

Greens restate commitment to close relationship with EU as Brexit deadline passes



15 October 2020

- **Party reaffirms position that young people should not lose freedom to become Europeans**

With the Prime Minister set to abandon his self-imposed deadline for a trade deal today, the Green Party has said it continues to believe that the UK should retain membership of the single market and customs union.

The party has also reaffirmed its position that young people in particular should not lose their free movement rights.

Deputy leader Amelia Womack said:

“For young people the Brexit deal is not about fish or finance, but about our freedom to travel, work, live and fall in love across our beautiful shared continent.

“I am determined to continue to champion that amazing freedom that EU membership meant for young people.

“I will also campaign for us to stay in the Erasmus Plus scheme so that young people from poorer homes can also be free to travel and learn to become European citizens.

Former MEP and economist Molly Scott Cato added:

“Boris Johnson’s decision to abandon his self-imposed deadline and continue negotiating demonstrates that he is as fearful of No Deal as any of us.

“But any deal we are likely to get by the end of the month will be so thin as to lead to expensive additional red tape for businesses and the risk of

massive disruption in supply chains.

“Surveys show that businesses are not prepared for either customs checks or the complex VAT arrangements that will come into force at the end of the year.” [1]

Womack said:

“The Brexit project has always sidelined the views and prospects of young people.

“I am convinced that my generation not only believe that another and better Europe is possible, but that our place is right at the heart of it.”

ENDS

NOTES

1

[Thousands of British businesses not prepared for Brexit, MPs told](#)

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[Greens welcome decision to allow judicial review into reopening of Manston Airport](#)



13 October 2020

The Green Party has welcomed the news that permission has been granted for a judicial review into the government's decision to reopen Manston Airport in Kent.[1]

Green Party transport spokesperson Caroline Russell said:

"We simply cannot be reopening airports in a climate emergency.

"If this goes ahead it will only increase carbon emissions and set us even further back from achieving our climate commitments. At the same time, it will make life miserable for overflowed communities living under new flight paths.

"Rather than seeking a few unsustainable jobs in a failing industry, the government should be creating millions of new, resilient Green jobs, which will put us on track to go net zero and provide workers in this sector a safer future."

ENDS

Notes

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<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/thanet/news/manston-reopening-will-be-challenged-in-courts-235437/>

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[Greens regret missed opportunity to maximise climate benefits of agriculture](#)



13 October 2020

- **Baroness Jenny Jones cross-party working and national campaign to protect farm standards**

The Green Party has expressed disappointment at the rejection of key Lords amendments to the Agriculture Bill during votes in the House of Commons last night.

Jenny Jones, who worked on the Bill in the House of Lords, said:

“This is a once in a generation moment to think differently about our food and farming system. I am deeply disappointed that amendments passed in the Lords to protect animal welfare standards, limit pesticide use, and create a farming system fit for the climate emergency have been squandered.

“This is a missed opportunity to make protection of our climate and allowing space for nature to flourish to be central to how we manage our land.

“The voting down of the protection for British farming standards in future trade deals breaks the Tories’ election promise that ‘in all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards’. It is a betrayal of the farming community that has been loyal to the Conservative Party for so long.”

Baroness Jones expressed her determination to continue work to protect both farmers and the environment when the Bill returns to the Lords:

“I’m glad we have managed to work with Labour and Liberal Democrat Peers to build strong support for the protection of environmental and animal welfare standards. We are determined to use the majority we enjoy in the Lords to protect British farming and our natural environment.”

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[Green Party commits to reparatory justice for Afrikan enslavement](#)



11 October 2020

- **Members back motion at online Autumn Conference**
- **Motion will see party call on Parliament to establish an All-Party Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice**
- **Councillor Cleo Lake: "While we cannot change the past, we can go some way to heal and repair from it."**

The Green Party has become the first major national party to commit to seeking reparations for the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Afrikans.

Members backed the motion on the final day of their Autumn Conference [1] [Sunday 11 October] which commits the Green Party to call on Parliament to establish an All-Party Commission of Inquiry for Truth and Reparatory Justice.

The party also supports calls from campaigners within the International Social Movement for Afrikan Reparations, such as Stop the Maangamizi Campaign and the International Network of Scholars and Activists for Afrikan Reparations [2], for the Government to commit to a holistic process of atonement and reparations in accordance with the United Nations Framework on Reparations.[3]

In July this year, Lambeth Council became the first local authority to pass a successful motion [4], led by Green Party councillor Scott Ainslie, calling for a parliamentary reparations commission to address the impact of slavery

on current racial inequalities in the UK.

Ainslie, who has co-signed the motion to conference, said:

"This motion is a step towards Britain finally facing up to the historical impact it has had on countries throughout the world. I am proud that the Green Party is showing true leadership on this issue.

"If Britain can properly address the legacies of its colonial past, then it can truly deal with the root causes of our country's socio-economic inequality rooted in systemic racism.

"By engaging in a genuine process of reparative and transitional justice, we can begin to heal holistically and re-balance the past and present injustices inflicted by the few which cause endless suffering to the many."

The motion was proposed by Bristol Green Party Councillor Cleo Lake.

Lake said:

"Getting this motion to conference has been a great example of collaborative working with key reparations campaigners.

"The fact it has been backed by Green Party members represents a significant and historic milestone towards acknowledgement, justice and reconciliation over a painful shared history. The legacy of this history still plays out today through rife global inequality, racism, Afriphobia, and a ravaged planet that continues to be pillaged and disrespected.

"I am pleased that the Green Party, through its membership, is the political party leading the way in its support for this movement towards holistic reparations by voting for this motion.

"While we cannot change the past, we can go some way to heal and repair from it. And by taking decisive action, we can direct the future course of our shared humanity and planet."

Esther Stanford-Xosei, one of the UK's foremost reparations scholar-activists, and co-founder of the Pan-Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe, is among those representatives of the ISMAR who have supported the party's work on the motion.

Stanford-Xosei said:

"This is a holistic way to begin a dialogue on Afrikan Reparations with British society and the state which tells the truth centred upon planet repairs in order not to pull communities apart.

"It begins with first educating ourselves. Reparations means to repair. You can only effectively repair when you are stopping the harm."

ENDS

Notes

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The Green Party Autumn Conference 2020 is taking place online from Friday 2 October to Sunday 11 October.

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/conference>

2

The International Social Movement for Afrikan Reparations includes groups such as [Stop the Maangamizi: We Charge Genocide/Ecocide Campaign](#) and the [International Network of Scholars and Activists for Afrikan Reparations \(INOSAAR\)](#).

3

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/remedyandreparation.aspx>

4

Lambeth Council passed the motion on 15 July 2020.

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2020/07/15/greens-lead-on-first-successful-motion-to-demand-government-reparations-for-slavery/>

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[Green Party to end advertising for “high carbon” goods and services](#)



11 October 2020

- **Members back pioneering climate motion at online Party Conference**
- **Advertising for high carbon goods and services like SUVs and long haul flights to be banned as Party brings advertising rules into the 21st century**
- **“This will spark a long overdue conversation about the role of advertising in our lives” says Green Party peer Natalie Bennett**

Members of The Green Party of England and Wales have called for the end of advertising for “high carbon” goods and services, backing a motion which brings it into official Party policy.

The new policy is designed to “bring advertising rules into the 21st century” by phasing out adverts for goods and services which are harmful to the climate, such as SUVs and long haul flights.

The motion noted that there are already many restrictions on advertising on products which are socially and physically harmful, such as tobacco which was banned from being advertised and promoted in the UK since 2003.

A study by BMJ journal Tobacco Control found that the ban “significantly reduced exposure to pro-tobacco marketing influences” and their conclusions were found to “support the effectiveness of comprehensive bans on advertising”.^[1]

In August 2020, the ‘Badvertising’ campaign called for adverts for SUVs to face a similar ban, noting that such vehicles make up more than 40% of new cars now sold in the UK, while fully electric vehicles count for less than 2%. ^[2]

The motion was backed by Bristol City Councillor Carla Denyer ^[3], who said:

“In a time of climate emergency, how can it be right that we are bombarded by endless adverts demanding we fly more, drive bigger cars and burn more fossil fuels?”

“We need to learn from the campaign against tobacco advertising. It used to be normal for children to see cigarette billboards on their route to school.

After decades of campaigning, a new normal has been established and levels of smoking have fallen.”

“We can do the same for products which are trashing our planet. Ending advertising for high carbon goods and services would be a simple and socially beneficial way to reduce UK carbon emissions.”

Green Party peer Natalie Bennett said:

“After the year we’ve had, we’ve learned what matters most to us, and it’s not the things screaming at us from billboards, posters, radio jingles and television trailers.

“This common sense policy to curb the influence of the biggest polluters will spark a long overdue conversation about the role of advertising in our lives.”

ENDS

Notes

1

Source: https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/15/suppl_3/iii26.full

2

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53607147>

3

Carla Denyer is a Green Party Bristol City councillor, known for proposing and passing the first ever climate emergency motion on any council in Europe.

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