

A Just Fair Manifesto for Social Rights: Our analysis of the parties' responses

	Conservative	Greens	Labour	Liberal Democrats	SNP	Plaid Cymru	The Brexit Party
<u>Socio-economic duty</u>	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
<u>No Recourse to Public Funds</u>	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
<u>Asylum seekers' right to work</u>	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Grey
<u>Right to food</u>	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Grey
<u>Reverse the two-child limit</u>	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey
<u>Access to health care for all</u>	Grey	Green	Yellow	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey
<u>End no fault evictions</u>	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
<u>Link social security and the cost of living</u>	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Grey
<u>Human Rights Act</u>	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey

Key: Green, Encouraging; Yellow, Unclear or insufficiently developed; Red, Worrying; Grey, Silent

1. Bring the socio-economic duty to life

The next Government should commence Part One of the Equality Act 2010 to bring the socio-economic duty to life, and should develop guidelines for public authorities to implement the duty together with people with lived experience of poverty.

- [Nothing about us, without us, is really for us](#). Koldo Casla in *Global Policy*. October 2019.
- [The socio-economic duty: A powerful idea hidden in plain sight in the Equality Act](#). Koldo Casla in the *Oxford Human Rights Hub*. May 2019.
- [Tackling Socio-Economic Inequality in The UK Is An Urgent Human Rights Issue](#). Imogen Richmond-Bishop in *Rights Info*. January 2019.

Conservatives	
Greens	
Labour	<p>We will put class at the heart of Britain’s equality agenda and create a new ground for discrimination on the basis of socio-economic disadvantage. p66</p> <p>Just Fair’s comment: <i>While this change would potentially go beyond what is required by the socio-economic duty, we believe the next government should issue the necessary order to commence the duty at the earliest opportunity, which would not require amending the Equality Act 2010.</i></p>
Liberal Democrats	
SNP	
Plaid Cymru	
The Brexit Party	

2. End No Recourse to Public Funds

‘No recourse to public funds’ (NRPF) is an immigration condition imposed on people ‘subject to immigration control’. A person with NRPF cannot access most social benefits or social housing, but they can access publicly funded services that are not listed as ‘public funds’ for

immigration purposes. The NRPF condition is one of a number of immigration policies that are among the key causes of destitution amongst migrant communities.

- [Not Seen, Not Heard: Children’s Experiences of the Hostile Environment](#). Project 17. February 2019.

Conservatives	
Greens	Bring forward a new humane immigration system with no minimum income rules for visas, full workplace rights for migrants, the right to work for asylum seekers and recourse to public support for migrants and asylum seekers who need it. p61
Labour	
Liberal Democrats	
SNP	
Plaid Cymru	
The Brexit Party	

3. Give people seeking asylum the right to work

People seeking asylum in the UK are not allowed to work within the first year of their application. No other European country is so restrictive in denying asylum seekers access to the labour market. Lifting the ban to allow asylum seekers to work after six months in the country would be a popular policy that is consistent with liberal values and that would benefit the economy at the same time.

- [End the counter-productive and costly ‘work ban’ on people seeking asylum](#). Koldo Casla in *Open Democracy*. October 2019.
- [Lift the Ban: The Right to Work of People Seeking Asylum in the UK according to International Human Rights Law](#). Just Fair and Lift the Ban. September 2019.

Conservatives	
Greens	Bring forward a new humane immigration system with no minimum income rules for visas, full workplace rights for

	migrants, the right to work for asylum seekers and recourse to public support for migrants and asylum seekers who need it. p61
Labour	Once here, refugees will have the right to work, access to public services and will be treated humanely by government at all levels. p71
Liberal Democrats	Giving asylum seekers the right to work three months after they have applied and resettling 10,000 unaccompanied refugee children in the UK over the next ten years. p50 Give asylum seekers the right to work three months after they have applied, enabling them to work in any role so that they can support themselves, integrate into their communities and contribute through taxation. p54
SNP	The right to work for asylum seekers, allowing them to contribute to our economy more fully and enabling parents to support their children. p46
Plaid Cymru	It is crucial that all migrants are treated with dignity and regard for their basic human rights. p19
The Brexit Party	

4. Recognise the right to food

There are an estimated 8.4 million people in the UK who are food insecure. By incorporating the right to food into our legal system the Government would be working towards tackling the issues facing our food system in a sensible and systematic way. It would put responsibilities on Government, public institutions and local authorities to act in the best interests of people and planet.

- [Food for thought? A Rights- Based Approach To Food](#). Imogen Richmond-Bishop in *Rights Info*. December 2018.
- [Going Hungry: The Human Right to Food in the UK](#). Just Fair. 2014.

Conservatives	
Greens	Legislate for a right to food, giving everyone access to healthy, nutritious, locally grown food, including the creation of new providers to supply this food at an affordable price to schools. p23
Labour	Labour will introduce A Right to Food. We will end 'food bank Britain'. We will ensure everyone has access to healthy, nutritious, sustainably produced food. We will halve food bank usage within a year and remove the need for them

	altogether in three years. We will establish a National Food Commission and review the Allotments Act. We will make food security a reason to intervene in the economy and work with local councils to minimise food waste p24 Labour respects the crucial role played by small-scale farmers the world over in guaranteeing people the right to food. p105
Liberal Democrats	Establish a legal right to food to enshrine in law the government’s responsibility to ensure that existing and new public policy is audited for its impact on food security. p44
SNP	They will also press for the UK to introduce new rights including a right to food for all and to support and resource action which makes such a right meaningful for people. p44
Plaid Cymru	Future trade deals undertaken by the UK, whether inside or outside the EU, should maintain and enhance environmental standards, minimise the environmental footprint of trade and make trade terms explicitly subject to environmental and human rights commitments. There should be specific protections for vital global ecosystems and habitats such as the Amazon, and for indigenous people. p63 <i>Just Fair’s comment:</i> A human rights-based approach to international trade is a very welcome step forward, but unlike other parties, Plaid Cymru does not make an explicit commitment for the legal recognition of the right to food in UK law.
The Brexit Party	

5. Reverse the two-child limit on social security entitlements

The two-child limit means that many families will no longer receive Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for any third or subsequent children born after April 2017. The two-child limit and other devastatingly regressive measures have disproportionately affected the people that need society’s support the most. The UK has the means to ensure that no-one falls below an adequate standard of living and the social security system must live up to it. The two-child limit must end as a stepping stone towards a truly free and fair United Kingdom.

- [All Kids Count. The impact of the two-child limit after two years.](#) CPAG, the Church of England, Women's Aid, Turn2Us and the Refugee Council. June 2019.

Conservatives	
Greens	Families with an income of under £50,000 per year will receive an additional supplement of £70 per week for each of their first two children and a further £50 per week for each additional child. p27
Labour	We will stop 300,000 children from being in poverty by scrapping the benefit cap and the two child limit, so ending the immoral and outrageous ‘rape clause’. p73
Liberal Democrats	Tackling child poverty by removing the two-child limit and the benefits cap. p44
SNP	Demand the end of the two-child benefit cap, the rape clause, and a halt to Universal Credit. p34
Plaid Cymru	
The Brexit Party	

6. Ensure there is a watertight division between migration control and access to health care

Strict walls should exist between healthcare personnel and law enforcement authorities because the opposite may frighten people away from seeking medical healthcare when they need it. Health facilities, goods and services should be accessible to everyone without discrimination of any kind.

- [Submission to the Health Committee Memorandum of understanding on data-sharing inquiry](#). Just Fair. January 2018.
- [Right to Health for All](#). Just Fair and Doctors of the World. June 2017.

Conservatives	
Greens	Guarantee safe and discreet access to public services such as the police, health and education, so that migrants can access these without fear of being subject to immigration enforcement. p61
Labour	We will guarantee universal healthcare by ensuring women’s and children’s health services are comprehensive, by protecting the rights of EU workers, other migrants and refugees and by ensuring all our services are made accessible to BAME, LGBT+ and disabled patients. p32
Liberal Democrats	Establish a firewall to prevent public agencies from sharing personal information with the Home Office for the purposes of immigration enforcement and repeal the immigration exemption in the Data Protection Act. p53

SNP	
Plaid Cymru	
The Brexit Party	

7. End no fault evictions under section 21 of the Housing Act 1988

Section 21 evictions allow landlords in England to evict tenants with no fault and without giving a reason. This policy is extraordinarily unfair for tenants and there is nothing like it in other European countries. It is also contrary to international human rights law, which requires a proportionality assessment of all evictions on a case by case basis. The ending of private sector tenancies is the biggest single driver of statutory homelessness in England.

- [Housing Crisis Is Hitting Women Hardest – Here’s Why](#). Imogen Richmond-Bishop in *Rights Info*. July 2019.
- [Renting rights: what England can learn from fairer systems around the world](#). Koldo Casla in *The Conversation*. October 2018.
- [No-fault evictions violate human rights: Section 21 must end](#). Just Fair and Generation Rent. September 2018.

Conservatives	We will bring in a Better Deal for Renters, including abolishing ‘no fault’ evictions and only requiring one ‘lifetime’ deposit which moves with the tenant. This will create a fairer rental market: if you’re a tenant, you will be protected from revenge evictions and rogue landlords, and if you’re one of the many good landlords, we will strengthen your rights of possession. p79
Greens	We will also end no-fault evictions. p51
Labour	We will take urgent action to protect private renters through rent controls, open-ended tenancies, and new, binding minimum standards. [...] We will give renters the security they need to make their rented housing a home, with new open-ended tenancies to stop unfair, ‘no fault’ evictions. p79
Liberal Democrats	
SNP	
Plaid Cymru	
The Brexit Party	

8. Restore the link between social security entitlements and the cost of living

As a Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the UK must take steps to the maximum of available resources to achieve progressively the full realisation of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to social security. However, tax and social security cuts introduced over the past decade have had a regressive effect on social protection. As a result, social security entitlements are far from covering the true cost of living, and they fail to lift people out of the poverty trap.

- [Welfare Safety Net Inquiry: Written submission to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee](#). Just Fair and 15 other groups. December 2018.
- [Visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, to the UK from 5 to 16 November 2018: Written submission](#). Just Fair and 14 other groups. September 2018.

Conservatives	
Greens	<p>Phase in the introduction of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) sufficient to cover an adult’s basic needs. UBI will be an unconditional payment, paid to all UK residents regardless of employment status. (...) Ensure nobody will be worse off. p26</p> <p>Just Fair’s comment: <i>While potentially helpful, covering ‘basic needs’ with a Universal Basic Income would not exempt the State from ensuring that social security entitlements are linked to the actual cost of living.</i></p>
Labour	<p>Labour will scrap UC. We will immediately stop moving people onto it and design an alternative system that treats people with dignity and respect. Our ambition in designing this system will be to end poverty by guaranteeing a minimum standard of living. p73</p> <p>Just Fair’s comment: <i>We cannot assume the statement ‘guaranteeing a minimum standard of living’ equates to ensuring that social entitlements meet the level of adequacy of the actual cost of living.</i></p>
Liberal Democrats	Reform Universal Credit to be more supportive of the self-employed. Increase Local Housing Allowance in line with

	average rents in an area. Abolish the bedroom tax and introduce positive incentives for people to downsize. p65
SNP	SNP MPs will demand an end to policies which are pushing people into poverty, debt and desperation including ending the two child cap on tax credits and associated rape clause, an end to the punitive benefit sanctions regime, and a halt to Universal Credit. We will also press for an immediate end to the benefit freeze and for uplifts in the value of income replacement benefits of at least inflation. p5
Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru is fighting for a fairer benefit system that will take the cost of housing into account. p44
The Brexit Party	

Human Rights Act 1998

Retain and support the Human Rights Act 1998 unamended.

- [Submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights 'The Human Rights Act 20 years later' Inquiry](#). Just Fair and 13 other groups. September 2018.

Conservatives	We will update the Human Rights Act and administrative law to ensure that there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our vital national security and effective government. p48
Greens	Retain the Human Rights Act and reaffirm the UK's commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights. p61
Labour	We are guided by our firm commitment to the Human Rights Act and Convention on Human Rights that have been consistently attacked by the Conservatives. p65
Liberal Democrats	Standing up for human rights by championing the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights. p74
SNP	SNP MPs will oppose any attempts by the UK government to scrap the Human Rights Act and withdraw the UK from the ECHR. p44
Plaid Cymru	Against the backdrop of a Tory Party who are intent on undermining the Human Rights Act, we will publish a human rights charter for Wales to protect the most vulnerable members of our communities. p76
The Brexit Party	



You can find the [Conservative](#), [Green](#), [Labour](#), [Liberal Democrats](#), [SNP](#), [Plaid Cymru](#), and the [Brexit Party](#) manifestos in full online as well as the our [Just Fair Manifesto for Social Rights](#).

Alignment with elements of the [Just Fair Manifesto for Social Rights](#) does not imply endorsement for any political party or candidate. We call on all parties to support policies that would uphold social rights in the UK.

Just Fair exists to realise a fairer and more just society in the UK by monitoring and advocating for the protection of economic and social rights.

For more information contact us on info@justfair.org.uk

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