

We won't pander to the will of this Tory government to chip away at hard won progress on equality – Champion

Today Labour has tabled a targeted amendment to the Article 50 Bill (the European Union [Notification of Withdrawal] Bill).

The amendment seeks to ensure Parliament is able to hold the Government to account throughout the Brexit negotiations on the impact of decisions on women and those with protected characteristics.

Sarah Champion, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities said:

"Labour has a long record of championing and protecting equal rights and we will hold the government to account using the Equality Act brought in by the last Labour government.

"Whilst we respect the will of the British people, we won't pander to the will of this Tory government to chip away at hard won progress on equality."

Theresa May's industrial strategy is little more than window-dressing for continued managed decline under the Tories – Onwurah

Responding to the Fabian Society's report "At the crossroads: the future of British retail", Chi Onwurah, Labour's Shadow Business Minister said:

"This is further evidence that Theresa May's industrial strategy is little more than window-dressing for continued managed decline under the Tories. Last week's Green Paper had almost nothing to say about retail, and this report underlines the failure of this Government to respond to urgent challenges such as automation and low productivity.

"It's clear that this Government's tactic of cherry-picking favoured sectors for backroom deals is leaving the vast majority of British workers out in the cold. Labour's industrial strategy will take a whole-economy approach to build a high-wage, high-growth Britain that genuinely works for everyone."

Press release: Misconduct after failure to comply with Commission

From:

First published:

31 January 2017

Regulator publishes report of its inquiry into Urban Relief.

The Charity Commission has today concluded its [inquiry](#) into [Urban Relief \(former registered charity number 1114537\)](#). The Commission opened an inquiry on 3 February 2015 after a trustee of the charity had been convicted of a number of offences, including managing a brothel, concealing criminal property and using the charity's bank account to launder funds from the proceeds of crime.

The Commission undertook scrutiny of the charity's bank accounts and conducted further enquiries, including attempting to meet all the trustees. Although the inquiry's analysis of the bank account records indicates that the charity did receive and spend funds, the inquiry saw no evidence that those funds were obtained or applied in furtherance of its objects.

Both the convicted trustee and his wife (also a trustee) failed to cooperate with the inquiry despite being ordered to do so by the Commission. The Commission found that 2 of the 4 charity trustees were unaware that their names had been declared to the Commission ([see endnote 1](#)).

The inquiry concluded that the trustees were responsible for mismanagement and misconduct in the administration of the charity due to a persistent failure to comply with the Commission's orders and directions. The Commission removed the charity from the register on 21 November 2016 ([see endnote 2](#)).

Carl Mehta, Head of Investigations, Enforcement at the Charity Commission, said:

The trustees in this case failed to abide by even the basic duties of trustees and failed to cooperate with our investigation. This charity has now been removed from the register of charities and the trustee involved was held to account by the criminal justice system.

The full report is available on [GOV.UK](#).

Ends

PR 07/17

Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
3. Details of how the Commission reports on its regulatory work can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Endnotes

1. The Commission established in the inquiry that out of the 4 trustees 2 had never consented to be trustees, or acted in that capacity.
2. The charity ceased to operate as of August 2014, the last discernable date that any funds were transacted through the charity's bank account.

[Press release: Bishop of Sheffield: Philip North](#)

From:

First published:

31 January 2017

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Philip John North for election as Bishop of Sheffield.

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Philip John North, MA, Suffragan Bishop of Burnley, in the diocese of Blackburn, for election as Bishop of Sheffield in succession to the Right Reverend Steven John Lindsey Croft, MA, PhD, on his translation to the See of Oxford on 6th July 2016.

The Right Reverend Philip North (aged 50), was educated at the University of York and trained for the ministry at Saint Stephen's House, Oxford. He served his curacy at Sunderland Saint Mary and Saint Peter, in the Diocese of Durham from 1992 to 1996. Since 1997 he has been a member of the Company of Mission Priests.

From 1996 to 2002 he was Vicar of Hartlepool Holy Trinity in Durham Diocese and also served as Area Dean of Hartlepool from 2000 until 2002. From 2002 to 2008 he was Priest Administrator at the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham and from 2004 to 2007 he was also Priest-in-Charge of Hempton in the diocese of

Norwich. From 2008 to 2015 he was Team Rector of the Parish of Old Saint Pancras in the Diocese of London. Since 2015 he has been Suffragan Bishop of Burnley.

His interests include current affairs, cycling and walking.

[Green Party calls on all councils to welcome refugees after 'national disgrace' of asylum seekers' housing revealed](#)



31 January 2017

The Green Party has branded the poor housing and lack of support for refugees in the UK a “national disgrace” and called on every council in the country to step up and take in refugees.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, made the call after it was revealed some asylum seekers were living in “rat infested” conditions [1].

Bartley said:

“That we would house those fleeing conflict and persecution in rat infested conditions is nothing short of a national disgrace.

“How low can Britain go? This country has a proud history of being a safe haven where those who have been abused, traumatised and suffered violations of their basic human rights can find protection and support. That heritage is being betrayed by this Government.

“We need to see every single local authority welcoming refugees and it is unacceptable that while some councils have taken in hundreds of asylum seekers others, like in the Prime Minister’s own constituency, have taken none at all.

“We are all citizens of the world and we all have a responsibility to provide sanctuary for those fleeing persecution. With the barbaric policies coming from Trump’s America this week the UK should be showing the world how we can and must do better.”

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-38799694>

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