

# Jeremy Corbyn speech to Welsh Labour Conference, Llandudno – 25.3.2017

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Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, speech to Welsh Labour Conference, Llandudno – Saturday 25 March 2017

Thank you for that welcome. It is a pleasure to be here in North Wales again in Llandudno.

Events in Westminster on Wednesday afternoon showed the brutality that one man can reap.

But it also showed the humanity, the bravery and the solidarity that really defines us and that binds us together in times of darkness and adversity.

The police, the security personnel, the NHS staff; they ran towards danger, put themselves at risk to protect and save lives, they are heroes.

And we particularly pay tribute to Police officer Keith Palmer who lost his life protecting others.

To all those who lost loved ones, who were injured, we send our love.

Our values of unity and solidarity are needed now more than ever. We know from previous occasions that some sick people have tried to sow division and hate.

So please, look after each other, help one another and think of one another.

I want to say thank you to Carwyn and Labour Assembly Members for continuing to show the difference that Labour can make in government.

Special mention too must go to Mark Drakeford, the Chancellor of Wales, who is implementing your programme despite the fact that your budget is being cut year-on-year six per cent in real terms by the end of the decade. That's

equivalent to almost £1.2 billion less for vital public services – a decade of cuts imposed by Tories in Westminster.

Our shadow Wales Secretary Christina Rees is fighting your corner in the House of Commons, working with Gerald Jones, our shadow minister for Wales and I thank them both.

I also want to put on record my thanks to Jo Stevens for the work she did in the brief before that.

Wales has great representation in Westminster. Nia Griffith our shadow defence secretary, who accompanied me recently for the unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial recognising those involved in those conflicts. Whatever our view of those wars, we should always respect those who are sent to fight and risk their lives.

And I also want to pay tribute to that great Welsh Labour campaigner, Carolyn Harris MP, leading an excellent campaign for the Children's Funeral Fund.

It was frankly a disgrace that in the Budget, the Tories again ignored this simple and humane demand. That parents who suffer the loss of a child don't have to then worry about the financial costs of giving them a funeral.

I know that Labour councils like Cardiff and Swansea have already waived fees, as has Co-op Funeralcare, but at a time when council budgets are squeezed and billions are being given away in corporate tax cuts we should be able to find just £10 million a year for this basic measure.

I want to praise another of my good Welsh comrades, although he lives in England, Mark Serwotka, for his campaign to change to a system of presumed consent for organ donation.

In Wales, you have done that and lives are being saved as a result.

I was so proud to speak alongside Mark at the recent NHS demo in London. It was the first speech he had made for several months, his first public engagement since a successful heart transplant. And I'm glad he's one of half a million people who are now members of our party.

Deemed

consent for organ donation is one just one example of the difference a Labour government makes.

As

Nye Bevan said, "The NHS will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it". And in Wales you have that faith.

The

only country in the UK to show an improvement in ambulance response times.

Improving

outcomes for stroke and cancer patients.

And

the British Heart Foundation says you're a "world leader" for cardiac rehabilitation.

And,

as NHS budgets are cut in England, the Welsh Labour government found an extra £240 million in their last Budget, taking your combined spending on health and social care 6% higher than in England.

And

the Welsh Labour government in Cardiff Bay has achieved so much more.

On

Social care you have protected funding and seen delayed discharges fall, unlike in England where under the Tories they have risen by over one-third.

And

with Flying Start for early years to help children get the best start in life.

And

then there's your childcare offer of 30 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, free breakfasts for primary school children.

500

extra Police Community Support Officers to keep neighbourhoods safe.

Record

rates of recycling, the second best of any country in Europe and the third best in the world. Protecting the environment, and preserving resources, for future generations.

And

when the Tories abolished the Agricultural Wages Board the Welsh Labour government established the Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales to protect

wages in the farming sector.

On housing, where you are building homes for those affected by the Tories' cruel bedroom tax, investing over £200 million in a warm homes scheme to insulate thousands of homes across Wales. And congratulations to Flintshire Labour council building council homes again.

And I also commend your decision to end right-to-buy. When the government in Westminster is only replacing one council home for every six sold off then we know what they're doing is taking away good housing.

There is so much to be proud of in Labour Wales.

Even constrained by cuts in your block grant what Labour has achieved in Wales stands as a beacon.

A beacon that shines a light on the Tories' abject failure – socially, economically and morally.

Their never-ending cuts agenda, while giving away £70 billion in the next six years to the rich and big business – that shows their priorities.

Austerity is a political choice, not an economic necessity.

Britain's infrastructure is second rate and falling even further behind other major economies.

This government has an abysmal record; they have failed to modernise the economy whether it's in broadband, energy, transport or housing.

And, at the same time, they have not done enough to make finance available to the innovative small business sector.

That's why Labour is committed to establishing a National Investment Bank with regional investment banks for every region of England.

This year the Welsh Labour government is creating the Development Bank for Wales.

With its purpose to create and safeguard over 5,500 jobs a year by 2022.

Providing more than £1 billion of investment support to Welsh business over that period.

This has not come out of the blue. Labour in Wales has nearly two decades' experience of working with small business and local councils to develop the role of Finance Wales into the Development Bank for Wales.

And my business team at Westminster will take a keen interest in the launch of the Development Bank for Wales and the work it does to generate growth and jobs.

Last week, the Prime Minister twice accused me of wanting to bankrupt Britain by borrowing money to fund investment.

But as every businessperson knows there is a world of difference between borrowing for capital spending and borrowing to fund the payroll and day-to-day trading or service delivery.

And as any homeowner who has ever had a mortgage knows, taking on huge debt can save you money in the long run.

We should not be afraid of debt or borrowing.

At the end of the Second World War, the Labour government of Clement Attlee didn't say "oh dear debt is 250 per cent of GDP let's park those grand ideas about public ownership; a National Health Service, building council homes, or creating the protection of social security".

No. They built a country to be proud of. They established the institutions that made our country fairer, more equal and stopped people being held back.

But people are being held back today, despite your best efforts here in Wales.

Disposable incomes are the lowest in Britain.

Energy bills are the highest in Britain.

One in four Welsh workers earns less than a living wage.

An  
estimated 90,000 people on zero hours contracts in Wales.

Those  
facts are the direct consequence of Tory ideology.

An  
ideology that believes;

That  
our national assets should be sold off to the highest bidder

That  
the only industry that matters is the one in the city of London's square mile

That  
trade unions should have the most restrictive laws in Europe

That  
if you cut taxes on the rich and big business it trickles down to us all

And  
their latest one; you can cut your way to growth and prosperity.

Well  
Labour rejects every tenet of that failed Tory ideology.

We  
need a new political settlement and a new economic settlement.

As  
we leave the European Union, and the process starts next week, it's time for  
Labour to set out our agenda, our vision for Britain

So  
our agenda is about investment, so that we support industries to succeed and  
create the high skill, high pay and high productivity jobs that have been  
destroyed in so many communities.

The  
Tidal lagoon scheme in Swansea that our shadow Business Secretary Becky Long  
Bailey visited last week, this is a huge opportunity.

To  
invest to kick-start a whole new industry that will lead to more investment  
and  
jobs elsewhere around the UK.

To  
create tens of thousands of skilled jobs and quality apprenticeships.

To  
help keep the lights on in this country and meet our energy needs.

And to help decarbonise our economy, and ensure, as Labour has pledged, that 60 per cent of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2030.

So  
I say to the Tory ministers in London; stop dithering and act now to invest in all our futures.

We  
know what happens when the government dithers, we saw it with the steel industry last year.

A  
foundation industry for our country and one which must be supported by a government procurement strategy too.

Because  
how can it be that under the Tories, the Ministry of Defence is commissioning Nordic steel for our defence needs while the Scottish SNP government is using Chinese steel for the Forth Bridge.

Changing  
our economy is also about ownership so that we all share in the rewards.

The  
privatisation of our utilities and our industries was the biggest ever redistribution of wealth in this country to the very richest few.

It  
gave the privatised industries the green light to hike prices, cut staff and cream off higher profits at all our expense.

Across  
much of Europe energy and water are being brought into public ownership, whether nationally, regionally or locally.

And  
when things are run in public ownership then the profits don't just go to a few wealthy shareholders, they go to us all.

We  
have to put back minimum standards too, from the labour market to the housing market, the injustice and insecurity have to stop.

Work  
must pay a living wage. A home must be the bedrock of security for everyone, whether renting, buying or owning.

Security  
at home – and security at work – are the foundation stones of the good life.

They  
will underpin Labour's promise to the country.

The  
Tories never have and never will promise that because fundamentally they're  
on  
the side of the rogue landlord and the bad employer.

In  
Westminster last year the Tories voted down a Labour amendment to the Housing  
Bill that simply would have required homes for rent to be fit for human  
habitation.

Where  
Labour councils bring in landlord licensing, the Tories oppose it.

When  
Labour brought in the minimum wage, the Tories opposed it.

And  
they continue to attack trade unions because they know that unity is  
strength.  
They know that by acting collectively, workers can stand up to bad bosses.

So  
very simply here's three things a Labour government will do:

We'll  
build the homes that people need to live, not that investors need to make a  
profit.

We'll  
make the minimum wage a real living wage – at least £10 per hour by 2020.

And  
we'll repeal the Tories' Trade Union Act.

Our  
vision is all the more important as we head towards the uncertainty of  
Brexit.  
Uncertain because of the recklessness of Boris Johnson, David Davis and Liam  
Fox. And uncertain because of the complacency of Theresa May and Philip  
Hammond.

Businesses  
need reassurance on investment, but they also need, as the Welsh Labour  
government has demanded "full and unfettered access to the single market".

The  
Foreign Secretary says it would not be apocalyptic to leave the European  
Union  
without a deal. It would be "perfectly OK", he says.

Tell

that to the Ford workers at Bridgend. Tell that to the Steel workers at Port Talbot. Tell that to the Airbus workers in Broughton.

Their

jobs depend on our European exports – to our “full and unfettered access to the single market”.

I

know that our shadow Brexit Secretary Keir Starmer and our shadow International Trade Secretary, Barry Gardiner will be working alongside Carwyn, Mark and the team to ensure Labour stands up for people’s jobs, the economy and investment.

The

Labour Party has been most successful when we have been at our most united.

Whatever

our differences we all know that what unites us is so much more and so much stronger.

And

we know that our communities need a Labour council, a Labour mayor and a Labour government.

In

Wales this May, Labour is defending over 500 seats in 22 unitary authorities. We lead 12 of those councils -10 outright – and I know Carwyn and all members of the Labour Party in Wales will be united in not only defending those council, but fighting to make gains too, including in Denbighshire.

Whether

it’s at the town hall, in Cardiff Bay, or at Westminster- Labour being in power means having someone who is standing up for you.

United

we stand, divided we fall.

And

united I believe this great party can do great things, together.

Thank

you.

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## Earth Hour 2017: UN joins iconic landmarks 'going dark' to support protecting the planet

25 March 2017 – The United Nations this evening dimmed the lights at its iconic Headquarters complex in New York and other facilities around the world in observance of the tenth annual 'Earth Hour,' global event to put the spotlight on the issues facing the planet and to inspire millions across the world to live more sustainably.

In a video message, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, said: "Climate change continues to imperil lives and livelihoods around the world. Last year was again the hottest on record. The landmark Paris Agreement gives us an unprecedented opportunity to limit global temperature rise, promote clean energy for all and create a sustainable future."

Governments and businesses must step up. So must individuals. Building a sustainable tomorrow depends today on everyone, said the UN chief, asking the world to join him in turning off their lights on today at 8:30 p.m. local time.

"From the darkness, we can create a sustainable and inclusive world for all," he said.

Organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Earth Hour encourages individuals, companies, organizations and Governments to switch off their lights for one hour at 8:30 p.m., local time worldwide, to focus attention on people-driven solutions to protecting the planet and building a bright, sustainable future.

First launched in 2007 in Australia, Earth Hour has become an annual event, mobilizing hundreds of millions of individuals to participate and growing to become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment.

According to the WWF, the UN family will join the thousands of homes, offices, skylines and monuments that will go dark on Earth Hour's tenth anniversary to put the spotlight on the issues facing the planet, and to inspire millions across the world to live more sustainably.

Hundreds of landmarks from New York to Uganda and Sweden to Malaysia are confirmed and will be turning off on the night of Earth Hour, including iconic sites such as the Eiffel Tower, Taipei 101, the Empire State Building and the Acropolis.

To inspire more people to act, this year the Earth Hour movement is also

inviting supporters to show their commitment to the cause on their Facebook timelines, in parallel to the lights out rolling across skylines.

People around the world can log onto [earthhour.org/climateaction](http://earthhour.org/climateaction) to donate five Facebook posts to Earth Hour and encourage their friends to be a part of local climate efforts. They can also use a new Facebook profile picture frame available on [www.facebook.com/earthhour](http://www.facebook.com/earthhour) to celebrate Earth Hour on their own personal landmark &#8211 their Facebook page.

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## **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to host Grand Finale of 36 hour Smart India Hackathon, 2017 in Nagpur**

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is hosting the 'Smart India Hackathon, 2017- Grand Finale' on 1st & 2nd April, 2017 simultaneously at Nagpur and 25 other different nodal centers across India. Launched on 9th November, 2016 in New Delhi by the Ministry of Human Resource

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## **Returns lower income expectations**

Chinese students returning from overseas studies have lowered their expectations of income amid fierce competition, a report has found.

Published on Friday by overseas recruitment company Lockin China, the report said overseas returnees "are becoming more rational" in their income expectations as an estimated 660,000 returnees are going to join a record high 7.95 million domestic college graduates in the job market this year.

According to the report, which surveyed 150,000 Chinese overseas students and professionals as well as thousands of Chinese enterprises, nearly 64 percent of overseas returnee respondents said their expected annual income ranges from 70,000 (\$10,170) to 120,000 yuan.

More than 27 percent of them expect more than 120,000 yuan, "which is much higher than the average level of the market".

Compared with last year when 23 percent of those surveyed expected an annual income of more than 150,000 yuan, this year the group with such an expectation has decreased to only 10.4 percent of respondents.

“There have been a great number of people returning from overseas, and the number is still on the rise. This makes overseas returnees more rational in their income expectations,” said Ge Wei, a manager with Lockin.

The report said there has been an “obvious” increase of returnees since 2005 and it was “a turning point” in 2015 when the country saw more than half of those who left to study abroad come back. About 450,000 returnees came back to China in 2015.

The tightened immigration policies in foreign countries, especially in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, are one of the major reasons for the increase of returnees, according to the report. Another major reason is the “global economic recession”, it said.

While 63.2 percent of returnees chose the tightened policy as one of the reasons to return, more than 54 percent chose China’s rapid economic growth.

Ge also said returnees don’t have many advantages when competing with their domestic peers for jobs. On average, they could make only about 500 yuan more a month than their peers who study at home.

It’s partly because it is difficult for them to show their advantages in interviews, she said, adding that many domestic graduates gain interview skills through training, but there is no such training in foreign universities.

But usually the returnees show their advantages after working for several years and see more possibilities for promotion and salary increases, she added.

Overseas students now start looking for jobs earlier, the report found.

More than 32 percent of overseas students started applying for domestic jobs six months before graduation.

The proportion of those who seek job opportunities only after returning to China has decreased from 64 percent in 2016 to 44.5 percent in 2017, according to the report.

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