

Justice and Home Affairs

Labour believes that everyone should feel safe in their home, at work, and in their communities. This means Police forces rooted in their local communities, preventing crime not just reacting to it. It means an effective prison system which protects victims and keeps people safe by rehabilitating offenders. And it means a justice system which is accessible to all, so rights can be protected and those who do wrong are held to account.

The Police play a vital role in combatting crime and maintaining community cohesion. We therefore have to ensure forces are equipped to deal with the challenges of modern society so that no community is left behind. We must also investigate how the police and criminal justice system can cooperate more effectively with other sectors to tackle violence against women and girls.

Under the Tories, our prisons are in crisis. The loss of a quarter of frontline staff since 2010 has coincided with record levels of violence, prisoner self-harm, and drug abuse. Reoffending rates have not improved and the reckless privatisation of the probation service has been a costly failure. Labour must examine how we can ensure the criminal justice, prison and probation systems change so that people can be turned away from a life of crime.

Labour will oppose any attempt by the Tories to scrap the Human Rights Act. Access to justice is also crucial in ensuring the human rights are respected and all are protected, with rights upheld. We need to look at strategies for creating a justice system that is within the reach of everyone, not just those who can afford it.

A healthy democracy relies on the active participation of all citizens. That is why we have to look again at how to increase local and regional democracy and expand democratic participation, so everybody in every part of the UK has a political system that works for them.

Labour wants to see fair rules and reasonable management of migration in the best interests of the economy and society. The Tories have done nothing but offer false promises. They dragged their feet on accepting a fair share of refugees and they are refusing to guarantee the rights of EU citizens living and working in Britain. We will set out our own fair migration policies in the knowledge that many key sectors of the economy and public services would be in crisis without workers from overseas. We will take decisive action to end the undercutting of workers' pay and conditions through the exploitation of migrant labour, which is why we will raise the minimum wage and enforce it.

Questions for discussion

- What should the priorities be for keeping people safe at home, in their work, and in the community?
- How do we ensure women's safety and tackle violence against women and girls in all its forms?
- What more can be done to reduce reoffending?
- How can we strengthen devolved institutions whilst also protecting and enhancing the bonds between the nations of the UK?
- How can we guarantee people have adequate access to legal advice and representation so that they can protect their rights?
- How do we ensure fair rules on migration? What challenges and opportunities can issues around immigration and asylum present to local communities and to wider society?