

# Twenty years on: Remembering Labour's 1997 election win

**30 April 2017**

Scottish Labour has today highlighted the major achievements of the last Labour government.

Tomorrow marks twenty years since Tony Blair's 1997 landslide. The thirteen years of Labour government that followed the 1997 election win transformed the UK and delivered improved public services for all.

Here are twenty key achievements from Labour's time in office:

1. 120,000 children lifted out of poverty in Scotland
2. Introduced the National Minimum Wage
3. Reconstituted the Scottish Parliament
4. Brokered peace in Northern Ireland
5. Introduced the Human Rights Act
6. Equalised the age of consent
7. Lifted 110,000 pensioners out of poverty in Scotland
8. Launched tax credit system for the low paid, children and pensioners
9. Introduced the right to parental leave, extended maternity leave and gave the right to request flexible working time
10. Established the Low Pay Commission
11. Gave workers statutory paid annual leave
12. Winter Fuel Payments
13. Banned smoking in public places
14. Ended ban on LGBT people serving in armed forces
15. Gave LGBT people the right to adopt children
16. Scrapped Section 28 (clause 2A in Scotland)
17. Created civil partnerships
18. Introduced the Freedom of Information Act
19. Tripled the UK aid budget

20. Wrote off 18 of the poorest countries international debt, £30bn, lifting millions out of poverty

**Speaking to mark the anniversary of Labour's 1997 triumph, Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:**

*"The historic achievements of the last Labour government are still having a massive impact on the lives of people today.*

*"Labour choices in government mean workers are now getting a fair wage, despite Tory opposition. Labour choices in government took 600,000 children out of poverty across the UK – 120,000 of them in Scotland – despite Tory claims it was impossible.*

*"And Labour delivered peace in Northern Ireland, ending one of the world's longest-running and most fractious conflicts.*

*"This is what Labour does in government and what it can do if you vote Labour on June 8."*

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## [Vote SNP to stand up to the Tories](#)

As a politician, you sometimes have to do a photoshoot which you would normally have walked a million miles from.

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## [General Election 2017 Candidates](#)

[Find your Scottish Labour Candidate here](#)

**The full list is as follows:**

Aberdeen North  
Aberdeen South  
Airdrie & Shotts  
Angus  
Argyll & Bute  
Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock  
Banff & Buchan

[Orr Vinegold](#)  
[Callum O'Dwyer](#)  
[Helen McFarlane](#)  
[William Campbell](#)  
[Michael Kelly](#)  
[Carol Mochan](#)  
[Caitlin Stott](#)

Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk	<a href="#">Ian Davidson</a>
Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross	<a href="#">Olivia Bell</a>
Central Ayrshire	<a href="#">Nairn McDonald</a>
Coatbridge, Chryston & Bellshill	<a href="#">Hugh Gaffney</a>
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth & Kirkintilloch East	<a href="#">Elisha Fisher</a>
Dumfries & Galloway	<a href="#">Daniel Goodare</a>
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale	<a href="#">Douglas Beattie</a>
Dundee East	<a href="#">Lesley Brennan</a>
Dundee West	<a href="#">Alan Cowan</a>
Dunfermline & West Fife	<a href="#">Cara Hilton</a>
East Dunbartonshire	<a href="#">Callum McNally</a>
East Kilbride, Strathaven & Lesmahagow	<a href="#">Monique McAdams</a>
East Lothian	<a href="#">Martin Whitfield</a>
East Renfrewshire	<a href="#">Blair McDougall</a>
Edinburgh East	<a href="#">Patsy King</a>
Edinburgh North & Leith	<a href="#">Gordon Munro</a>
Edinburgh South	<a href="#">Ian Murray</a>
Edinburgh South West	<a href="#">Foyso! Choudhury</a>
Edinburgh West	<a href="#">Mandy Telford</a>
Falkirk	<a href="#">Craig Martin</a>
Glasgow Central	<a href="#">Faten Hameed</a>
Glasgow East	<a href="#">Kate Watson</a>
Glasgow North	<a href="#">Pam Duncan</a>
Glasgow North East	<a href="#">Paul Sweeney</a>
Glasgow North West	<a href="#">Michael Shanks</a>
Glasgow South	<a href="#">Eileen Dinning</a>
Glasgow South West	<a href="#">Matt Kerr</a>
Glenrothes	<a href="#">Altany Craik</a>
Gordon	<a href="#">Kirsten Muat</a>
Inverclyde	<a href="#">Martin McCluskey</a>
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey	<a href="#">Mike Robb</a>
Kilmarnock & Loudoun	Laura Dover
Kirkcaldy & Cowdenbeath	Lesley Laird
Lanark & Hamilton East	Andrew Hilland
Linlithgow & Falkirk East	Joan Coombes
Livingston	Rhea Wolfson
Midlothian	Danielle Rowley
Moray	Joanne Kirby
Motherwell & Wishaw	Angela Feeney
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	Ealasaid MacDonald
North Ayrshire and Arran	Chris Rimicans
North East Fife	Rosalind Garton
Ochil & South Perthshire	Joanne Ross
Orkney & Shetland	Robina Barton

Paisley & Renfrewshire North  
Paisley & Renfrewshire South  
Perth & North Perthshire  
Ross, Skye & Lochaber  
Rutherglen & Hamilton West  
Stirling  
West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine  
West Dunbartonshire

Alison Taylor  
Alison Dowling  
David Roemmele  
Peter O'Donnghaile  
Ged Killen  
Chris Kane  
Barry Black  
Jean-Anne Mitchell

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## UKIP Leader Paul Nuttall to stand in Boston & Skegness



**PAUL NUTTALL**

Support the UKIP  
Leader in our  
Battle for Boston  
& Skegness

**#BritainTogether**



UKIP Leader Paul Nuttall has announced that he will be standing in Boston and Skegness in the forthcoming General Election.

Paul said: "It is a great honour and a privilege to stand for UKIP in Boston and Skegness. The constituency voted overwhelmingly for Leave inspired in part by the massive betrayal of our fishing industry by successive Governments, something that today's Conservative Party led by Theresa May looks set to repeat.

"I will make it my mission to stand up for the people of Boston and Skegness

and ensure there is no backsliding on Brexit.”

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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