

25 April 2017

## Just Fair's ten

### Ten targeted measures to protect and promote economic and social rights in the UK

Ahead of the snap general election of 8 June, Just Fair calls on all political parties to make a stand for economic and social rights.

Specifically, Just Fair recommends them to include ten commitments in their manifestos.

Just Fair Chair Jamie Burton said: *"The snap election gives us the chance to assert unequivocally that human rights and equality must be at the heart of the Brexit process. It is time for a UK government to make a positive case for the protection of economic and social rights and reinforce the country's global profile as an open, just and fair society committed to the protection of all human rights for all."*

#### Note to editors

Established in 2010, Just Fair monitors and advocates economic and social rights in the UK in light of international human rights law. On behalf of its 80-member [consortium](#), between 2014 and 2016 Just Fair provided evidence to a UN Committee that assessed the [level of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in the UK](#). Just Fair's ten are inspired by some of the 60 recommendations made by that UN Committee.

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1. Retain and support the **Human Rights Act 1998**, and remain committed to the European Convention on Human Rights.
2. Ensure that the **Great Repeal Bill** or equivalent legislation does not lead to any regression in the protection of human rights, including economic and social rights. The protective effect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights must be retained.
3. Clamp down on **tax avoidance and cross-border tax abuse**.
4. Restore the link between benefits and costs of living in order to guarantee that the **social security system ensures an adequate standard of living** for all.
5. Conduct a comprehensive **impact assessment of the effects of the welfare reforms** introduced since 2012 and review the use of sanctions in relation to welfare benefits.
6. Tackle growing inequality by bringing into force the public sector socio-economic equality duty of [section 1 of the Equality Act 2010](#).
7. Provide **maternal healthcare** for all women regardless of their nationality and immigration status, and protect NHS patients' data and free access to healthcare making sure that the **Home Office does not have access to migrants' information** stored by the NHS.
8. Review the impact of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 with a view to ensuring access to justice and provision of free **legal aid** services to those in need in civil justice procedures related to housing, health and welfare rights.
9. Incorporate the international standards on **economic and social rights into domestic law**, ensuring that victims of violations of economic and social rights have full access to effective legal remedies.
10. Sign and ratify the 2008 Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and ratify the 1996 Revised European Social Charter 1996 to allow individuals and groups to **appeal to independent international bodies** when their economic and social rights have been violated in the UK.