan – Nigerian born Paralympic basketball player turned TV presenter – in his series which looks to different communities around the world for their solutions to climate change.

He is bringing questions – and hopefully some answers – into people's living rooms from his unique perspective. I admire him for that.

Conference, we still have far to go.

Our party needs to be more representative.

More inclusive.

More ambitious about representation and inclusion.

At national, regional and local level we need to look at what can practically be done to promote equality and diversity – not just talk about it.

We aren't there yet on this journey but we can get there.

So let's leave this city heading out on a positive pathway and come back in 6 months, a year, 10 years – and celebrate our successes and how far we've come.

Please do these four things for me conference:

Support our motion to further improve our offering on social care including a universal legal right to independent living for all disabled people.

Google 'We are the 15' and support their campaign.

Watch Ade on the frontline – Ade Adepitan’s TV programme on climate change.

And – go back to your regions and local parties and take practical steps to bring in more people of colour, more people from working class backgrounds, more disabled people.

We MUST demonstrate that the Green Party is the place that welcomes people regardless of their background.

Then we’ll be making progress.

Conference, please enjoy your time here in Birmingham.

Keep following the covid precautions – as we know we’re not out of the woods yet and there is still risk.

And while it’s so fantastic to be here together – keeping one another safe and well, has to be our priority.

We are Greens afterall.

Thank you.

[Back to main news page](#)

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## [Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay Co-Leaders Autumn Conference speech 2021](#)



22 October 2021

CARLA: Adrian and I are delighted to be here as your new co-leaders.

ADRIAN: It is truly a privilege to be chosen to represent you.

CARLA: Thank you to Sian for your kind words, and thank you Sian and Jonathan for your leadership of the party.

ADRIAN: Thank you both for leading us as we broke into new areas all across the country, helping us achieve record election results in the European Elections and in the local elections.

CARLA: Thank you for the many many hours of zoom calls, media interviews in your living rooms and all your other work standing up to the Tory government when there was near-silence from others.

ADRIAN: From us, and from all our party members and supporters, a heartfelt thank you.

CARLA: And thank you to Amelia, our continuing deputy leader, for the brilliant work you're doing for the party, both in the spotlight and behind the scenes. We are so pleased to be working with you – and so looking forward to hearing your speech tomorrow ... 10:30am – don't miss it!

ADRIAN: Coming together again, this is a special moment. With so many of us able to meet in person again it really does feel like there is change in the air – for the Green Party, for the country and hopefully for the planet and all who live on it.

CARLA: We are so proud and so excited to have this opportunity, to be taking up the baton at this critical point, and we are grateful that the party membership is trusting us with this role. We'd like to kick off this conference with a few words of introduction on why this is such an important time for each of us.

So, let me take a moment to introduce Adrian. As many of you will know, he was deputy leader of the party some ten years ago, leader of the councillor group in Norwich which delivered unprecedented electoral success for the city.

He co-wrote our internal Target to Win campaign handbook and was part of the national leadership team that supported Caroline Lucas to become our first MP. I'm delighted to be working with him and so happy that the party gets to benefit from his experience.

ADRIAN: As a sixteen year old, I joined the Green Party because I cared about the challenges facing us even then. I found myself standing to be a councillor at the age of 21, the youngest age then allowed. Thanks to the work of the team we built and the campaign we ran, I was elected first time. Nationally we had a handful of councillors and no MPs. By the time I finished my term as deputy leader, we had 12,000 members and 132 councillors. And of course the party has grown much further since then. Now, I am delighted to be returning to frontline politics at a time when the need for Green policies has never been greater. We know that this decade is the crucial time for bold action on the climate emergency, and for creating a fairer society.

So this time, as co-leader, I have a different role but the same goal – positive change. I want to see more Greens elected at every level of government: Green Mayors, council leaders, Members of the Senedd, and – yes – more Green MPs.

I intend to be part of a team that helps get our second MP elected, and our third and our fourth. And I don't want us to stop until we achieve the representation in Parliament, which opinion polls demonstrate time and time again that people want to see and which we all know this country desperately needs.

We need principled change and the energy to make it happen, which is why I am

so pleased to be co-leading with Carla.

Carla is now one of 24 councillors in the largest Green councillor group in the UK.

Proposer of the first Climate Emergency declaration in Europe, she helped commit Bristol to go carbon neutral by 2030, and hundreds of organisations and cities have followed that lead.

Her work as a councillor has helped prevent homelessness and protected some of the poorest households in Bristol from unaffordable council tax rises. She has stood up for everyone – campaigning for renters’ and workers’ rights as well as using her profile as a prominent LGBTIQ+ councillor to lobby for improved trans healthcare services in the South West.

She cares about people and planet.

I give you Carla, your co-leader, our constituency candidate for Bristol West, and this country’s next Green MP

CARLA: I didn’t expect to become a politician. It wasn’t in my game plan.

I’m an engineer. I came to Bristol 12 years ago to work in the renewable energy industry, and I did so for 6 years, working on the plans for many of the awe-inspiringly massive offshore wind farms that now stand around the UK coastline generating ever more of our electricity.

But it felt like I was only changing the world *one wind turbine at a time*, and I knew the science demanded we go faster. I could see the way the wind was blowing – no pun intended – that the barriers weren’t in technology but in the lack of *political will* from the tired, old political parties.

So I joined the Green Party – the only people in politics who understood what we needed to do. Still with no intention of becoming a politician. I just wanted to help, to donate a bit, deliver a few leaflets, and provide some support behind the scenes. But gradually I got more and more involved, and found more ways I could contribute and, well, one thing led to another.

Why am I telling you this? Because I keep meeting more and more new members who come from all walks of life and want to make a difference. I am here to show you CAN make a difference. And that’s vital because we are at a critical moment in our politics. We’re at a crossroads.

People have grown tired of choosing the ‘least worst’ option.

Of being patronised, ignored and told what to think.

We are tired of a Tory government playing divide and rule... Tired of out of touch policies that ride roughshod over people.

Tired of politics which amount to little more than an old boys club serving the interests of its pals.

We're sick and we are tired of this country's leaders looking at covid rates ticking up day after day, yet refusing to mandate masks – or even wear them themselves in Parliament. Leaders who urge people into workplaces they don't need to be in, and leaders who fail to provide proper sick pay for people who need to isolate. This country is sick, and it is tired.

We need better – we demand better.

We see none of it from an official opposition that fails the public, ignores the votes of its own members, and can't take a stand on the biggest issues of the day.

Conference, there has never been a bigger need for the Green Party.

ADRIAN: Conference, in the Green Party we know that doing politics differently is the way to make real change happen.

We know that compassion, listening to others and dialogue is the way forwards. We know it's an essential part of our democracy that politicians are able to meet with the public and we must find a way to make sure they can do so safely. It wouldn't be right to talk about that without acknowledging that it was only a week ago that MP Sir David Amess was brutally attacked and killed while doing his job meeting constituents.

Conference, let's pause a moment;

let's send our love to his family and friends;

let's think about the many people who take on elected roles, and those who support them

Let's think about what we each can do to ensure politics is a space which is respectful and compassionate, a space where people look across the divides for common ground, a space which is accessible to everyone.

Conference, diversity and inclusion are at the core of our principles as Greens. Our party is made up of a diverse group of people – all of whom are genuinely trying to change the world for the better.

We value democracy. We value our members. The people in this room and joining us from their homes – are our most valuable asset.

You are the foundation of this party. We're proud to have been elected by you.

And we're proud to say to everyone out there who isn't a member, that if you share our principles our party can be a home for you too. Many thousands of you have become members in recent months, but if you're still thinking about joining us – do! You too can help shape the party and we can work together, for change, for the common good. You too are welcome.

CARLA: The Green Party is your home as it is ours, and more and more people are joining us every day – we now have over 53,000 members.

Why? because the Green Party is home to the kind of changes that people want – common sense policies that can transform lives for the better.

Green party members – elected and activists alike – are interested in what will benefit people in their day to day lives as well as give us all hope for a better future. We're in touch with what matters.

By contrast the current government is out of touch with what people are experiencing and lags way behind a country crying out for change.

As we struggle to get through this health crisis, the vast majority of us know we can't just go back to "business as usual". The pandemic has exposed the shaky foundations of our economy, the cracks in society and the precarious situation so many find themselves in.

We know that this country is ready for change.

When they are asked, the public is clear that they – like us – want something different.

Just last week a poll showed that there is strong support for the bold measures to tackle the climate emergency.

People want a carbon tax on the most polluting industries.

They want those who fly frequently to pay more for it.

They want proper funding for greening our homes.

They want to ways to eat less meat and dairy day to day.

Only the Green Party has the policies the public is looking for – not only on climate but also on creating a fairer society.

Like public ownership of public services.

A pay rise for key workers.

And a universal basic income to ensure no one is left behind.

We do not accept that inequality is inevitable.

We say that those with the most should pay the most.

It's time to straighten out the tax system once and for all. That means that the richest people, the covid-billionaires and the biggest corporations pay their fair share. That income from wealth is taxed properly

We have a plan – and the public is with us.

We have ambition – and with your support we can fulfil that ambition.

ADRIAN: As Carla was saying, it's clear the government is out of touch with voters.

In Norwich this week I spoke to Alex. She's a mum of three, was furloughed during covid and has since been made redundant. She's lost her universal credit uplift and this week she's heard the news that her heating bill could go up by 30%. She is terrified of what lies ahead this winter for her and her children.

This is the reality for a lot of people. They are frightened. They are struggling with the current situation and they are scared of what's coming. They are desperate for someone to listen and to stand with them.

We listen. We stand with you Alex. So here's a common sense policy aimed directly at supporting people like you.

In the face of hikes to energy bills and rising fuel prices and to ease the burden on household budgets we're calling on Government to extend winter fuel payments with a one-off payment of £320 to every household to get us all through this winter. It's a costed proposal to be funded from a one-off 1% land-value tax on residential landlord properties. This proposal is about keeping households from falling into fuel poverty, it's about keeping people safe. It's about the state responding to market failure. It's about human dignity.

Of course, as Caroline said this week, our drafty housing stock is like a leaky teapot we keep pouring more into. This measure is crucial but not the long term solution. As a country we should have been investing to insulate every home and install renewable energy, to cut carbon emissions and cut energy bills. Our building standards should have been stringent, not penny pinching – set for the people who live in the homes, not the developers who build them for profit and walk away.

Our proposal is what government should be doing to show leadership. It's an issue which shows how climate justice and social justice go hand in hand – something they just don't get. Our plan is a bridge to get us to the real solution of a Green New Deal.

CARLA: And that's part of our challenge.

Talk of a Green New Deal feels irrelevant to a great many people, it just doesn't feel tangible.

It is our job as the Green Party to make it relevant, to make it tangible.

We need to explain what it really means to have a Green future, to people fearful of what the future holds..

We need to explain what a real Green New Deal means.

Not just restoring £20 per week to universal credit, but scrapping the heartless universal credit system with its cruel sanctions, and replacing it with a Universal Basic Income – an unconditional payment, enough for everyone to live with dignity.

It means creating a 'wellbeing economy' – or put another way, it's about

saying 'There must be a better way to value people and measure our society than by how much money we make'.

It means less reliance on cars because the public transport system where you live is reliable and cheap.

It means taking climate action in a way that benefits people.

It means win-win.

ADRIAN: Our conference comes at a momentous time: the Glasgow Climate Talks – COP26. Starting in just 9 days time – with the eyes of the world on them. After decades of putting climate at the heart of our politics, finally the whole world is moving towards us.

This is a crucial moment for climate action with leaders from every major polluter on earth together in one place with the chance to change things for the better – forever.

But, we have been here before, of course. All of the hype. The photo-calls. The smiling politicians shaking hands as the chances of a decent deal slip away. This must be the politics of the past.

That can't happen this time – and Britain has a unique chance to show global leadership.

Our government must take climate action out of its box and acknowledge that 10 point plans and grand announcements are pointless while they continue to champion fossil fuels, back airport expansion and pump investment into road building projects.

We think this great country of ours, this great planet of ours – deserves politicians who do what they say. Who listen with care and act with integrity. Politicians who don't try to pull the wool over your eyes.

The Green Party has those politicians – many of them are in this room and many of them will be catching the train to Glasgow next weekend to do everything we can to fight for a successful climate conference. This COP can be a success. It must be.

Keeping the world to that 1.5 degree target is not a nice to have. Every fraction of a degree matters – and every day matters.

One of our key asks from COP26 is for climate accountability. Countries need to be held to account for on and off-shore emissions and they need to be held to account for what they've already emitted with suitable reparations. Rich countries, like us here in the UK, who have contributed hugely to emissions globally, must commit to paying back those countries who emitted less, both for the impact of our emissions and to help build resilience for the future and show compassion for people already facing loss of their homes and livelihoods.

CARLA: Adrian and I spoke a lot during our leadership campaign about

compassion. About what it really means, what it looks like to be compassionate.

And to us, the Green Party must represent and model what compassion is in politics.

Outwardly it means things like rethinking Britain's place in the world – and looking very seriously at our approach to foreign policy.

To be compassionate to others means ending, yes ending, the sale of arms to repressive regimes. No ifs, no buts.

It means treating all people as valued human beings – not statistics or inconveniences – treated like unwanted baggage thrown in vans, locked in storage and dumped on planes by Home Office handlers.

Compassion is formed of respect and understanding, of listening and acting; it needs us to value others – and challenges us to do so by understanding others. It drives us to seek best interests, not just our own. It moves us. And for us, compassion must also extend to the natural world and to every living, feeling creature.

ADRIAN: Compassion is also about how we interact with each other within our party.

Our local parties, at their best, are welcoming and inclusive, driven to deliver change, making the most of everyone's talents, respecting the different lived experiences of our members and being stronger for it.

We want to make sure every level of the Green Party looks like that.

We are at our best when we stand together across our differences. And we build that togetherness on the foundation of respecting the diversity of others, no matter race, sex, gender, orientation, age, ability, spiritual belief or background.

We must create spaces where we can engage with one another, learn from each other, listen to each other – from a place of mutual respect, solidarity and community.

We can do that by centering compassion in Green Politics.

CARLA: Leadership of this party is like no other.

We are uniquely democratic – with you, the members, setting our direction, deciding our policy and choosing our leadership.

One member, one vote.

During our campaign and since, we have been asked many times why we wanted to be leaders of this party. So here it is in a nutshell.

We will support the party to get more great greens elected. Our strategy is

simple, it is clear. Win elections in every corner of Wales and England, and change our communities and our country forever.

There is nowhere we can't win. From Bristol to Burnley, Sheffield to Suffolk. The communities we serve are rich in their diversity, beautiful in their differences.

We will stand up against this government, provide a real alternative. We won't falter in opposition to the Tories when they push through regressive legislation, shift blame onto migrants and throw already marginalised people under the bus for their own political ends.

We will use COP26 as an opportunity to put the Green New Deal centre stage in debate and push for more from this lacklustre government. Build focus on opposing road building and airport expansion, and call out the lack of a clear plan for greening homes.

We will make sure that the green message is heard in every town, village and city.

In short, we are committed to transforming society to create a brighter future for everyone.

ADRIAN: And making a difference is something Greens do everywhere.

Like Caroline Lucas in Parliament speaking out about the deeply undemocratic elections bill, holding the government to account over their lack of leadership on climate action and championing a wellbeing economy.

Like Jenny Jones and Natalie Bennett pushing for amendments to the Environment Bill in the House of Lords so that the measures it contains are enforceable and will actually help to protect our health and the natural world around us.

In Green-led Brighton and Hove – revolutionising the way homelessness is tackled.

In Herefordshire – scrapping a 200 million pound bypass in favour of investment in walking and cycling routes and a new bus strategy.

In the City of York – bringing partners together to form a climate commission.

In Solihull, successfully campaigning to get more money in the pockets of the least well off by keeping council tax benefit as high as possible.

In London – our three Assembly members securing millions in funding for youth services.

Greens in the room are making change happen and there are more and more of us.

We're frequently third in the opinion polls across England.

And our sister parties in Finland, Ireland, New Zealand and hopefully soon Germany, are *in Government!*

And even closer to home we're so proud to see our colleagues in the Scottish Greens taking up posts in government and delivering on bold Green policies.

We – and they – are showing what it means to have Greens in the room – at the table – changing things for the better.

We must keep building on this.

Be bolder and clearer and more ambitious.

The chance is there for the taking and with your help conference, we will take it.

CARLA: Conference – this is it.

ADRIAN: The run up to the next general election – and every set of local elections between now and then – are absolutely crucial.

CARLA: The stakes could not be higher.

ADRIAN: A chance, a last chance, for serious climate action.

CARLA: A chance post-pandemic to remake our country as a place where no-one struggles to keep warm or put food on the table

ADRIAN: A chance to guarantee dignity.

We have the answers.

We have the policies.

We can make our politics compassionate.

CARLA: Conference, together as a party we – and only we – have what it takes.

Thank you, and enjoy the next days together.

[Back to main news page](#)

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**[Greens call for £320 payment to every household to pay for spiralling energy](#)**

# bills



22 October 2021

- Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay to use first leaders' conference speech to set out emergency measures to help people through this winter
- Will urge government to provide winter fuel payments of £320 for all
- Adrian Ramsay: "This proposal is about keeping households from falling into fuel poverty, it's about keeping people safe. It's about the state responding to market failure. It's about human dignity"
- Carla Denyer: "We have the policy – and the public is with us. We have ambition – and with your support we can fulfil that ambition."

The newly-elected co-leaders of the Green Party will use their first conference speech today [Friday 22 October] to call on the government to avoid a national emergency this winter by extending winter fuel payments to all.

Half a million people were plunged into fuel poverty earlier this month by the £139 energy price cap increase [1], while an extra 1.5 million could be left struggling to pay their bills if energy bills rise again in April as expected [2].

Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay, who were elected co-leaders of the Greens earlier this month [3], will today urge the government to provide each household across the country with an additional £320 to help them pay for spiralling energy costs and avoid fuel poverty.

The move would cost an additional £9bn, which the Greens propose to fund through a one off windfall land value tax payable by all landlords of privately rented properties.

Ramsay is expected to say:

"In the face of hikes to energy bills and rising fuel prices and to ease the burden on household budgets we're calling on government to extend winter fuel payments with a one-off payment of £320 to every household to get us all through this winter.

"It's a costed proposal to be funded from a one-off 1% land-value tax on residential landlord properties. This proposal is about keeping households from spiralling into fuel poverty, it's about keeping people safe. It's about the state responding to market failure. It's about human dignity.

“Our proposal is what government should be doing to show leadership. It’s an issue which shows how climate justice and social justice go hand in hand – something they just don’t get. It’s also just a bridge to get us to the tough work of a real, Green New Deal.”

The emergency payment would be paid for through a one off windfall land value tax of 1% on the landlords of all privately rented residential properties, which would bring in about an additional £9billion. [4]

The measure would provide people with emergency support ahead of implementing the party’s flagship Green New Deal programme which would provide investment of £100bn a year for the next decade to get the UK on track to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. This would reduce household heating bills through large scale roll-out of insulation schemes and renewable energy, and would create millions of green jobs in the energy, housing, transport and land management sectors of the economy.[5]

As part of the speech, Denyer and Ramsay will also set out how there has never been a bigger need for the Greens, as the party looks to become the country’s third party.

Denyer is expected to say:

“People have grown tired of choosing the ‘least worst’ option. Of being patronised, ignored and told what to think.

“We are tired of a Tory government playing divide and rule. Tired of out of touch policies which ride roughshod over people. Tired of politics which amount to little more than an old boys club serving the interests of its pals.

“We need better – we demand better.

“We see none of it from an official opposition that fails the public, ignores the votes of its own members, and can’t take a stand on the biggest issues of the day.

“We have the policy – and the public is with us. We have ambition – and with your support we can fulfil that ambition.”

Notes

1 <https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/winter-fuel-payment-2021-gas-prices-soar-roll-out-deaths-national-energy-action-1242569>

2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-58831110>

3 <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/10/01/carla-denyer-and-adrian-ramsay-announced-as-new-green-party-co-leaders/>

4 Private landlords have profited during the COVID pandemic, seeing rents increase by [6.6% in the last year alone](#), more than [double the rate of inflation](#), while the value of properties have increased by £25,000 in the

same period. The Greens' proposal will see more than 90% of households benefit (less than 10% of households contain a private landlord) and only dent the wealth of private landlords by 0.6% (landlords' wealth will have increased by £116bn in the last year, instead of £125bn).

5 <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Elections/Green%20Party%20Manifesto%202019.pdf>

[Back to main news page](#)

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## [Green Party will not stand in Southend West by-election](#)



18 October 2021

The Green Party has announced it will not be standing a candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Southend West, following the death of Sir David Amess last Friday. [1]

Greens have decided not to stand a candidate out of respect, and it follows a similar decision taken in 2016 following the death of Jo Cox MP.

As a further mark of respect, local Green Party members in Southend have agreed to suspend all campaigning in the town for two weeks.

ENDS

**Notes**

**1**

<https://southeastessex.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/10/15/david-amess-mp/>

[Back to main news page](#)

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