

The Liberal Democrats' plan for Equalities and Human Rights

The Liberal Democrats believe that in 21st century Britain, none of us should need to fear discrimination.

We believe that we should all have the same opportunities regardless of where we come from or our circumstances; and that our children and grandchildren can be who they want to be without any fear of persecution or intrusion.

A vote for the Liberal Democrats in this election is a vote for a government with equality for all at the heart of its agenda.

But sadly, that is not the reality of life in the UK.

Whilst both Labour and the Conservatives have failed to tackle harmful rhetoric and root out bigotry in their own parties, **the Liberal Democrats have a vision for the UK where everyone's rights and liberties are protected, and our diversity celebrated.**

Today, with the help of Chuka Umunna and Luciana Berger, we have launched our [Plan for Equalities and Human Rights](#) which includes a number of ambitious policies, such as:

- tackling the rise in hate crimes by making them all aggravated offences
- providing funding for protective security measures to places of worship, schools and community centres that are vulnerable to hate crime and terror attacks
- completing the introduction of equal marriage
- reducing the over-representation of people from BAME backgrounds throughout the criminal justice system

The Liberal Democrats believe that we should all have the same opportunities regardless of where we come from or our circumstances.

That's why a vote for the Liberal Democrats in this election is a vote for a government with equality for all at the heart of its agenda.

Read our full Plan for Equalities and Human Rights [here](#).

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Author:

Transgender Awareness Week

No one should live in fear of harassment or physical violence.

Trans Awareness Week is a time dedicated to **celebrating trans and gender non-conforming people**.

It is also an important opportunity. We must bring attention to the continued **injustices** and **inequalities** faced by trans people today

The week will culminate in the **Trans Day of Remembrance**. This is a day to honour those who have either been killed or have taken their own lives as a result of transphobia. As we pause to we remember the lives lost, we are reminded that transphobia is never funny or trivial. It can be fatal.

No one should live in fear of harassment or physical violence. However, this remains an everyday reality for many trans individuals.

This must change.

We see you, we support you and we stand with you as proud allies.

The Conservative government's consultation on the Gender Recognition Act last year should have been a move towards greater equality.

However, it resulted in a toxic debate. The media exacerbated this through widespread misreporting and fearmongering.

It's been appalling to see the identities and existence of trans people debated and questioned.

I can only imagine how utterly depressing it must be to see your very existence questioned and disputed online and in the media every single day.

To our friends in the trans community, we see you, we support you and we stand with you as proud allies. Thank you for your strength and resilience.

We will keep fighting until you are treated with the dignity and respect you deserve.

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Author:

Jo's speech in Battersea

We don't know about you but we had a wild Saturday night!

Our leader Jo Swinson kicked off her election tour of the UK with a supporter's rally in Battersea. We're taking the fight across the country – starting last week with our plan for a brighter future.

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Author:

The Liberal Democrats' plans to tackle knife crime

The UK is in a knife crime epidemic, but successive Governments have taken the wrong approach to dealing with it.

For 25 years, Conservative and Labour Governments have been competing to seem tough on crime, without doing enough to actually prevent it.

“Liberal Democrats will build a brighter future for young people by investing £500 million a year in youth services and taking a public health approach to youth violence.”

The Liberal Democrats have set out ambitious plans to tackle soaring levels of knife crime, and we will do this by **investing £500 million in youth services and adopting a public health approach to youth violence.**

A Liberal Democrat government would create a £500 million ring-fenced fund for Local Authorities in England to spend on youth services. This would provide young people with positive, safe and healthy opportunities to prevent them being drawn into youth violence and gang-related crime. **We would also make local youth services a statutory service, protecting them from future cuts.**

The Tory approach to youth violence has been conducive to a broken relationship between police & communities.

By investing £500m a year in youth services, the Lib Dems will provide young people with the support they deserve, communities will be stronger & people will feel safer.

pic.twitter.com/dpfle5HxIk

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [November 13, 2019](#)

We would take a public health approach to tackling youth violence, modelled on the successful approach taken by Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. This would involve identifying risk factors and treating them early on, **with youth workers, police, teachers, health professionals and social services all working closely together to prevent young people falling into gangs and violence.**

With a Liberal Democrat government, young people will have the support and opportunities they deserve, our communities will be stronger and people will feel safer.

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[We should not stand aside for Jeremy Corbyn's Labour](#)

Lib Dem and Remain social media is aflutter today with discussions of the Canterbury situation.

Some people argue with great passion that we should be standing aside for Labour's candidate Rosie Duffield. I know Rosie and she is a good person. I think she would be a much better fit in the Liberal Democrats, but she has chosen to stay in Labour. I understand people's instinctive desire to give her a clear run at her seat in the name of Remain.

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