



Justice and Home Affairs:
Protecting our communities and
turning lives around

Thank you for taking part in the Labour Party's 2018 National Policy Forum Consultation, the Party's process for getting input from our members, supporters and stakeholders on how we shape our policies.

This booklet is one of eight policy documents published by the Labour Party as part of our consultation this year.

Each document contains sets of questions for you to answer. You do not need to answer every question, nor is there any specific way to answer them. We suggest picking the questions most important to you and using them as a guide to write a few lines or paragraphs on what you think about the issues in this area.

At the end of the document you can find a guide on how to send in your ideas to us and other ways to get involved in the consultation.

There are seven other documents that might interest you covering different areas of the Party's policies, you can find them in the consultation pack or online. If you have an idea or issue you would like to talk about that is not covered in this year's consultation, you can submit these to us too via www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

Whether you're a Labour Party member or not, we want to hear your ideas on how the next Labour government should tackle the challenges our country faces, and build a more equal Britain for the many, not the few.

Want to know more about how Labour makes policy?

You can learn more about how Labour makes policy, further details about the 2018 Consultation and find policy events in your area on our website www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

ACCESSIBLE MATERIALS

The Labour Party is an inclusive member-based organisation that prides itself on being accessible to all who share its values. If you would like an accessible version of these documents please email us at policydevelopment@labour.org.uk to discuss how we can best accommodate your requirements.

Justice and Home Affairs:

Protecting our communities and turning lives around

Labour's vision

Labour believes that our justice system should both ensure people are held to account for the harm they have caused, but also that they have a genuine chance to rehabilitate and reintegrate into law-abiding society. However, the criminal justice system has faced serious challenges in recent years, with policing and prisons seeing significant reductions in funding, while the probation services have undergone a major structural overhaul which has failed to achieve any improvement in outcomes. Given that the Government have abandoned any attempt at reform, it is all the more imperative that Labour develops new strategies for effective prison and probation reform, for better community sentencing, and for ensuring fair treatment for BAME communities within the criminal justice system. Furthermore, in seeking to protect communities and turn lives around we must address the evolving threat from extremism and terrorism by renewing the counter-extremism strategy to confront all forms of terror and to command the support of all communities.

Issues

Prisons, probation and sentencing

The penal system should punish those who have done wrong and protect communities from dangerous offenders, whilst also ensuring that those who face criminal sanction have a real opportunity for rehabilitation. We therefore must examine what reforms must be introduced within the penal system so that public safety and rehabilitation are placed above a profit motive. Labour's task is to devise a new approach to prisons, probation and sentencing in which the public can place their confidence. This will mean addressing the role of the private sector in our criminal justice system. It also involves consideration of new strategies to deal with the violence and overcrowding that blights much of the prison estate, including ensuring that lessons are taken on board when things go wrong. And we must also examine how the support and monitoring of ex-offenders needs to change so that people can be turned away from a life of crime.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the questions below:

- How should the next Labour Government enable the state to take back full responsibility for prisons, probation, and the wider criminal justice system?
- What key issues will the public sector have to address as it takes back control of the criminal justice system?
- How can the next Labour Government ensure there is a coordinated approach across relevant public bodies to rehabilitation? And what role should charities and third sector bodies play?
- How can we reduce reoffending and stop people entering the criminal justice system in the first place?
 - What role should (a) restorative justice and (b) community sentences play in the wider criminal justice system?
 - What are the key considerations when designing a support package for ex-offenders?
 - What could be done to improve the employability of ex-offenders?
 - What are the sorts of services a probation adviser should be expected to provide?

- What more needs to be done to tackle the issues that women offenders in particular face?
- What can be done to ensure that the prison system adopts a more transparent and constructive approach to inquests so lessons can be learned from deaths in custody?

Community relations

It is crucial that the justice system works in the interests of all communities. That is why Labour pledged to work to eliminate institutional biases against BAME communities in our 2017 manifesto. Since then David Lammy's review of BAME experiences when dealing with the criminal justice system has once again highlighted the discrimination many people still face. Labour must now build on the work of the Lammy Review and the commitment in our manifesto to ensure that the justice system is more representative of modern society so that people from all backgrounds are treated fairly and with respect.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the questions below:

- How can we ensure better representation of BAME communities in the legal professions and judiciary?
- BAME children are increasingly overrepresented in the youth justice sector, what needs to be done to reverse this worrying trend?

Counter-extremism

A string of attacks in Britain over the past year demonstrate that terrorism and extremist ideology pose a serious and growing threat to community safety. We must explore how best to deal with the hundreds of British jihadists who have returned from fighting with Daesh in Syria and Iraq, as well as the radicalisation of individuals here in Britain, either online or in our communities. But consideration must also be given to the alarming rise in right-wing extremism. Building on the commitment in our manifesto to review PREVENT, we must also explore ways to ensure that counter-extremism strategy commands the support of all communities and addresses all threats, from whatever source.

Have your say – give us your thoughts on the questions below:

- What do you think needs to change in current counter-extremism policy so that programmes to deal with those at risk of radicalisation command the support of all communities?
- What further steps should (a) the Government and (b) internet service providers take to crack down on the threat of online radicalisation?
- What changes could be made to the layout of your local area to help prevent terror attacks?

Thank you for taking the time to read our consultation document. We want to harness the views, experience and expertise of our members, stakeholders and the wider public. If you would like to respond to any of the issues in this document, there are a number of ways you can get involved:

- 1. Online:** The best and easiest way to send in your ideas and join the discussion is via our online home of policy making:
www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/consultation2018
- 2. By post:** If you have written down your ideas, you can post these to us at:
The Labour Party,
Policy Unit,
Southside,
105 Victoria Street,
London, SW1E 6QT
- 3. At your local party:** You may want to discuss your ideas with other members of your CLP or local branch. You can suggest to your CLP Secretary that a policy discussion is held at a future meeting.
- 4. Regional Policy Forums:** Look out for events hosted by your regional office, local parties and National Policy Forum Representatives.

You can find out more about the 2018 consultation, upcoming events and more details on how Labour makes its policy at
www.policyforum.labour.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates during the consultation
[@Labpolicyforum](https://twitter.com/Labpolicyforum)
[#NPFConsultation2018](https://twitter.com/NPFConsultation2018)

Please send your ideas before the consultation period ends, it runs until Sunday 24 June 2018.

