

# The next Labour government will transform the workplace

## **Labour's 20 point plan to end the 'rigged economy' in work**

Labour is backing a comprehensive programme to strengthen rights at work, make sure new jobs are good jobs, and end the race to the bottom in pay, conditions and job security.

Low pay and insecurity have mushroomed under the Conservatives. Labour will invest in the jobs and industries of the future, and take action to enforce a floor under employment standards across the board – so that all jobs are decent jobs.

The next Labour government will bring in a 20 point plan for security and equality at work:

- **Give**  
**all workers equal rights from day one, whether part-time or full-time, temporary or permanent** – so that all workers have the same rights and protections whatever kind of job they have
- **Ban**  
**zero hours contracts** – so that every worker gets a guaranteed number of hours each week
- **Ensure**  
**that any employer wishing to recruit labour from abroad does not undercut workers at home** – because it causes divisions when one workforce is used against another
- **Repeal**  
**the Trade Union Act and roll out sectoral collective bargaining** – because the most effective way to maintain good rights at work is through a trade union
- **Guarantee**  
**trade unions a right to access workplaces** – so that unions can speak to members and potential members
- **Introduce**  
**four new Bank Holidays** – we'll bring our country together with new holidays to mark our four national patron saints' days, so that workers in Britain get the same proper breaks as in other countries.

- **Raise**

**the minimum wage** to the level of the living wage (expected to be at least £10 per hour by 2020) – so that no one in work gets poverty pay

- **End**

**the public sector pay cap** – because public sector wages have fallen and our public sector workers deserve a pay rise

- **Amend**

**the takeover code to ensure every takeover proposal has a clear plan in place to protect workers and pensioners** – because workers shouldn't suffer when a company is sold

- **Roll**

**out maximum pay ratios** – of 20:1 in the public sector and companies bidding for public contracts – because it cannot be right that wages at the top keep rising while everyone else's stagnates

- **Ban**

**unpaid internships** – because it's not fair for some to get a leg up when others can't afford to

- **Enforce**

**all workers' rights to trade union representation at work** – so that all workers can be supported when negotiating with their employer

- **Abolish**

**employment tribunal fees** – so that people have access to justice

- **Double**

**paid paternity leave to four weeks and increase paternity pay** – because fathers are parents too and deserve to spend more time with their new babies

- **Strengthen**

**protections for women against unfair redundancy** – because no one should be penalised for having children

- **Hold**

**a public inquiry into blacklisting** – to ensure that blacklisting truly becomes and remains a thing of the past

- **Give**

**equalities reps statutory rights** – so they have time to protect workers from discrimination

- **Reinstate**

**protection against third party harassment** – because everyone deserves to be safe at work

- **Use**

**public spending power to drive up standards**, including only awarding public contracts to companies which recognise trade unions

- **Introduce**

**a civil enforcement system to ensure compliance with gender pay auditing**— so that all workers have fair access to employment and promotion opportunities and are treated fairly at work

**John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, said:**

"These policies will be the cornerstone of the next Labour government's programme to bring an end to the rigged economy that many experience in workplaces across Britain.

"The scandal of six million people earning less than the living wage, and four million children growing up in poverty are not inevitable. It only takes a change of government to bring these outrages to an end.

"The measures we are planning will make that possible, update our country for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and prepare us for the economic challenges ahead.

"They will also underpin the values we want to see in the British economy, and underline the scale of Labour's plans to transform the workplace from the shop-floor up to the boardroom.

"When voters go to the polls on 8<sup>th</sup> June they should know that if they vote Labour, they will be voting for a change in the balance of power not only in society but in their places of work.

"It will mean tearing up the Tory status quo that allows most people's wages to fall behind prices, and allow them to start to share in the wealth they help to create.

"Only a Labour government led by Jeremy Corbyn will stand up for the many in our offices and factories, while the Tories are only prepared to protect big business and a wealthy few."

**Rebecca Long-Bailey, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, said:**

"Labour's 20 point plan on employment rights seeks not only to extend the rights of workers but enforce them too. For too long people have fallen through the gaps in the law or suffered because the law is simply inadequate, we intend to stop this. This election offers a clear choice: do you want a labour market run for the many or the few."

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# Jeremy Corbyn speech – Stepping up for Britain

**Jeremy Corbyn speaking  
in east London today, said:**

This morning I'm going to say a few words about you. And even some about me. But if you don't mind, I'll come to that later.

First I want to say that this general election more than any I have previously fought will define our times.

Last week, I said the dividing lines in this election could not be clearer.

I pointed to a clash of interests between working people on the one hand, and the privileged and super-rich on the other.

This is not about a government getting its priorities muddled. And it's not simply a case of saying one thing and doing another.

It's about presiding over a rigged system that shapes all our lives.

Of course that's not something the Conservatives want to talk about. It's why, I think, they're so desperate to make this general election all about Brexit.

Don't be taken in.

The Conservatives would much rather make incredible promises about Britain's future outside the EU than talk about a scorecard of broken promises and neglect stretching back seven years.

Even their approach to Brexit betrays what they're really about.

Unlike Labour's jobs-first plan, it is both reckless and rigid. And entirely in keeping with their record in government.

Make no mistake; a  
Brexit for the few is being cooked up by this government.

One where any money  
saved is handed out as tax cuts to the super-rich and their corporations.

Where new trade deals  
with the US and elsewhere are used to drive down our working conditions,  
environmental regulations and food standards.

I think you can guess  
what is likely to happen to the many in a rigid and reckless Brexit. But what  
about the Conservatives themselves, and their friends and backers?

Do you think their  
personal prospects will suffer? Do you think their lives will get harder as  
wages slide and jobs become even less secure?

Unlikely, I think you'll  
agree. And that's because the Conservatives and their backers can afford to  
opt  
out when things go wrong. They've been doing it for decades.

They already send their  
children to the most exclusive schools and universities. They already  
dominate  
the upper rungs of every career ladder.

In truth, they have a  
get out of jail free card when the Conservatives are at the controls.

So I have a message for  
you all today: Unless you too have a get out jail free card, it's time to  
Step  
Up.

And when I say Step Up,  
I mean register to vote. Claim your future.

You have till 22 May!

Over 2.4 million young  
people are missing from the UK's electoral register. Barely 40 percent of 18  
to  
24-year olds turn out to vote.

The Conservatives are  
more than happy with this state of affairs. Apathy and resignation will  
secure  
them seats on election day.

I ask you to Step Up  
because when I talk to people all over the country, I'm struck by something

troubling.

It's not  
that our young people don't have the energy and talent to succeed. Our  
country  
is full of potential.

But  
something hangs in the air. It typically goes unspoken.

It's the unheard story  
of why so many of us are scaling back our hopes and dreams in favour of just  
getting  
by.

It's the reason why this  
country is unable to unleash its potential.

Because as families,  
communities – entire regions – we are all being held back.

If you're  
young – like many here today – it's a familiar feeling:

If you feel trapped in a  
job that barely covers your rent.

If you feel anxious  
about keeping on top of credit cards and loans.

If your heart sinks each  
time you see the prices of homes displayed in estate agent windows.

Then you're being held  
back.

In a Fairer Britain,  
government would be bending over backwards to unleash your potential.

You're our future after  
all.

You'd be supported to be  
confident and equipped for higher paid and secure jobs.

You'd be able to look  
ahead without mounting debt taking away your choices.

And you'd be able to  
enjoy the security and rewards of one day bringing up a family in a home of  
your own.

Being held back means we

can't provide the life that we want for ourselves and those closest to us.

And it hurts. It makes people angry and worst of all resigned to the idea that nothing can be done about it. We end up blaming ourselves or each other.

This is life in Conservative Britain.

It's why a Fairer Britain has to be the choice at this election.

It's also why Labour will unveil plans to upgrade our economy.

Because unless we move from a rigged to an upgraded economy, there can be no Fairer Britain.

That is what June 8<sup>th</sup> is all about.

Don't let the Conservatives hold you back.

Don't let the Conservatives Hold Britain Back.

And now for a sentence I've yet to utter in my political life: Enough about you, what about me.

I've just laid down the gauntlet and asked you to Step Up.

Each and every one of us must Step Up for Britain. Including me.

In the 34-years since I became a MP, I have been attacked for what I believe in. But it has not changed my core values – and sadly many of the problems we faced then are still with us.

In 1983, I stood up in Parliament for the first time and used my maiden speech to condemn deeply damaging cuts in public services and the NHS.

It's a tragedy that I could make a very similar speech today and it would once again hold true.

Between then and now I learned first-hand how the privilege of being an MP could help achieve change.

Profound and lasting change.

At the time, young protesters were being shot dead on the streets by the racist apartheid regime in South Africa – Nelson Mandela and hundreds of ANC leaders were in prison.

The Conservative Government refused to impose sanctions, entertained the leaders of the regime and banned protests outside the South African embassy in London.

Being an MP helped bring attention to that ban and the wider cause of South Africa's liberation – and got a group of us arrested.

But the space for people in Britain to organise in support of freedom in South Africa was defended and strengthened.

And I realised then that political leaders can, if they want to, create and preserve the space for others to organise and transform countries.

My role is different now but there is a common thread: we should act together, to overturn unfairness and create a better society.

It became my yardstick for measuring the performance of governments going back three decades, Labour and Conservative.

In that time, I've seen Prime Ministers and Leaders of the Opposition come and go.

But for all their achievements and failures, what I didn't see was a sustained attempt to rid this country of what really holds people back.

I never heard a clear invitation for everyone in the country to work together and create a real alternative to our rigged economy.

So when I was asked to put my name forward in Labour's 2015 leadership election, I felt I should step up.

I didn't expect to win.

But under my leadership, we have forced the Conservatives into one U-turn after another: over cuts to tax credits, disability payments and their recent attempt to increase national insurance for the self-employed.



And I

respect my critics when they make a reasoned case. They are doing what I have often tried to do – and that is to challenge leadership.

It reminds me of the

1990s when the political mainstream bought into Conservative ideas about markets, finance and the economy. It ultimately left us with no defence against

a global financial crisis that had its roots in another country's housing market.

Again, it taught me that

if leaders go unchallenged, they can make some of the most damaging mistakes.

And if party leaders put themselves ahead of serving

the people, they stop listening and even put our country at risk.

Barely nine months into

Theresa May's premiership, there are clear warning signs that she and her closest advisers are slipping into that presidential bunker mentality.

Whereas it is the job of

leadership to hold open the space for dissent, new thinking and fit-for-purpose

policy.

So while it might not be the stuff of soundbites, I

have always believed in standing firm and empowering others to make up their minds and come on board when they are ready.

It is the mind-set that gets community centres and

nurseries built. And increasingly defends them from closure.

It is the mind-set that negotiates hard for better

conditions in the workplace.

It is the mind-set that serves the many not the few.

For many

years, I couldn't see much beyond how so many political leaders manipulated us

while giving in again and again to vested interests.

I didn't

want to be like that. And it wasn't clear to me there could be another way.

But I've

learned there is.

Whereas

insecure leaders want to feel stronger by asking you to give them more power.

I recognise

strong leadership as equipping you with more power.

And that starts with  
encouraging you to Step Up and register to vote – as part of a wider  
engagement  
with your community.

Because there's no doubt  
that these are anxious times.

Individually, more of us  
face uncertainty at work.

Nationally, we wonder  
how we will make the transition out of the EU in a way that protects jobs and  
living standards.

And globally, we wonder  
how safe we are as extreme right wing movements and violent conflicts spread.

I hope you can see now  
that there is more than one way to respond.

We could seek a fragile  
calm. And hope someone in power knows what they're doing and will guide us  
through.

That means looking to  
whoever's in charge and welcoming their reassurance. We don't look further,  
we  
don't ask questions.

It's the response the few have bet on the many settling for.

I'm in this job because  
I believe there is a better way to respond.

It's about rejecting  
fake reassurances or simple slogans from government.

It's about sharing ideas  
and deciding upon real and lasting answers.

We are not going to have  
free thinking shut down by a hostile media or an elite that scoffs at anyone  
who dares to step out line.

No, each of us has a  
contribution to make. We have ideas for a better tomorrow and we are going to  
respond together.

We are a party that  
wants to bring together people and ideas, and harness the thirst for real and  
lasting change.

If you agree our times  
demand a response from all parts of our society and all corners of our  
country,  
then I am proud to be your leader.

And if you want someone  
to hold that space open for you to help change the direction of your life and  
our country, then I am proud to be your leader.

Because it's only  
through unleashing our talent that Britain will succeed on the world stage.

Since its foundation,  
the Labour Party has believed we are richer together. Seven years into  
Conservative government, we are poorer for being apart.

Across the country,  
people are being held back like never before.

Unless we change course,  
expect more insecure work for less pay. More stress for less time with our  
families.

It's gone too far and  
the country knows it.

Quite simply, only the  
Labour Party can deliver a Fairer Britain.

But we need your help to  
do so.

Please register to vote.

Step Up for Britain and vote  
Labour on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

ENDS

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## **The Government have refused to set out their state pension age plans – McDonnell**

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, commenting on the Government's refusal to set out their State Pension age plans, said:

“Today the Government have refused to set out their plans for the State Pension age before the election, despite the legal requirement to report to Parliament before the 7th May.

“It comes on the back of the Prime Minister’s continued refusal to commit to the State Pension triple-lock.

“This is yet more worrying news for pensioners already hit by a squeeze to their living standards. Labour is calling for clarity from the Tories on their plans for the future of the State Pension age.

“Pensioners, and working people, cannot afford not to know the future of the State Pension age.

“This is more evidence that this election is a choice between a Tory party that fails working people and a Labour Party that will stand up for working people and deliver a better, fairer Britain.”

Ends

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## [Labour’s unequivocal pledge to Gibraltar – Emily Thornberry meets Chief Minister Picardo during a two day visit to the territory](#)

Labour’s unequivocal pledge to Gibraltar

A future Labour government will guarantee the continued sovereignty of Gibraltar and make its future economic prosperity a priority during the Brexit negotiations. Labour’s pledge to Gibraltar came at the end of a two-day visit to the territory by Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry.

Ms Thornberry met with Gibraltar’s Chief Minister Fabian Picardo, Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia, and other members of parliament. She toured the air terminal and frontier area, and attended the Workers Memorial Day service at the Alameda Gardens. She also met with representatives of Gibraltar’s workforce to discuss their views on the post-Brexit economy.

Speaking after her meetings, Emily Thornberry said:

“I have been delighted to spend this time with Chief Minister Picardo, members of his Cabinet, and representatives of Gibraltar’s workforce. Ahead of the General Election in June, I have reinforced to all of them that the Labour Party remains unequivocally committed to protecting the sovereignty of Gibraltar and the right of its people to self-determination.

“We are also determined to protect Gibraltar’s economy and ensure that its government can continue to create jobs and prosperity in the years to come. Under a Labour government, those principles will never be subject to compromise, bargaining or trade – whether in the Brexit negotiations or beyond – but will instead remain as solid as the Rock itself.

“I also reassured the Chief Minister that – along with London, the devolved administrations, and other overseas territories – Labour will ensure that Gibraltar is closely consulted throughout those Brexit negotiations, so that together we can safeguard economic growth in every region and territory, and get the best possible deal for all British citizens.

“Britain’s overseas territories are a fundamental part of our national history and Labour will always stand up for the rights, interests and self-determination of their citizens, whether that means protecting the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands against anyone who would seek to challenge it, or supporting the right of the Chagos Islanders to return to their homelands in Diego Garcia.”

Chief Minister Picardo welcomed Ms Thornberry’s visit, saying:

“It has been a pleasure to welcome Emily to Gibraltar. She is a good friend and a defender of Gibraltar in Parliament in her role as Shadow Foreign Secretary. Her visit, even during this election period, demonstrates her deep commitment and that of her party, to the people of Gibraltar and our right to determine our own future.”

Ends

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## **Labour is calling on Theresa May to come out of hiding and face the public**

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Jeremy Corbyn has been campaigning across the country at public events, meeting people to find out their concerns and hopes.

In contrast, the Prime Minister has emerged only for heavily stage-managed soundbites to the cameras before running into hiding again.

At a staged event at a community centre in Leeds last night, party workers and activists were shipped in and staff and the public were excluded.

May continues to refuse to debate Jeremy Corbyn in live TV debates despite overwhelming demand from the voters.

Speaking at Labour’s HQ this morning, Jeremy Corbyn said:

"Theresa May is hiding from the public; she won't take part in TV debates and she won't talk to voters. Refusing to debate Labour in this election isn't a sign of strength, it's a sign of weakness.

"In showing contempt for the public in this way, the Prime Minister is showing that it's Labour that stands up for the many, while she speaks only for the few.

"What is she afraid of? Voters deserve to know what political parties are offering.

"We are setting out our plans to rebuild and transform Britain, with a government for the many, not the few."

Ends