

**I.
BELIEVE
IN A
BETTER
SOCIETY**

I. LIBERTY'S MANIFESTO

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Liberty / NCCL 2019

For more information please contact:

membership@libertyhumanrights.org.uk

The world has changed dramatically in recent years and in a time of extraordinary politics, it's more important than ever for ordinary people to make their voice heard.

In turbulent times, it's easy to feel powerless. But we are not.

The upcoming General Election is a chance to change our society for the better and to stand up to power.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK TODAY

Instead of receiving help, people are being fined, arrested and prosecuted simply for being homeless.

People have been torn away from their families and friends and locked up in immigration removal centres without release dates. Essential public services pass information to immigration enforcement, leaving people too scared to send their children to school, report crimes and seek medical attention when seriously ill, with fatal consequences.

The police are using facial recognition technology on the streets, as well as dangerously flawed computer algorithms to predict where crime will occur and who will commit it.

The UK has the most intrusive mass surveillance regime of any democratic country. Everyone's phone calls, text messages, emails, internet browsing histories and GPS locations can be swept up, stored and examined by the security services at will.

Legal aid has been decimated, denying thousands of people access to justice, and Parliament voted to scrap the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights after Brexit.

A BETTER SOCIETY IS WITHIN OUR GRASP

Liberty has been standing up to power for 85 years. We are campaigners, lawyers and policy experts who work together to protect rights and hold the powerful to account. We are a movement of 10,300 members and 49,200 more supporters completely independent of Government. Our principles are guided by evidence and experience – not political agenda, profit or popular opinion.

This is our manifesto. Our promise to you that whoever wins the General Election we will be here to challenge injustice, defend freedom and fight to make the UK a fairer place for everyone.

Our fundamental rights belong to us. The Liberty manifesto contains our six key demands of everyone standing for election. You should feel empowered by it. Share it with your friends and family. Take your local candidates to task with it.

And most importantly, register to vote and get yourself to the polling booth to shape the society you want to live in.

This is a pivotal moment in our history. Together we have the power to change things for the better. Let's use it.

OUR CHALLENGE TO A NEW GOVERNMENT

I. STAND UP FOR MIGRANTS' RIGHTS

The Government's discredited and racist hostile environment is trying to erode the ties that bind our society together.

People should be able to access essential public services – like sending their children to school, seeking medical care and reporting crime – without fear of immigration enforcement. But the hostile environment has turned public servants into border guards. We have defeated a Government policy that let the Home Office Hoover up confidential patient data collected by health workers. Now we want all public servants to be free to protect, help and educate.

The UK is the only nation in Europe which locks people in immigration detention centres with no time limit on how long they can be held – including children, pregnant people and survivors of torture and trafficking. Just one month in detention devastates mental health. Many people are held for months on

end. Some for years. A 28-day time limit is a simple change with cross-party support which would save lives. It would also save a lot of taxpayers' money. The Government just needs to implement it.

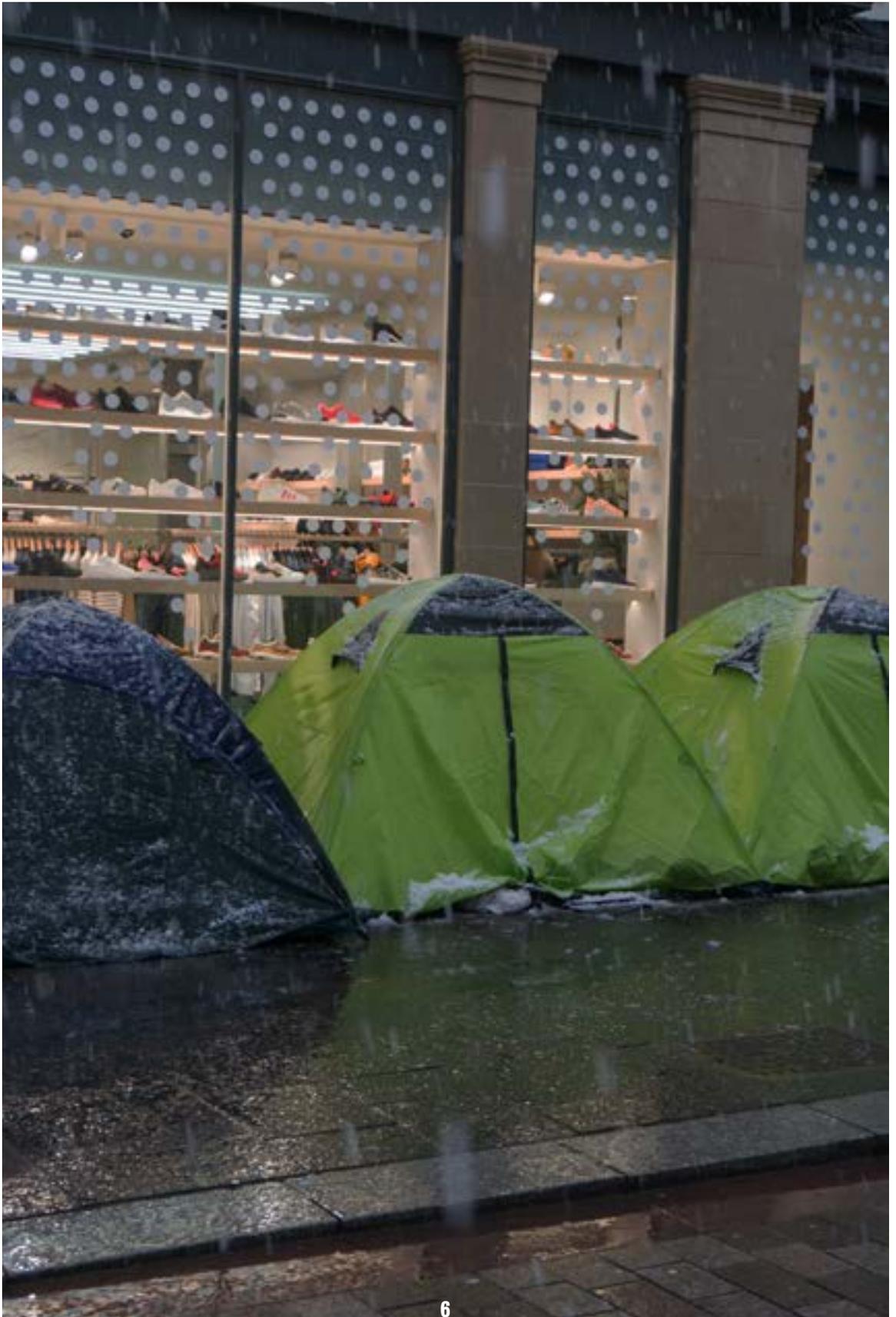
We have the chance to redesign our immigration system to respect people's rights and treat everyone with dignity.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- End the hostile environment and permanently separate essential public services and immigration enforcement.
- Set a 28-day time limit on immigration detention.

A black and white photograph of the ship 'EMPIRE WINDRUSH' from London. The ship is white with a dark hull. The name 'EMPIRE WINDRUSH' is written in large, bold, black letters across the front of the ship, with 'LONDON' written below it. The ship is crowded with people on its deck, many of whom are waving. A large anchor is visible on the front of the ship. The ship is in the water, and the background is a plain, light sky.

EMPIRE WINDRUSH
LONDON



I. STAND AGAINST CRIMINALISING POVERTY

The Government and local authorities are criminalising homelessness in a misguided attempt to airbrush our streets. It's time they stop punishing poverty and learn from those who are plugging the gap and standing with those who need it most.

Across England and Wales, police forces are still using the Vagrancy Act to charge thousands of people every year for begging and rough sleeping. This law came into force in 1824 and predates the formation of the police who enforce it. The Government is reviewing the Act – and together with homelessness charities we are pushing for them to scrap it.

Meanwhile local councils are using ludicrously broad powers called Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) to criminalise rough sleeping and begging. PSPOs can be used to ban any activities councils think have a detrimental effect on others. We've already defeated a

number of nonsensical PSPOs – now we want the power stopped for good.

Homelessness is caused by complex social issues which cannot be solved by criminal sanctions.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- Scrap the Vagrancy Act.
- Stop the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders.

I. REJECT MASS SURVEILLANCE

Rights like privacy, protest, free expression, the free press, and fair trials are fundamental to any free society. But they are under threat from an expanding range of surveillance powers.

The UK has the most intrusive mass surveillance regime of any democracy. Under the Snoopers' Charter the authorities can collect information about everything we do and say online – including web and location history, and who we call, email and text. This information paints a detailed picture of who we are and what we think. Along with a broad coalition of campaigners, Liberty will continue to fight the Government in the courts to protect us all from this invasion of privacy.

Police are using facial recognition technology on our streets and in places like shopping centres. Cameras scan everyone going past and create maps of their faces – more like fingerprints than photographs – which are

checked against secretive watch lists. It is a dangerously intrusive and discriminatory technology that destroys our privacy rights and forces people to change their behaviour.

People everywhere are taking small actions of resistance against unwarranted surveillance. But they shouldn't have to. Parliament has the power to protect their freedom – it's time it used it.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- Tear up the Investigatory Powers Act (the Snoopers' Charter).
- Ban the use of facial recognition technology in all publicly accessible spaces.





I. STAND AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY POLICING

Across the UK, police forces are using discriminatory tools and powers which stigmatise minority communities, erode trust and are ultimately ineffective.

Tackling serious youth violence and crime more generally is a pressing human rights issue, but the Government has again turned to stop and search – and has even made it easier to stop and search people who are not suspected of any criminal activity. Evidence shows increased stop and search has minimal – at best – impact on violent crime levels.

Meanwhile racial disproportionality in stop and search is at its highest in more than 20 years, and is rising. This fuels the breakdown of relationships between the police and local communities, and makes it harder for officers to do their jobs.

Police across the UK are using predictive policing programs to predict where and when

crime will happen – and even who will commit it. These programs rely on biased algorithms – entrenching pre-existing discrimination and directing officers to patrol areas which are already disproportionately over-policed or relying on offensive profiling to decide how people will behave.

We can put equality and justice at the heart of our response to serious violence and tackling crime by rethinking how forces operate and outlawing these discriminatory tools and powers.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- Outlaw the use of racist predictive policing tools.
- Scrap powers to stop and search people without suspicion and limit remaining stop and search powers.

I. DEFEND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Everyone should be able to protect their rights and challenge state abuse. But brutal cuts to legal aid have created a two-tier system where justice is reserved for those who can afford it.

Justice is best served when everyone has proper access to legal advice and representation. Yet that is already beyond the reach of many people in the UK. Publicly funded advice and representation has been scrapped for the majority of cases relating to family, immigration, employment, debt, welfare benefits, homelessness and education. This has created legal aid deserts across the UK – and inevitably, those who need it most are the hardest hit.

We will always stand up for everyone's access to information, advice and tools to defend their own rights and those of their family, friends and communities.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- Reinstating legal aid.



I. PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE

In the UK the rights of all of us – without exception – are protected by law. Protecting the legal frameworks that ensure our rights is an important job.

Every year hundreds of people use the Human Rights Act to uphold their rights and achieve justice. It lets us protect our rights in UK courts, and forces public authorities – including the Government, police and local councils – to treat everyone equally, with fairness, dignity and respect.

Whether you voted to leave or remain in the European Union, you didn't vote for fewer rights. But as the Government has embarked on a massive rewrite of our laws to prepare for exiting the EU, hard-won protections have been lost – sometimes with little to no parliamentary scrutiny.

Lots of the laws that safeguard our rights come from the EU – including rights which

protect privacy, digital rights and rights for workers, disabled people, children, women, LGBT+ people, migrants and asylum seekers. Parliament voted to scrap the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights after Brexit which makes it even more important to protect the Human Rights Act.

Any new Government must resist a roll-back of rights after Brexit.

LET'S BUILD A FAIRER MORE RESPECTFUL SOCIETY

- Commit to maintaining the Human Rights Act.
- Legislate to plug any rights gap left by the process of leaving the EU.





I. STAND UP TO POWER

As the election campaign gets into full swing, prospective MPs will be doing their best to win your vote.

You should feel empowered by this manifesto to challenge your local Parliamentary candidates on some of the biggest and most crucial human rights issues of our time.

They may knock on your door or take part in a ‘hustings’ – a meeting where people have the opportunity to ask them about their policies directly. You should be able to easily find out who is standing for election and how you can get in touch online.

However you come into contact with your local candidates, use the information in this manifesto to demand they commit to creating a better society where everyone is treated with dignity, fairness and respect.

And if you are aged 18 or over on election day and are a UK, Irish, or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, you can vote. And you should.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

You must be registered to vote in the UK and can do so quickly and easily online. If you have registered before, you will not need to again unless you have changed your address, name or nationality.

You will need your national insurance number and the addresses where you have lived in the past 12 months. If you are a British citizen living abroad, you will need your passport too.

You must register to vote at least 12 working days before the General Election.

If you are not sure if you are registered, you can contact your local electoral registration office.

HOW TO VOTE

Most people will vote in person at a polling station. You will receive a poll card shortly before the election, telling you where your local polling station is – usually a public building like a school.

You do not need your poll card to vote, and do not need photo ID either unless you are in Northern Ireland. You only need to tell the staff your name and address.

If you know you will be unable to vote on election day, you can apply for a postal vote or for someone to vote for you (known as a proxy vote).

To vote by post, download an application and send it to your local electoral registration office. You can find their details on the Electoral Commission website. They will send you a ballot paper and a Freepost envelope.

You can send in your postal vote as early as you like, but it must arrive by 10pm on election day or it will not be counted.

To have somebody else vote for you on election day, download a proxy vote application and send it to your local electoral registration office. You will need to explain why you cannot go to the polling station yourself and choose someone else to vote for you. Make sure they are registered to vote and tell them who you want to vote for.

You will need to apply for a proxy vote at least six days before election day.

The General Election is a vital opportunity to assert what we believe in, hold the powerful to account and change our society for the better.

Liberty will never tell you who to vote for, but we will ask you not to give up the opportunity to have your voice heard.

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