

Labour launches Race and Faith manifesto

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, will say today that 'Labour is the party of equality.' The Labour Party is launching its Race and Faith manifesto

at an event in Watford, outlining its commitment to racial equality and detailing how the Party's manifesto benefits BAME communities.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"Labour is the Party of equality. We were built on the values of social justice, internationalism and human rights. Our values are rooted in the

fundamental truth that whatever your background, wherever you are from, you should have the means and opportunity to fulfil your potential.

"People continue to be treated unfairly due to their ethnicity or faith. The recent rise in hate crimes, including Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attacks, underscores how far we still have to go. Labour will repair the damage done by the Conservative Government, which has sown the seeds of division in our communities.

"Only Labour can be trusted to unlock the talent of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, who have been held back by the Conservatives. We will guarantee equality is at the heart of our programme for government.

"Labour will implement a comprehensive strategy for racial equality, one that effectively challenges the disadvantage many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities suffer. We will work every day for a fairer society, where every person is enabled to get on in life, regardless of race, faith or ethnicity, to build a Britain that works for the many, not the few."

Childcare for the many: Labour's universal childcare plan will transform the lives of more than a million children

More than a million children and their families will benefit from Labour plans for universal provision of 30 hours of free childcare a week for all two to four-year-olds.

Labour will extend 30-hour childcare to more children by eliminating means testing for two-year-olds and no longer restricting provision for three and four-year-olds to children whose parents are working. This will benefit an additional 1.3 million children.

At the moment, only 40% of two-year-olds qualify for childcare and many working parents with three and four-year-old children are not getting the childcare they were promised by the Conservatives at the last election because of the complexity of the rules. Meanwhile, Tory cuts have also led to the loss of 1,240 Sure Start centres.

Labour's universal childcare policy will help ensure all children have a good start in life and remove barriers to parents, especially women, participating in the labour market.

Labour's National Education Service will create a high-quality, universal childcare system that will bridge the gap between maternity leave and full-time schooling in the long run.

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, said:

"The Labour party believes every child, no matter what their background, deserves a good start in life, and that childcare costs shouldn't be a barrier for parents who want to go back to work. The current patchy support for childcare is holding back too many families.

"High quality childcare can transform a child's life chances and make it much easier for parents to work. Labour will roll out 30 hours of free childcare a week to all 2-4 year olds to give all our children the best possible start in life, as part of our plan to build a country for the many, not the few."

Angela Rayner, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, said:

"The Conservatives' 2015 promise to provide parents 30 free hours of childcare a week has unravelled, as they have failed to give the policy the funding it needs. Too many parents have been let down, unable to go back to work due to the cost of childcare.

"Unlike the Conservatives, Labour will properly fund childcare to help parents get back into work and ensure all children, no matter what their background, have access to the high quality childcare they deserve. The Conservatives are failing to deliver on early years education, there are now over 1,240 fewer designated Sure Start children's centres than when the Conservatives entered government. It is clear Theresa May and the Conservatives can't be trusted with our children's futures."

Childcare costs represent a significant proportion of family expenditure, with many families made up of two or more children saying it does not make financial sense for both parents to work.

Research by the Family and Childcare Trust revealed that on average British parents are spending almost twice as much on part-time childcare as they do on food per year.

In a survey conducted by the Resolution Foundation and Mumsnet, 67% of mothers in work and 64% of those not working said the high cost of childcare is a barrier to taking on more employment.

May floundered on her record on police cuts, on funding for our NHS and schools

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Jeremy Corbyn spokesperson, responding to Theresa May's appearance on the Sky and Channel 4 #BattleForNumber10 debate, said:

"Theresa May floundered on her record on police cuts, on funding for our NHS and schools and on her manifesto policy on social care that didn't last more than a few days before it was amended with an unspecified cap. It's no surprise she had no answers because the Tories plan to continue the tax giveaways to the wealthy and big business while offering no new funding for public services.

"There is a clear choice in this election about the kind of country we want Britain to be – between Labour's plan to transform Britain for the many not the few, and a Conservative Party that has held people back and put its wealthy backers first."

Ends

Jeremy showed the clear choice on offer in this election is about the kind of country we want Britain to be

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Jeremy Corbyn spokesperson, following the Sky and Channel 4 #BattleForNumber10 debate, said:

"In answering the audience's questions, Jeremy showed the clear choice on offer in this election is about the kind of country we want Britain to be. The choice is between Labour's plan to transform Britain for the

many not the few, and a Conservative Party that has held people back and put the wealthy first.

"Jeremy was able to talk about our fully-costed manifesto – promises we have made to students to scrap tuition fees, to pensioners to protect their incomes with the triple lock and winter fuel allowance, to families struggling with rising energy costs that we will take back control of the utilities industry and bring down their bills and, crucially, to 95% of taxpayers that we won't put up their taxes. These are promises Theresa May cannot and will not make.

"Jeremy connects with the public in a way that Theresa May doesn't because Labour has a clear plan to transform our economy and society, and people recognise that. Theresa May has hidden from the public during this campaign and run scared of debating Jeremy live on TV, while Jeremy has been travelling around the country meeting people and addressing huge crowds."

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Notes

In response to the audience questions:

In his interview with Andrew Neil, Jeremy said: "I didn't support the IRA, I don't support the IRA. What I want everywhere is a peace process, what I want everywhere is decency and human rights. We went through all the horrors of Northern Ireland, all through the 70s and 80s, through the period of the Troubles, and eventually came from that a peace process, the Good Friday Agreement and now relative peace and stability."

On the commemoration referred to by the audience member, Jeremy has been very clear that it was held for all those who died in the Troubles.

On leadership, Jeremy has said he sees leadership about listening, not dictating. Listening to what people say, understanding the pressures in their lives and ensuring government policies make a real and positive difference.

Being strong and standing up for people doesn't mean shouting and dictating. It's not a sign of strength to cut taxes for the rich and powerful, it's a sign of weakness. Real strength is standing up to these vested interests and governing for the many not the few.

On small businesses, Labour has pledged they will be protected by reintroducing the lower small profits rate of corporation tax. Labour is the party of small businesses, many of whom are exploited by bigger companies who delay payments to them to maximise their own profits. Labour will declare war on late

payment.

On Jeremy Paxman's questions about Labour's manifesto

Labour is a democratic party and our manifesto reflects that. The Tories' manifesto was compiled by a small group of people around Theresa May, and the chaos and confusion that has ensued as a result reflects that.

On MI5

The claim that John McDonnell wants to disband MI5 is entirely false and based on erroneous reports about an unrelated statement that John signed.

Unlike the Tories that cut the budget for the intelligence services in 2012 and have cut police numbers by 20,000 since 2010, Labour is committed to giving our security services the resources they need and will recruit 10,000 extra police officers.

On Hamas

Jeremy has spent his life campaigning for peace and has been very clear that he does not support Hamas.

Questions Theresa May must now answer:

The Conservative manifesto has betrayed Britain's pensioners, threatened unspecified tax rises for tens of millions of working people and set out a grim future of underfunding and understaffing for our vital public services.

Theresa May has broken her flagship manifesto pledge on social care and there is confusion over funding for our NHS and schools. She must answer these questions:

- What will be the cap on social care costs for people with conditions such as dementia, how many pensioners will lose their winter fuel payments, and how will you fund the NHS?
 - Will there be increases in National Insurance contributions and income tax?
 - How will you fund your school breakfast proposal now you have withdrawn the original 6.8p figure?
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Theresa May must spell out Tory policies after Dominic Raab gaffe – Ian Lavery

Theresa May must spell out Tory policies after Dominic Raab gaffe

Labour is calling on Theresa May to end the confusion over funding for our NHS and schools after a gaffe by Conservative MP Dominic Raab.

On the Victoria Derbyshire programme this morning, Dominic Raab suggested money for the NHS would be found by cutting free school meals for infants.

When pressed on the issue, he said: *“Well, look we’ve said things like means testing the winter fuel payment. I’m giving an illustration of the difficult decisions, like saying that we wouldn’t be subsidising free school lunches for well-off parents, we don’t think that’s the right thing to do. We’d rather the money went into teaching and the NHS.”*

The suggestion the NHS would benefit is at odds with the Conservative manifesto, which says: *“The savings made from [cutting free school meals] will be added to the core schools budget, meaning that every penny saved will go towards children’s education.”*

Meanwhile, the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies has confirmed that there is not a single penny of extra funding for the NHS in the Conservatives’ manifesto.

The latest chaos and confusion about Tory policy comes after the unravelling of their proposal for free school breakfasts, when it was found it would only amount to 6.8p per meal, and the announcement of an unspecified cap on social care costs being charged against people’s homes.

Ahead of tonight’s leaders’ debate and interview with Jeremy Paxman, Labour is challenging Theresa May to end the uncertainty by coming clean on what a Conservative government would mean:

- How many pensioners will lose their winter fuel payments?
- What will the cap be on social care costs for people with conditions such as dementia?
- Will there be increases in National Insurance contributions and income tax?
- Is the Institute for Fiscal Studies right to say there will be five years of austerity for the NHS?
- How will they fund their school breakfast proposal (replacing free school meals) now their original 6.8p figure is discredited?

Ian Lavery, Labour's National Election Coordinator,
said:

"Theresa May has already thrown millions of pensioners into uncertainty over her dementia tax policy and now her funding for our NHS and schools is in disarray. If even her own spokespeople don't know where the money is coming from or where it's going, how on earth do they expect the British people to know?"

"You can't trust a word Theresa May and the Tories say, the flip-flopping and backsliding is getting ridiculous. There is a very clear choice at this election, between a Conservative party that is betraying pensioners, threatening tax rises for millions of families and promising five more years of austerity for our NHS and schools, and a Labour party with a fully costed plan for the many not the few."