



Protection Approaches

Protecting populations from identity-based violence:  
A review of the 2017 general election manifestos

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## About Protection Approaches:

Protection Approaches is a human rights charity that works to improve the protection of people from identity-based violence.

Through its Research & Policy and Learning & Outreach programmes, Protection Approaches seeks to strengthen UK understanding of and commitment to prediction, prevention and protection approaches to identity-based violence through research-led policy engagement and education outreach.

Protection Approaches is the only organisation in the United Kingdom that works to address the diverse challenges of identity-based violence, from hate crime to violent extremism and genocide.

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# Index

Introduction	1
Scope	1
What we'd like to see	2
Executive Summary	3
2017 Themes	3
Conservative Party	7
Labour Party	10
Liberal Democrats	13
Green Party	16
United Kingdom Independence Party	18
Scottish National Party	20
Plaid Cymru	21

# Introduction

At a time when divisions in UK society are growing, commitments to protecting and promoting our social cohesion should be redoubled. In every region of the world rising identity-based politics are fanning flames of exclusion, marginalisation and identity-based violence. The next UK Government will have an opportunity – and a responsibility – to lead by example in protecting all people within its borders but also in contributing to the protection of populations abroad.

This review sets out what has been pledged in the manifestos of the major UK political parties with regard to combatting identity-based violence, both at home and abroad. It is primarily a survey of political attitudes that offers insight into the kinds of policies we can expect the parties to pursue during the next parliament.

Protection Approaches works to defend the rights of all peoples at risk of identity-based violence. We believe that it is important all acts of identity-based violence are understood as being part of a shared global problem with identifiable causes and combatted with the same tools of prevention. Likewise our individual and collective responsibility to protect individuals and groups from these crimes stretches from our own local communities to around the world.

Attacking somebody because of their identity - be it their gender, sexual orientation, their religion, ethnicity, race, or their disability - is always a crime. It is never conscionable and should always be preventable.

Most of us are lucky to live in the UK; we enjoy the benefits of an open and free democracy supported by a strong civil society and freedoms of speech and the press. And yet most of us during our lives will experience some form of discrimination ourselves, or witness discrimination directed at somebody else.

Unchecked, prejudice and discrimination lead to identity-based violence. In extreme cases, as in many parts of the world, this can become identity-based mass violence, including violent extremism, ethnic cleansing, or even genocide. To stem these processes there must be comprehensive institutional and legal frameworks in place that combat prejudice, discrimination and stigma.

How - if at all - have the parties demonstrated a responsibility to protect vulnerable groups who face violent discrimination at home and around the world?

## Scope

This is a review of the manifestos and other public statements made by the political parties during this general election campaign. At times we compare commitments made ahead of this election with pledges made in 2015. We have reviewed the manifestos of the following parties: the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, Plaid Cymru, the Scottish National Party, the Green Party, and the UK Independence Party. We have also included an assessment of statements requested by the United Nations Association UK from all the political parties regarding their attitudes towards the United Nations

We have chosen not to include any of the parties who stand only in Northern Ireland. We recognise the importance of Northern Ireland and its parties when discussing identity-based violence in the UK. However to include all of the parties would have required resources we did not have given the short notice of the snap election. We decided to include an assessment of UKIP, despite the party not having representation in parliament, because of their presence across national media and political debate since the 2015 election.

### 3. What we'd like to see:

**With regards to domestic policy, we would like to see policies and pledges that:**

- Protect vulnerable groups from identity-based crimes
- Identify and address rises in hate crimes and identity-based violence, particularly anti-Muslim crimes and the targeting of refugees and migrants
- Properly punish perpetrators of identity-based crimes
- Promote social cohesion and reduce divisions within UK communities
- Ensure existing normative commitments and procedures related to human rights and preventing identity-based violence to which the UK are party via its membership of the EU are replicated in national processes
- Combat extremism, in all its forms, without alienating or scapegoating communities
- Enshrine in UK law protections for vulnerable and marginalised groups

**With regards to foreign policy, we would like to see policies and pledges that demonstrate a commitment to:**

- Identify mass atrocity prevention as a national priority
- Maintain 0.7% GNI international development spending
- Ensure holistic approaches to promoting human rights
- Protect groups at risk of identity-based violence and mass atrocities
- Protect refugees fleeing those situations
- Hold perpetrators of identity-based violence and mass atrocities to account
- Promote a cross-party approach to mass atrocity prevention
- Endorse the principle of the responsibility to protect (R2P)
- Support proposals for veto restraint at the UN Security Council and broader UN reform

# Executive Summary

Across the political spectrum, the UK's mainstream political parties are embracing a more coherent approach to fighting domestic discrimination and promoting social cohesion. However, most manifesto commitments are made in response to pressure from civil society rather than from a shared responsibility to protect all victims of discrimination and identity-based violence. UKIP is alone in using the language of social cohesion and gender equality to promote an exclusionary vision of British culture and society.

From rising incidences of hate crime to more organised forms of violent extremism, all forms of identity-based violence here in the UK threaten to divide our society. Processes that lead to division, marginalisation, and rises of hate crime are shared irrespective of the identity group that is being targeted. Until a more comprehensive approach to tackling all forms of identity-based discrimination and violence is adopted, policy will only be piecemeal and groups will remain at risk.

Manifesto commitments to preventing identity-based violence abroad and protecting civilians from mass atrocities are even more piecemeal. We commend the consensus among all mainstream parties in support of multilateralism and the re-

affirmation of commitments to the United Nations. While we support the commitment from several parties to halting arms sales to human rights-violating regimes, our obligations to protect civilians go beyond our export policy. Likewise, while we welcome the principle taken by many parties against 'aggressive wars of intervention,' we are concerned by how all parties would protect civilians from the threat of mass atrocities. Only the Liberal Democrats identify the UK responsibility to protect populations from these crimes as a party priority.

All parties except UKIP underline the need for the UK to tackle certain forms of identity-based violence abroad – namely violence against women and girls, LGBT+ communities, and sexual violence in conflict. However many other identity groups and minorities are inevitably being excluded as no "lens" of identity-based violence prevention is being applied by any of the parties in the formation of their foreign and international development policies.

This lack of coherence in foreign policy must be addressed to ensure the UK can meet its international commitments to protecting civilians overseas.

## 2017 themes

### Brexit as a human rights issue

Britain's planned withdrawal from the European Union has dominated British politics since the referendum in June 2016 and all reviewed manifestos devote considerable attention to the anticipated negotiations. The implications for human rights protections in the UK - and the extent to which the UK maintains its contribution to protecting and promoting human rights abroad - cannot be predicted with certainty until the nature of the UK's exit from the EU is determined. Yet generally Brexit is not framed as a human rights issue by any of the parties. The Green Party acknowledge that a human rights lens should be

applied during the Brexit negotiations and the Liberal Democrats highlight the human rights questions that need to be addressed in relation to Northern Ireland. Labour, the Conservatives and the Lib Dems all pledge to keep working with the EU on the refugee crisis. There are few pledges to enshrine in national policy and process those normative and legal commitments made as a member of the EU regarding human rights and refugees, and none regarding the prevention of mass atrocities or applying sanctions.

As in 2015, the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights provides a shared point of focus for discussion of domestic

human rights. The Conservatives, while not repeating their 2015 promise to abolish the Human Rights Act, leave open the possibility of scrapping the HRA after the Brexit process is complete. However, they do pledge to remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights during the next parliament. Labour, the Liberal Democrats, and the Greens pledge to resist attempts to abolish the UK Human Rights Act or withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. UKIP pledge to replace both with a UK Bill of Rights. Plaid Cymru propose a human rights charter for Wales. Labour and the Liberal Democrats also plan to review the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

### Preventing Identity-based violence at home

Although the UK is a relatively peaceful and secure society there remain large numbers of people from many different groups who are at risk of identity-based abuse and violence. These include, but are not limited to: women and girls, certain racial, ethnic or religious groups, LGBTQ+ communities, traveller communities, people with disabilities or mental health problems, refugees, and immigrants. We'd like to see greater protection of vulnerable groups in the UK with better resources available that provide immediate sanctuary for individuals at risk or experiencing identity-based violence. Strategies that seek a safe and integrated society, robust responses to prejudice, hate crime, and extremism in all its forms, and the rejection of divisive or scapegoating rhetoric.

The rising levels of hate crime in the UK since the EU referendum receive strong condemnation from Labour and the Liberal Democrats. The Liberal Democrats connect this rise directly to the divisive referendum, promise to make all hate crimes aggravated offences, and make a particular pledge to tackle rising Islamophobic hate crime. Plaid Cymru, the SNP and UKIP do not mention hate crime but do address certain forms of identity-based violence individually. The Conservatives commit to maintain current strategies to address hate crime, but the Labour Party and Liberal Democrats are more specific in protecting groups at risk. However, despite pledges from all parties to combat individual forms of identity-based

violence in the UK few address these crimes holistically.

All parties give weight to tackling violence against women but only the Liberal Democrats, Labour and UKIP explicitly condemn female genital mutilation. However, it should be noted that UKIP's commitments to tackling FGM and other gender-based issues are almost wholly situated in its wider criticism of multiculturalism. Labour and the Conservatives both propose the creation of a domestic violence commissioner, and the Conservatives outline a new Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill. All parties offer solutions to better protect gender-based violence victims when they report offences and when they must testify in court. Plaid Cymru and the Liberal Democrats also pledge to scrap the controversial 'rape clause' that came into effect in a recent Conservative child tax credits reform bill.

While Labour, UKIP and the Green Party identify the challenge posed by online bullying and abuse, only the Conservatives propose a strategy to tackle online grooming, cyberbullying, and hate speech.

### Promoting Britain's social cohesion

A cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, and promotes a sense of belonging. Encouraging social cohesion is the most successful (and economically viable) approach to tackling prejudice, division and identity-based violence. We'd like to see policies that promote social integration, tolerance, and community-led initiatives. Pledges to combat divisions in communities. The protection of human rights for all and support for better access to justice for vulnerable groups. Support for civil society initiatives that promote multiculturalism and social cohesion; a balanced approach to freedoms of speech and the press that champions freedom of expression but does not sanction hate speech and scapegoating.

Labour, the Lib Dems and the Conservatives all emphasise strong rhetorical commitments to diversity and multiculturalism within the UK. The Conservatives do however raise fears that rapid immigration can make social cohesion more difficult.

Disabilities and mental health receive significant attention as an issue of social cohesion from all parties. The rights of transgender communities are given greater emphasis than ever before, particularly from the Lib Dems, Greens and Labour party. However, while the rhetorical support of integration, multiculturalism and inclusivity is strong in all manifestos save UKIP and Plaid Cymru, explicit commitments to tackle growing divisions in the country are generally lacking.

### Tackling domestic extremism

Extremism in all its forms poses a significant threat to social cohesion and encourages prejudice and identity-based violence. Any attitude that seeks to legitimise the violent targeting of identity-groups is a form of extremism. Responses to such threats should be holistic and balance law enforcement with community-based engagement strategies that prevent alienating or scapegoating communities.

Despite rising far-right extremism, both in the UK and in Europe, this threat is generally not addressed by any of the parties. Only the 2017 Conservative manifesto provides a detailed policy on countering extremism at home however they too often present domestic extremism as an unintended consequence of "diversity" and do not acknowledge the growing threat of far-right extremism. This is despite the fact that a significant proportion of last Government's Prevent activities were engaged in challenges coming from the UK's extreme right. Labour and the Liberal Democrats highlight the potential for the Prevent strategy to marginalise certain minorities. In 2015, Plaid Cymru offered a holistic approach to tackling extremism in the UK but in 2017 do not address the issue.

### Attitudes to new comers: Immigration and refugees

Divisive rhetoric and scapegoating in parts of the UK press has blurred understanding of the differences between migrants and asylum seekers, who seek refuge in the UK from some of the world's worst humanitarian crises, including wars in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere. The integration of migrants and refugees is a crucial component of our domestic social cohesion, and when it is done

well benefits us all. We expect all parties to commit to honouring our international treaty obligations to refugees and asylum seekers but also would like to see proposals to work with international partners to find humane solutions to the rising levels of displacement in Europe and around the world. Statements that address growing divisions in UK society along lines of heritage and "Britishness" are to be welcomed.

All of the reviewed manifestos pledge to uphold the UK's treaty obligations toward refugees. However only the Liberal Democrats directly address the need to treat immigration as an issue of social cohesion and state explicitly their intent to increase the UK's intake of refugees. Labour, the Lib Dems, the SNP, the Greens clearly reject any scapegoating or demonising of migrants and the toxic rhetoric surrounding the current immigration debate. Similarly, Labour and Plaid Cymru commit to accepting a 'fair share' of refugees. Plaid Cymru and the SNP explicitly support restarting the Dubs amendment, which would bring 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children to the UK. The Conservatives commit to de-prioritising asylum applications filed within the UK.

### Preventing identity-based violence abroad

Around the world millions of people live in fear of becoming victims of identity-based crimes. Just as the new government will have a responsibility to protect people within Britain's borders from identity-based violence, the UK government has a responsibility to assist people most at risk abroad. Therefore we would like to see clear commitments to the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as strategies that promote cross-departmental prioritisation of the prevention of identity-based mass violence. Promises to maintain or increase the UK's international aid budget alongside commitments to peace-building, protecting human rights and promoting social cohesion in the aid strategy are welcome. Commitments to finding multilateral solutions to current conflicts and for the UK to receive its fair share of displaced persons from around the world are also relevant here.

The Lib Dems, Labour, and the Conservatives are all explicit in their commitments to defending vulnerable groups overseas and promoting religious tolerance, women's rights, and the LGBT+ community. The Conservatives maintain their commitment to tackle sexual violence in conflict, the modern slave trade, and FGM world wide. Labour and the Liberal Democrats promise to create party ambassador positions for religious freedom, while Labour also promise ambassadors for women's rights and LGBT rights. However, it should be noted that Labour promised to establish an LGBT+ Rights Envoy in 2015 but was never realised. The SNP is the only party to acknowledge the LGBT+ atrocities committed in Chechnya.

### Mass atrocity prevention

The Liberal Democrats are the only party that make explicit their commitment to the UN principle of the Responsibility to Protect and who explicate the need for protective military action in cases of mass atrocity prevention when other means have been exhausted. The Labour Party and Plaid Cymru have taken more "anti-interventionist" stances than they did in 2015 but do not address how they would uphold responsibilities to protect civilians from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Lib Dems and Labour both express a commitment to finding a diplomatic solution in Syria, breaking through UN gridlock, and working with international allies against Daesh. The Conservative manifesto does not mention conflict prevention, atrocity prevention, Syria, or Daesh.

### International development

As in 2015, UKIP is the only party that does not pledge to maintain the 0.7% of GNI spending target for international aid. UKIP seek to close the Department for International Development, repeal legislation safeguarding the 0.7% aid spend, and to reduce the aid budget to 0.2% of GNI. The Green Party advocate an increase to 1%. The Conservatives express an intent to alter the parameters of development spending to better reflect 'the breadth of our assistance.'

### Human rights and arms sales

A new trend in the 2017 manifestos is a growing consensus among the UK's political parties that the next government should review its arms sales to states that systematically violate international human rights norms. Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP, and the Greens all address UK arms exports as an issue of human rights. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats outline clear policies to restrict arms sales to countries where those arms could be used in human rights violations. Both also condemn Saudi Arabia's actions in Yemen and recommend the immediate cessation of arms exports to the country, however Labour's commitment is unclear and could apply solely to arms sold that could be used in Yemen rather than a blanket ban. Plaid Cymru criticise arms sales to Saudi Arabia, but do not go further. Arms exports, Yemen and Saudi Arabia are left out of the Conservative manifesto.

### Global Britain

Outside the EU, the UK will need to forge new diplomatic relationships at the United Nations and more broadly in its international relations. Tackling shared global challenges such as identity-based violence, mass atrocities, violent conflict, and increased levels of displacement and refugee movements require shared strategies

All parties commit on some level to ensuring that the UK plays a role in global conversations but most manifestos do not provide significant insight regarding their positions on internationalism and multilateral diplomacy. Some of these positions are expanded upon in official statements made by most political parties to the United Nations Association UK. The Liberal Democrats provide the most committed defence of internationalism but do not engage with issues such as UN reform. The Conservatives pledge to assist the new UN Secretary General in reforming the UN but fall short in their commitments multilateralism. Labour and the Greens reiterate their support of the UN and commit to working with the EU and other international partners but do not address the current deadlock at the UN Security Council and its impact on civilian protection efforts.

### Promoting social cohesion

The Conservatives identify 'enduring social divisions' as one of their 'five giant challenges,' promising to tackle inequalities based upon mental health and disability, race, gender and class. They specify the need to take on the 'burning injustices' including the wage gap, racial disparity, the stigmatisation of mental health and disability discrimination. Sexual orientation and transgender identities are not mentioned here.

The Conservative emphasis on social integration is one that centres upon the promotion of British values. The Conservatives state that 'we are proud of our diversity, and the cultural and economic enrichment it brings' but highlight concerns of divisions in British society along racial and religious lines. They therefore commit to a new 'integration strategy' to improve language learning and social interaction with a particular focus on women from "isolated communities".

The Conservatives will increase gender, race and socio-economic representation in the civil service. They pledge support for those with disabilities or chronic mental health conditions seeking work, offering employers a year's holiday from National Insurance Contributions for hiring candidates with disabilities in order to better integrating a further one million disabled people into the UK workforce.

The Conservative manifesto devotes significant attention to improving mental health and reducing stigma and discrimination associated with it. They pledge to create a new Mental Health Bill and plan to train one million citizens in mental health awareness in order to combat stigma. Other proposals include extending the Equalities Act to protect 'episodic and fluctuating' mental health conditions and expanding current financial commitments to mental health (£11.4 billion in 2016/17 and an additional £1 billion by 2021).

To promote the representation of women, the Conservatives promise to work toward closing the gender pay gap, requiring large companies to publish salaries. They promise to continue working for gender parity in public appointments and increase the number of women on company boards. No policy proposals are put forward.

The manifesto recommends large employers publish on the pay gap for people from different ethnic backgrounds and the promises to act upon the recommendations of the Lammy Review 'however uncomfortable they may be.' The Conservatives pledge to reduce the disproportionate use of force against Black, Asian and ethnic minority people in prison, young offender institutions and secure mental health Units.

While the Conservative manifesto uses positive rhetoric toward 'diversity' in the UK, its rhetoric surrounding immigration is not always consistent. One of their main manifesto objectives is a blanket reduction of net migration. The Conservatives contend, 'when immigration is too fast and too high, it is difficult to build a cohesive society' With regards to foreign nationals who commit criminal offences, the Conservatives intend to 'implement satellite tracking' for those subject to outstanding deportation orders, exacerbating the disparity of treatment between immigrants and British citizens.

The Conservatives promise that Britain will remain a 'place of sanctuary' for those fleeing violence and persecution, however, the Conservative manifesto makes an argument that those able to reach the UK and seek asylum are less vulnerable than those who remain in regions of risk. The manifesto explicitly commits to reducing the number of asylum claims made in the UK. Instead, a Conservative Government would increase regional assistance to people in need. No further commitments are offered to address existing refugee populations in Europe or around the world.

This policy marks a continuation of the previous government's efforts to dissuade migrants and refugees from leaving crisis-affected regions. While the Conservative manifesto commits to further helping those in conflict areas, it is unclear whether this too would simply be a continuation of advocating resettlement in neighbouring countries rather than hosting refugees here in the UK.

The Conservatives pledge to further assist local government and establish schemes that will enable individuals, charities, businesses, and faith-based



groups to provide housing and other support to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. The Conservatives also aim to work with other European countries and the United Nations to review the international legal definitions of refugee and asylum status. However, it is not clear the type of changes that are to be sought.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

The Conservatives commit to a 'plan for tackling hate crime committed on the basis of religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity'.

They pledge to strengthen the Equalities Law in order to better prosecute discrimination by private landlords and businesses according to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Sexual orientation and gender identity are not mentioned here.

The Conservatives will review policy procedures of 'stop and search' and mandate changes in police practice if 'stop and search' does not become more targeted and 'stop to arrest' ratios do not improve. This commitment was made in the 2015 manifesto but was not realised.

Violence against women and victims of domestic abuse is highlighted as a particular challenge. A new Domestic Abuse and Violence Bill, which includes provisions for the consolidation of prevention and protection orders and a new aggravated offence for abuse against a child, is a core Conservative commitment. The treatment of victims of domestic violence, abuse and sexual violence during legal process will be improved, with victims having the right to be questioned prior to trial and not having to appear before the court. Publicly-funded advocates will receive specialist training regarding the sensitivities of victims of sexual violence. They pledge to enshrine a statutory definition of domestic violence into law, which they argue would removed legal ambiguity and thus help victims and prosecutors. Finally, the Conservatives will create a domestic violence and abuse commissioner in order to strengthen accountability and transparency. While no financial commitment is made, the manifesto commits the party to reviewing funding for women's refuges.

### Tackling domestic extremists

The Conservatives identify Islamist extremism as a particular challenge that "strips some British people, especially women, of the freedoms they should enjoy, undermines the cohesion of our society and can fuel violence." However, like UKIP, in presenting the challenge of domestic extremism as a by-product of the UK's 'diversity', the Conservative manifesto does not acknowledge the breadth of extremists that threaten domestic stability and security. While the Conservative manifesto draws a vague distinction between extremism and Islamist extremism – and highlights the particular challenge of 'dissident republican terrorists' in the case of Northern Ireland - it does not highlight the domestic and international challenges posed by rising levels of far-right extremism. The Conservative manifesto commits to establishing a Commission for Countering Extremism and considering creating new aggravated offences but does not set out the scope of such a strategy .

*"To defeat extremism, we need to learn from how civil society and the state took on racism in the twentieth century."*

We commend the Conservatives commitment to reflect on how civil society and the state took on racism in the twentieth century but are concerned that pledges to "counter messages" and focussing on only part of the problem will be insufficient to defeat domestic extremists.

### Brexit as a human rights issue

The Conservative manifesto does not frame UK withdrawal from the EU as a human rights issue. The Conservatives pledge to maintain the UK Human Rights Act for the duration of the withdrawal process, but that following the UK's exit from the EU they will look to reconsider the UK's human rights legal framework. The Conservatives do, however, promise that the UK will remain a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights until the end of the next parliament. Wider commitments are instead made to the promotion of the UK's economic and security interests. However, promise is made to secure the entitlements of EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EU.



The Conservative manifesto does not address the future of the UK's excurrent normative and legal commitments to combatting mass atrocities and identity-based violence that have been made via its membership of the EU.

## Abroad:

*"We can and should do more, not just because acting as a force for good is an important end in itself but because the result will be greater peace and prosperity for the British people."*

The Conservative manifesto is primarily concerned with foreign policy as the pursuit of UK economic prosperity. Global leadership on international development is, however, identified as a core party commitment. The 0.7% of GDP target for overseas aid spending is explicitly protected. The manifesto promises to champion 'British values' of tolerance, democracy, and the rule of law.

The Conservatives pledge to tackle identity-based violence abroad, promising to combat, 'violence against people because of their faith, gender or sexuality'. Explicit commitments are made to meeting the challenge of hate speech and propaganda, and to leading the fight against modern slavery. Past commitments to preventing sexual violence in conflict are reiterated as is the pledge to 'end the subjugation and mutilation of women.'

The Conservatives remain committed to spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development aid. This is recognised not only in terms of poverty alleviation and sustainable development but also as a means of preventing conflict and instability overseas. Preventing sexual violence in conflict, subjugation and mutilation of women, and the slave trade are all highlighted as development priorities. However, outside of these exceptions, the provision of overseas aid is not explicitly identified with the prevention of identity-based violence or mass atrocities.

The Conservatives do however pledge to seek a redefinition of international aid rules either by working with like-minded countries or, where this

fails, to alter UK domestic legislation. While this is intended to 'better reflect the breadth of our assistance around the world', no detail is provided of the changes to be pursued. There is a concern that in seeking to alter definitions of aid, a number of essential components relating to humanitarian assistance, upstream prevention, education and human rights, service provision, and early warning could be excluded and crucial funding would no longer be ring fenced.

In their statement to the UN Association UK, the Conservatives reiterated their support for the UN stating clearly that they see the UN as being vital to modern diplomacy and the challenges of the modern world. The Conservatives support reform of the UN too, supporting Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General, in pursuing an ambitious reform programme, focusing a better managed United Nations on its core functions of peacekeeping, conflict prevention and resolution.

The Conservative manifesto underlines the value of multilateral diplomacy to UK foreign policy and the importance of maintaining a rules-based international order. While the need to reform multilateral institutions is identified, this is directed primarily towards efforts at redefining development aid parameters.

The Conservatives also do not commit to the UN principle of the Responsibility to Protect and do not identify mass atrocity prevention as an explicit policy concern. There is no identification of how a prospective Conservative government would approach issues of civilian protection or conflict resolution in Syria. This is in spite of suggestions during the election campaign that in the event of a Conservative victory the next government could hold an imminent parliamentary vote on extending military action in Syria.

## In the UK:

### Promoting social cohesion

Labour devotes a section of their manifesto to establishing 'A More Equal Society,' promising greater protections for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, marginalised religious groups, women, the LGBTI+ community and disabled persons. They argue that 'now more than ever' is the time to 'celebrate' diversity in the UK.

To protect and promote BAME communities, Labour pledge to eliminate institutional biases, institute equal pay audit requirements on large employers, create a Living Wage and improve mental health access. They also plan to implement the Parker Review recommendations on increasing ethnic diversity on company boards.

To promote women's equality Labour pledge to create a cabinet that is made up of at least 50% women and to gender audit all policy and legislation.

To combat discrimination against people with disabilities, Labour pledge to sign into law the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They also promise to recognise British Sign Language as a national language. Labour also promise to address issues of isolation and stigma faced by persons with disabilities and to publish strategic equality objectives to improve diversity amongst the UK armed forces.

Labour criticise current refugee policies, make the important distinction that refugees are not migrants and promise that they will 'not scapegoat migrants' nor discriminate based upon race or faith. Labour pledge to end indefinite detentions, differentiate between migrant labour, international students and family attachment and to terminate the existing income threshold for bringing family members. They pledge to review refugee housing but offer no firm commitments. While the manifesto advocates for the UK to take 'our fair share of refugees,' no indication is given as to what the UK's 'fair share' might be.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

Labour makes explicit commitments to tackle anti-Semitism, racism and Islamophobia. They condemn the recent rise in hate crime, mentioning it several times in the context of race, disabilities and the LGBTI+ community. Significant attention is given to tackling violence against women, protecting LGBTI+ individuals and improving the rights of the disabled.

To combat violence against women, Labour pledge to appoint a Violence Against Women Commissioner, establish a National Refuge Fund, ban the use of community resolutions in cases of domestic violence, and increase the protection of victims by preventing cross-examinations by suspected abusers. Commitments are made to preventing female genital mutilation (FGM).

On LGBTI+ issues, Labour commit to reforming the Gender Recognition Act and the Equality Act 2010, pledging to replace outdated terminology such as 'transsexual' or 'gender assignment'. They further promise to treat LGBT+ hate crimes equally with faith-based and race-based hate crimes. They also promise training for school workers and health and social care professionals on LGBT+ specific issues.

On anti-Semitism, Labour noted holding internal reviews related to anti-Semitism and implementing internal disciplinary procedures and improved training to tackle inner party anti-Semitism.

The Labour Party promise to address institutional biases such as 'stop and search', and to end discrimination against Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities however no explicit policy commitments are made.

## Tackling domestic extremisms

While the spread of extremism is identified as a foreign policy issue within the context of tackling Daesh's terrorism, only "extreme or violent radicalisation" is drawn out as a problem at home.

What is meant by radicalisation or which groups are at risk are not clearly defined by Labour. Its manifesto does not acknowledge rising domestic far-right-wing extremism nor violent Islamist extremism. The Labour Party argues that the Prevent Strategy has the potential to alienate minority communities and promises a review but does not expand. Labour pledge to maintain co-operation with Europe on issues related to extremism and counter- terrorism.

## Abroad:

Labour pledge to insert conflict resolution and human rights to the heart of UK foreign policy decision-making. While there is a considerable focus on diplomatic means of conflict resolution the manifesto provides no proposals for how Labour would act in contexts where conflict prevention or conflict resolution fail. This is in contrast to the Lib Dems so devote considerable attention to the issue but Labour, like the Green Party, make a rhetorically strong, though in practice unclear, commitment to ending support for 'unilateral aggressive wars of intervention' as the manifesto does not clarify how these are to be defined. The prevention of mass atrocities is not identified as a distinct policy concern and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is not explicitly endorsed.

Labour does pledge to issue a strategy for protecting civilians in conflict that would incorporate work on conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict peacebuilding, and justice for the victims of war crimes. This would be led by a newly-created Minister for Peace and Disarmament. While the manifesto does not identify atrocity prevention as a specific challenge,

## Brexit as a human rights issue

The Labour manifesto does not frame UK withdrawal from the EU as a human rights issue. However, Labour promises to retain the Human Rights Act, as well as to enhance the powers of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and make it fully independent.

They promise to work with the EU on issues including counter-terrorism and the refugee crisis, but do not outline details. They pledge to guarantee rights for EU citizens currently in the UK and UK citizens within EU countries. While Labour promise to protect labour rights and retain certain priorities of matters affecting national and regional security currently set out by the EU, they do not explicitly mention the need to preserve UK contributions to the global prevention of mass atrocities and identity-based violence.

it does contain a commitment to improve the prosecution of war crimes suspects. Labour also pledge to support the creation of a UN Emergency Peace Service as a part of their commitment to effective UN peacekeeping.

Labour seeks to make Britain a 'champion of multilateral engagement' and reiterates a commitment to working through the UN, NATO, and with European partners. Labour also commits to building international support for UN reform and criticises the abuse of veto power at the UN Security Council. However, no specific proposals are offered for how current deadlock might be addressed. There is no explicit support for existing Security Council veto restraint initiatives.

In its statement to the UN Association, Labour asserts it is deeply committed to improving and enhancing Britain's support for the UN and promises to redouble efforts to 'distribute the proceeds of internationalism fairly, protecting and promoting rights and taking a steer from the UN to mitigate conflict.' However just as in its manifesto, in its statement to UNA-UK Labour do not address the issue of reform or how they would improve the UK's working methods at the UN.



*"We can and should do more, not just because acting as a force for good is an important end in itself but because the result will be greater peace and prosperity for the British people."*

Labour re-confirms its commitment to the 0.7% GNI target for international aid spending. It also pledges to reinstate the Civil Society Challenge Fund to help protect organisations fighting for human rights and development abroad. The manifesto underlines Labour's support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Labour promise to release a cross-departmental report within their first 100 days detailing a strategy to meet international obligations regarding the global refugee crisis.

*"We will uphold the proud British tradition of honouring the spirit of international law and our moral obligations by taking our fair share of refugees"*

The Labour Party also promise to appoint 'global ambassadors' for women's rights, LGBT+ rights and religious freedom. It should be noted that in 2015, Labour similarly pledged in their manifesto to appoint a global ambassador for LGBT+ rights, which never materialised.

With regards to the Middle East, the Labour Party advocate a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine and promise to immediately recognise the state of Palestine. On Syria, Labour promises to work 'tirelessly' to reach a diplomatic resolution and to work toward a multinational effort, led by regional partners, to combat Daesh. During the election campaign, Jeremy Corbyn has said he would suspend Syrian air strikes and suggested he would 'think twice' about using strategic strikes to take out Islamic State leadership. Labour broadly call for negotiated settlements to the following conflicts: Kashmir, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia and Cyprus.

As do the Lib Dems and Greens, Labour commit to ending arms exports to countries where said arms could be used to violate international humanitarian law. They highlight the likelihood of Saudi Arabia using British arms to commit mass atrocities in Yemen, and advocate the immediate suspension of arms exports to Saudi Arabia until a UN investigation has been carried out, as recommended by the House of Commons International Development Committee's Crisis in Yemen report last year.

Labour promises to review its training and equipment contracts with several countries, including China, Egypt, the Gulf States, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia and Turkey, to 'ensure that Britain never colludes in the mistreatment of civilians.'

### Promoting social cohesion

The Liberal Democrats commit to ‘promoting universal liberal values such as openness, tolerance and unity’ and to breaking ‘down the barriers that hold people back.’ The manifesto outlines a comprehensive series of policies aimed at improving social cohesion and equal representation in the UK.

The Lib Dem Manifesto offers several recommendations for promoting workplace diversity in the UK. They set a target of ‘one million more women in work by 2025,’ promise to implement the Parker Review recommendations, and to push for at least 40% female board members of FTSE 350 companies. They pledge to extend the remit of Equality Act to companies with more than 250 employees and to extend name-blind recruitment throughout the public sector, while also encouraging it in the private sector. To improve diverse representation, they propose that all public appointment shortlists have at least one BAME candidate. To improve both BAME and LGBT+ representation in parliament, the Lib Dems advocate for all-BAME and all-LGBT+ parliamentary shortlists.

The Lib Dems promise ‘a government-wide plan to tackle BAME inequalities.’ To promote BAME representation, the Lib Dems promise to work with the Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase applications from BAME and other underrepresented backgrounds. They commit to providing the National Black Police Association with greater resources and to increase BAME representation in the police force. The Lib Dems commit to implement the anticipated recommendations of the Lammy review.

The Lib Dems express commitment to promoting the inclusion of and ending discrimination against people suffering from mental health problems or other disabilities. They plan to ensure mental health services are LGBT+ inclusive and that training is given to teachers on recognising mental health symptoms, though they do not specify how these plans would be achieved. They promise to ‘tackle stigma’ and work with organisations such as Heads Together. In terms of education, the Lib Dems pledge to ‘ensure that identification and

support for special education needs and disabilities takes place as early as possible’ and state that policies must align with the Equality Act. They also support improving accessibility to public places and public transport.

To promote LGBT+ rights, the Lib Dems offer a number of policy changes. They propose the introduction of an ‘X’ gender option on official forms and identity documents for those who do not identify as male or female. They promise additional protections to the transgender community, pledging to abolish the spousal veto, simplify the Gender Recognition Act of 2004, and expand coverage of ‘gender identity and gender expression’ in domestic equality law. The Lib Dems promise to ensure that trans prisoners are placed in prisons that match their preferred gender.

*“The rise in hate crime, the abuse of refugees, and the toxic rhetoric on immigration and about immigrants themselves is not the future Liberal Democrats want for Britain”*

The Liberal Democrats provide the most comprehensive set of policies to protect and expand the rights of refugees seeking sanctuary in the UK. The Lib Dems are the only party to make guaranteeing ‘safe and legal routes’ to the UK a priority. They promise to expand the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and commit to taking in 50,000 Syrian refugees during the next parliament. They also advocate re-opening the Dubs scheme and giving child refugees admitted to the UK indefinite leave to remain. The Lib Dems also suggest reforming family reunion rules to make joining UK-based relatives easier. The manifesto proposes ending indefinite immigration detention and making it possible for asylum seekers who have been in the UK for six months to search for work. The responsibility for the UK to offer asylum to those fleeing persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity is also stressed.

On immigration more broadly, the Lib Dems use inclusive rhetoric, saying ‘immigration broadens our horizons and encourages us to be more open, more tolerant’ and commit to ‘making the case for immigration.’ They promise to remove students



from official immigration statistics, establish a Migration Impact Fund for helping local communities to deal with new migration and increase government support for English language classes.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

The Liberal Democrats draw attention to ‘extreme and divisive forces’ of the current political climate and pledge to fight discrimination and identity-based violence. A core manifesto priority is to reduce hate crimes by ‘targeting people who commit them and making all hate crimes aggravated offences’.

*“We will fight to make sure that what you do and where you get to in life are not affected by your gender, the colour of your skin or who you love.”*

To prevent hate crime and discrimination, the Lib Dems promise to campaign with organisations like Show Racism the Red Card and the Anne Frank Trust UK. They also plan to ‘tackle the growing incidence of Islamophobic hate crime’ and guarantee rights to wear religious or cultural dress.

In schools, the Lib Dems promise to include teaching about consent and healthy relationships, LGBT+ relationships and to tackle gender stereotyping and bullying based upon gender, gender identity and sexuality or sexual orientation.

To protect victims of gender-based violence, the Lib Dems recommend that the controversial ‘rape clause’ be abolished. They also pledge to fund a national rape crisis helpline. They explicitly plan to ‘review the investigation, prosecution, procedures and rules of evidence in cases of sexual and domestic violence.’

The Lib Dems plan to require front-line officers to wear body cameras in an effort to deter police racism and brutality.

### Tackling domestic extremism

The Lib Dems highlight ‘terrorism and violent extremism’ as serious threats to the people of the UK and to UK democracy. They promote an accountable and evidence-based approach to counter-extremism and counter-terrorism,

highlighting the need for continued cooperation with Europe. They commit to scrapping the Prevent strategy and instead employ a community engagement strategy that helps communities develop their own unique approaches to countering extremism. While the manifesto makes frequent reference to rising intolerance and hate crimes in the UK, the rise of domestic far-right extremism is not identified as a distinct threat.

### Brexit as a human right issue

Planned withdrawal from the EU is the focal point of the Liberal Democrats’ manifesto and the increasing marginalisation of vulnerable groups within the UK is addressed in this context. They criticise the rise in hate crimes since the EU referendum, as well as growing abuse towards refugees and the use of ‘toxic’ rhetoric on the subject of immigration. They assert emphatically that ‘we will not let campaigners for a hard Brexit pretend that racism and discrimination are a kind of patriotism’.

The Liberal Democrats make the defence of human rights one of their manifesto priorities and pledge to defend both the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights. They promise to ‘strengthen the UK’s commitment to international human rights law’ but do not specify any examples of where this would be achieved. However, the Lib Dems also do not clearly commit to maintaining current contributions made through the EU to mass atrocity prevention.

The Lib Dems promise to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission to determine its effectiveness and funding needs. They express explicit support for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and making it a part of UK law.

On Northern Ireland, particularly in light of Brexit, the Lib Dems promise to ‘ensure that the international human rights protections hard wired into the Good Friday Agreement are not compromised.’

The Liberal Democrats pledge to unilaterally guarantee the rights of EU citizens currently living and working in the UK and to use their influence to guarantee the rights of British citizens within the EU. They also pledge to continue to maintain ‘maximum co-operation’ with European police services, including Europol and the European Arrest Warrant.

The Lib Dem manifesto addresses three core areas relevant to the prevention of identity-based violence abroad in their treatment of global issues; 'peace and security across the world', 'international development', and 'standing up for liberal values'. A priority is to defend international co-operation and the rules based order against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism,' and to maintain the UK's proud record of international leadership.

On the prevention of mass atrocities, the Lib Dems offer explicit support for the UN principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). This is focused primarily on conflict prevention but also acknowledges the use of UN-authorized force as a necessary last resort to prevent mass civilian atrocities. While the Lib Dems pledge to work through international institutions whenever possible, they also support military intervention in the absence of explicit UN Security Council authorization, limited to cases with a clear legal or humanitarian rationale and supported by a vote in parliament.

On Palestine, the Lib Dems reiterate its support for a two-state solution and condemn violent acts committed by both sides, highlighting the "continued illegal policy of [Israeli] settlement expansion, which undermines the possibility of a two-state solution." They also express a commitment to restart the peace process in Yemen. Without committing to specific policy recommendations, the Lib Dems also pledge to deter chemical weapons and conventional attacks that harm civilians, demand improved humanitarian access to Syria, and secure the release of political prisoners.

The Lib Dems praises UNA-UK's recent report 'Keeping Britain Global' for identifying arms controls, human rights, nuclear disarmament, peacekeeping and preventing atrocities as the UK's key focus areas for the next year. "These are all issues that the Liberal Democrats have a proud history of campaigning and advocating for." However, the Lib Dems do not address the issue of reform nor how the UK could strengthen its role at the UN.

They commit to championing human rights and working with European and international partners to promote liberal values and better international security. They are clear that the liberal, rules-based international order is the best tool for tackling global problems, including human rights abuses, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. They promise to work with the UK's international partners to tackle the refugee crisis They also highlight the need to work with international partners to combat violent extremism including Daesh and Boko Haram.

The Lib Dems continue their 2015 pledge to develop a comprehensive global strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality and advancing LGBT+ rights. They recommend establishing an ambassador-level champion for freedom of belief to combat blasphemy laws. The Lib Dems intend to prioritise equal rights for women and girls, and pledge to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation'.

The Lib Dems reiterate their commitment to spending 0.7% GNI on overseas aid and explicitly state their intention to retain the existing OECD definition of aid. They connect the protection of human rights and preventing violent conflict with international development in a headline priority but do not expand.

The Lib Dems express concern about the human rights dimension of current UK arms sales policy. They advocate a suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia due to consistent and serious violations of international humanitarian law in the conflict in Yemen. They also offer several wider recommendations to improve the control of arms exports: first, implement a 'presumption of denial' policy regarding human rights priority countries; second, enforce end-user certification on future arms export licenses; and third, create a public register of arms brokers."

## In the UK:

### Promoting social cohesion

The Green Party prioritise social cohesion and highlight diversity as one of the strengths of British society promising to ‘always fight for equality.’ These commitments are set out in detail in separate LGBTQIA+, BAME, and Gender Equality manifestos.

To improve representation the Greens propose improving the ‘diversity in representative politics’ with increased job-shares and the goal of a 50/50 gender-balanced Parliament. At the local level, they promise to maintain specialist services for the LGBTQIA+ community. They propose a roll out of green jobs to bring young women into STEM, making it easier to file discrimination cases against employers and public disclosure of salary information in large companies to assess the gender and race wage gaps. They recommend the use of anonymous CVs in businesses with more than 50 employees and pledge to ‘set targets to improve BME representation on boards’.

On mental health, the Green Party pledge to bring funding into line with physical health, as well as to support public sector mental health awareness training and efforts to help people of colour access mental health coverage. On disabilities, they plan to ensure all children with special needs can access adequate education, in line with the UN Convention for Persons with Disabilities.

The Green Party promise to fund public services benefitting LGBTQIA+ people, end the spousal veto, improve marriage equality, and apologise to and pardon those convicted under anti-sodomy laws. Like the Lib Dems, they promise an X gender category for passports and to update the Gender Recognition Act. They advocate for improved medical resources for non-binary individuals, and the recognition of intersex status within the Equality Act.

They recommend discussions for children on racial and gendered stereotypes.

The manifesto advocates a ‘humane immigration and asylum system’ and to take responsibility for Britain’s role in causing current flows of migration. However, they do not specify the number of refugees that the UK should accept.

The Gender Equality manifesto recommends that vulnerable women not be detained. It also recommends funding for ‘integrated support’ for refugees, basic needs for asylum applicants being secure, and caps for application wait times.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

The Green Party pledge to take action against racism, discrimination and identity-based violence.

They proposes ‘zero tolerance of racist hate crimes’ and to ‘strengthen hate-crime legislation’. They advocate ending all stop and search programmes and establishing an independent review of the criminal justice system to increase funding for community cohesion initiatives. Furthermore, the Green Party pledge to fight Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, as well as to defend travellers by requiring the provision of traveller sites.

Within their LGBTQIA+ Manifesto, the Green Party elaborate upon how they would protect the LGBTQIA+ community from violence and discrimination in the UK. They promise to combat all forms of anti-LGBTQIA+ prejudice and violence through improved hate crime protections especially for transgender and asexual communities. The majority of Green recommendations in this area are related to improving awareness and training—in the NHS, schools, sport and the wider public in an effort to destigmatise minority sexual orientations and gender identities.

Their LGBTQIA+ manifesto calls for an immediate halt to deportations of LGBTQIA+ refugees. More broadly, the manifesto promises to end detention for refugees waiting for their cases to be processed, protect the right of appeal, and remove barriers to working. They also pledge to implement the recommendations of the former Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, John Vine, on sensitive questioning and evidence-based assessment.

The Green Party propose a UK-wide strategy to tackle gender-based violence and highlight issues of female genital mutilation and trafficking.





They promise to scrap the ‘rape clause,’ to require colleges and universities to monitor levels of sexual violence, to support student-led policies targeting sexual assault on campuses, and to implement a national strategy against FGM. The Green Party pledge to restore legal aid to protect victims from having to represent themselves against their accusers in court. Greater awareness training is advocated to help combat sexual harassment and assault, both online and in schools.

### Tackling domestic extremism

Extremisms of any kind and challenges posed by international and domestic terrorism are generally not addressed in the Green Party manifesto. However, in their discussion of youth issues, they pledge to abandon the ‘xenophobic’ Prevent programme and instead employ community-led approaches to ‘tackling all forms of extremism.’

## Abroad:

The Green Party emphasise that building peace and offering sanctuary to those at risk are core components of their international approach. They pledge an ethical foreign policy that ‘builds capacity for conflict resolution, and ends support for aggressive wars of intervention.’ Like the Labour Party, precisely what is meant by the term ‘aggressive wars of intervention’ is not clear. The Greens do not endorse the UN principle of the Responsibility to Protect, and unlike their 2015 manifesto do not pledge explicit support for the prevention of violent conflict, genocide or war crimes overseas.

The Green Party view the UN as critically important but in need of reform and democratisation. Greens advocate reform of the UN Security Council, including ending the system of five permanent seats with veto power, and a more transparent and democratic process for selecting and appointing the UN Secretary-General and other key officers, to improve gender balance and geographic representation. The Green Party’s priorities for the UK at the UN are focussed on environmental issues and disarmament.

### Brexit as a human rights issue

The Green Party is the only manifesto that explicitly addresses Britain’s planned withdrawal from the EU as a matter of human rights.

When calling for ‘a referendum on the deal for Britain’s departure from the EU,’ the Green Party frame it as a human rights issue, saying the referendum would help to safeguard the rights of women and the LGBTQIA+ community.

They promise to defend the Human Rights Act and maintain UK membership of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Greens also promise to reinstate funding for the Equality and Human Rights Commission. They also pledge to guarantee the rights of EU citizens within the UK and UK citizens in the EU.

The LGBTQIA+ Green manifesto promises to address countries abusing LGBTQIA+ citizens, work to challenge the criminalisation of LGBTQIA+ people and work with the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court on abuses against the LGBTQIA+ community. On human rights generally, they promise to end arms exports to countries that violate human rights and to sanction regimes violating human rights.

The Greens also support ending arms sales to regimes that systematically violate human rights but are the only party that also recommends applying sanctions. However, they do not address the need for new domestic sanctions mechanisms as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

The Greens are the only party that aims to raise the overseas aid target from 0.7% to 1.0% of GDP.

## In the UK:

### Promoting social cohesion

The UKIP manifesto makes several commitments that directly threaten social cohesion in the UK and that could contribute to exacerbating divisions in society. Although the party claims that they alone are ‘putting integration at the top of the political agenda.’ While UKIP rhetorically defend the concept of a ‘multi-ethnic’ society the party stresses there must be a unifying British identity. UKIP also argue that multiculturalism has led to a fragmentation of British society and assert those who support multiculturalism have ‘little interest in preserving British identity.’

UKIP present many of its proposals to reduce the rights of migrants in the UK under its banner of promoting social cohesion. They propose initiatives that would widen the legal and normative gap between British nationals and foreign nationals, advocating for restrictions on healthcare, employment and family reunion. They also propose stricter penalties and deportation for any foreign nationals who have committed crimes within the UK. In order to foster greater social cohesion, UKIP pledge to ‘test the social attitudes of migration applicants’ in their proposed points-based system. Immigration and religious extremism are frequently addressed as part of the same problem and as threatening social cohesion. This conflation is used to legitimise UKIP’s proposals regarding migrants in the UK.

*“Show your face in a public place; UKIP will ban wearing of the niqab and the burqa in public places. Face coverings such as these are barriers to integration. We will not accept these de-humanising symbols of segregation and oppression, nor the security risks they pose.”*

The manifesto singles out the Muslim community as a threat to social cohesion and outline several policies directed at the British Muslim community. Appropriating rhetoric of gender equality UKIP promise to ban wearing of the niqab and the burka in public places. They add that ‘there is no human right to conceal your identity.’ UKIP pledge to ‘disband sharia councils’ and apply ‘one law for all.’

UKIP propose making it a criminal offence to set up a traveller pitch without permission.

UKIP repeat their 2015 General Election manifesto pledge to only publish official documents in English, Welsh or Gaelic.

Refugees and asylum seekers are scarcely mentioned in the UKIP manifesto. UKIP simply promise to ‘comply fully with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and honour our obligations to bona fide asylum seekers.’ They offer no estimations of a suitable number of refugees to take nor offer any other details.

UKIP identifies mental health and disability as two of its priorities for increased funding. On mental health, they propose an increase of £500 million every year. They also promise shorter wait times between referral and appointment and better services for children. Stigma around mental health conditions is only mentioned in reference to the mental health care of service personnel, not the general public.

Women’s rights receive very little coverage from UKIP outside of its discussion of Muslim and minority women. They do pledge to ‘review advertising, broadcast and editorial codes’ to tackle gender stereotyping that ‘treats young women as sex objects’ and sets unrealistic body expectations for men and women.

LGBT+ rights are addressed in the context of tackling migration and cultural difference. No specific policies related to integrating or protecting the LGBT+ community are provided.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

UKIP promise to ‘challenge those who do not uphold the rights of women’ and to protect all women ‘regardless of their race, ethnicity or religion’. However, they only address acts of violence against women that are ‘cultural crimes.’ There are no policies targeting domestic violence or sexual abuse overall. UKIP do promise to show ‘zero tolerance’ toward female genital mutilation and forced marriages. They detail pledges to ‘make

failure to report a known instance of FGM a criminal offence,' to screen girls at-risk of FGM and to provide check ups for when they return from countries where FGM is practiced and to 'make FGM an indictable offence.

UKIP promise to 'make breast ironing a specific criminal offence,' to impose stricter penalties for honour crimes to more strongly prosecute child marriages and forced marriages and to 'include information on cultural crimes' in teacher training.

Discussion of hate crime of any form is not included. Rising anti-Muslim and Islamophobic crime is not acknowledged. Discrimination against the BAME community is not explicitly addressed. UKIP do promise, however, to reinstate full 'Stop and Search' powers to combat rises in knife crime and to make it less bureaucratically difficult to carry out 'Stop and Search'.

### Tackling domestic extremism

UKIP view schools as a potential risk sites of radicalisation and offer several policies to prevent children being exposed to 'Islamism' although they do not qualify what is meant by their use of the term. They promise to give schools the ability to dismiss staff who support 'radical mosques or imams' and that schools 'exposing children to Islamism' should be put under 'Special Measures.' They additionally would require 'snap inspections' of schools where there have been reports of discrimination against girls, 'anti-Western, anti-Semitic, or anti-equality rhetoric' or pupils being bullied for not sharing 'hardline views'.

## Abroad:

While UKIP commit rhetorically to a global-facing foreign policy, few firm policies are offered. They commit to working with EU partners and other international stakeholders but generally advocate a reduced British role on the international stage.

UKIP pledge to close the Department for International Development, repeal legislation safeguarding the 0.7% aid spend commitment, and to gradually reduce aid spend to 0.2% of GNI. On trade, UKIP promises to not engage in unethical trade practices that harm or inhibit traditional lifestyles or natural resources.

Prisons are similarly identified by UKIP as possible 'universities of terror'. They support a controversial Quilliam Foundation proposal to segregate extremists from the general prison population and want to extend de-radicalisation programmes in prisons, provided they are successful. They promise to bar imams or preachers who 'promote views contrary to British values' from prisons and to give prison governors greater authority to combat extremism in prisons.

UKIP do not address the potential for their proposed counter-extremism policies to contribute to further marginalising Muslim and other minority communities. UKIP do not acknowledge the rising threats posed by domestic far-right extremism.

### Brexit as a human rights issue

UKIP address the UK's need for 'supremacy of law-making' in light of Brexit and advocate removing the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice. They add that the UK should be able 'to relinquish our membership of the European Court of Human Rights'. The European Convention on Human Rights is not addressed.

More generally, UKIP restate their 2015 General Election manifesto promise to 'protect religious freedom in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' as long as religions are tolerant 'of the human rights of others' and function under British law. They promise to the Human Rights Act and introduce a new UK Bill of Rights.

UKIP maintain a sceptical position on military action overseas but do support consulting parliament before UK forces are committed to combat situations. They do not address obligations to prevent mass atrocities or identity-based violence abroad, or the UN Responsibility to Protect. They note their intention to work towards a peaceful solution to the Israel/Palestine conflict.

On women's rights, UKIP promise to 'stand in solidarity with women worldwide who are rebelling against the imposition of the niqab and burqa'. They offer no other positions on supporting vulnerable groups internationally.

## In the UK:

### Promoting social cohesion

The Scottish National Party offer strong criticism of current policies that 'are punishing the most vulnerable in society,' but primarily focus on issues of economic inequality rather than social inequality.

The SNP commit to 'stand firm against the demonisation of migrants.' They support scrapping indefinite detention, limiting immigration detention to 28 days, and oppose 'the detention of children and vulnerable people, including pregnant women and people with mental illnesses,' To help immigrants secure work more easily the SNP will continue to make the case for the reintroduction of a Post-Study Work Visa scheme for Scotland.

On LGBTI+ representation, the SNP promise to encourage the UK government to review and reform existing gender recognition laws to bring them 'in line with international best practice.' They support the complete devolution of equality law to the Scottish Parliament and support full equal rights for same-sex couples. SNP MPs will press the UK government to match the Scottish Government's commitment to extend the pardon of the 'Turing Bill' to gay men who are still alive today and have such records.

Assisting those with disabilities to better integrate into society is a major focus of the SNP's manifesto. They promise to support reversals of cuts to the disability Employment and Support Allowance and advocate for a new system for assessment. They also promise to support efforts to recognise British Sign Language as a UK language and urge the UK to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into law.

On mental health, they highlight their new 'ten-year Mental Health Strategy' to improve the delivery of mental health services and note their successes in increasing mental health spending and staff recruitment.

The SNP offer a comprehensive policy on promoting equal pay, insisting equal pay audits must cover race, gender and disability. They recommend employers who lose equal pay claims

should be required to publish equal pay audits and take action to improve equal pay. They propose that 'public authorities with more than 20 employees' produce gender pay gap reports every two years and equal pay statements every four years. The SNP urge the UK government to legislate 'for gender balance in public sector boardrooms' and to amend the Equality Act to tackle sexism in professional dress codes.

The SNP promise to expand voting rights EU citizens living in the UK. They also promise to 'ensure that there is as much support as possible for disabled people, and people of all classes, races and gender identities' to stand for election.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

The SNP express their commitment 'to tackling the challenges of racism and discrimination in society. They promise to support 'strengthened provisions relating to Equality Impact Assessments which will ensure that legislation is sensitive to the interests of minority communities.' However, the manifesto does not address rising levels of identity-based violence or hate crime, nor is the forthcoming Lammy Review acknowledged.

The SNP argue that the last UK government's response to the refugee and migration crisis fell 'far short of their humanitarian and moral duty.' SNP MPs will back an immediate reversal of the Dubs Scheme for unaccompanied children to ensure safe and legal routes are open. Furthermore, the SNP propose that the Dublin Regulation process be simplified, reformed, and properly implemented so that those with family in the UK can be more easily reunited with them. SNP MPs will urge the UK government to take action on the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees including implementing a National Refugee Integration Strategy that ensures all agencies coordinate support for refugees and helps refugees take part in, and contribute to, our society. The SNP pledges to work to reform current system for housing asylum seekers, urging the government to work with local communities and councils over private contractors. They highlight the need for reform of asylum system concerning LGBTI asylum seekers.

The SNP promise to ‘ensure all LGBTI+ people are fully protected from discrimination and harassment,’ though they do not offer any explicit policy recommendations to achieve this goal.

The SNP promise to establish a clear timeline for the passage of SNP MP Dr. Elidh Whiteford’s Bill that would ‘ensure the Istanbul Convention is incorporated into UK law.’ This is the Council of Europe’s convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and is based on the understanding that violence against women is a form of identity-based violence. The SNP also pledge to abolish the ‘rape clause’ concerning child tax credits.

### Tackling domestic extremisms

Domestic extremisms are not addressed within the SNP manifesto.

### Abroad:

The SNP promise to promote human rights and conflict resolution in its foreign policy and to hold the UK government to account on ‘their humanitarian and moral obligations’. They commit to ‘always consider the human rights implications of its engagement with countries and business.’ However, they fail to acknowledge mass atrocity prevention as a specific challenge or to apply an identity-based violence ‘lens’ to their foreign policy strategy outside of their commitments to tackle international LGBTI+ crimes.

On Syria, the SNP note their opposition to the decision to ‘the government’s ill-judged decision to bomb Syria’ and pledge to work toward a political resolution to the conflict. The SNP argue that the conflict with Daesh must ‘include the battle of ideas which demonstrate that international justice and civic tolerance can be achieved without recourse to violence and barbarity’. The SNP also highlight their advocacy for political resolution to the ongoing conflict in Yemen. The SNP promise to continue working to ‘a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East’ between Israel and Palestine. They support suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia pending investigation into alleged human rights violations. They propose suspending arms exports to all other regimes suspected of human rights violations or violating international humanitarian law.

### Brexit as a human rights issue

The SNP address Brexit as a human rights issue. They claim that ‘Brexit threatens the fundamental rights that people in the UK currently enjoy.’ The SNP, like the Labour Party, focus on workers’ rights but EU social protections are also highlighted. The SNP ‘re-affirms its commitment to the Council of Europe, the ECHR and their institutions’ and also promise to oppose any attempts to abandon the Human Rights Act or to withdraw from the ECHR. The SNP promise to guarantee the rights of EU citizens in the UK and the rights of UK citizens in the EU.

The SNP promise to support the EU in its EU Global Strategy objectives, including ‘Human Rights, Women, Peace and Security and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment’.

The SNP fully support the work of the UN but do not address the issue of reform nor how the UK’s role at the UN could be strengthened. The SNP insist that the use of ‘banned weapons against civilian populations’ should be investigated by the UN but do not acknowledge the need for the UN to act in response atrocities committed against civilians with weapons that are not prohibited. Like all parties save the Lib Dems, the SNP do not acknowledge the prevention of mass atrocities as a specific priority for the UK. They do however support referrals to International Criminal Court in circumstances where the UNSC fails to act.

Like Labour, the SNP pledge to establish a ‘special envoy to promote the rights of LGBTI+ people throughout the world’ and are the only party to highlight the atrocities being committed in Chechnya.

The SNP maintain their commitment to the 0.7% of GDP target for international development spending. They also promise to ensure that international development spending meets the Development Assistance Criteria and that it not be used for defence or intelligence. The SNP promise to continue supporting the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. They more broadly emphasise the need to recognise the role of women and girls in development.

## In the UK:

### Promoting social cohesion

Unlike its 2015 manifesto, Plaid Cymru focus little on promoting social cohesion or tackling identity-based violence in Wales. Excluding a general pledge to support the equal treatment of individuals regardless of 'race, gender or sexual orientation,' the manifesto contains neither a comprehensive overview nor specific policy proposals for protecting minorities and preventing discrimination in Wales. There is no mention of the LGBT+ community and no specific reference to BAME issues. Religious minority groups and traveller communities also go unmentioned. Disabled persons are only mentioned once, in a pledge to help them into employment without fear of sanctions.

On the issue of immigration, Plaid Cymru propose a Welsh Migration Advisory Service to specifically handle immigration concerns within Wales but a strategy for immigration in Wales is not set out in detail. They advocate for international students to be excluded from overall migration statistics.

### Tackling discrimination and protecting vulnerable groups

While identity-based violence and discrimination against LGBT+, BAME, religious, and cultural communities are not addressed, Plaid Cymru do give attention to protecting women and victims of gender-based violence.

They oppose the 'rape clause,' plan to 'reverse cuts

## Abroad:

Plaid Cymru do not address the prevention of identity-based violence or mass atrocities abroad. They do not express any support for the UN principle of the Responsibility to Protect. Plaid Cymru oppose any military action without explicit parliamentary and UN approval. They do not address current deadlock at the UN Security Council or express an opinion on existing veto restraint initiatives.

Plaid Cymru criticise UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia .

to legal aid' to victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse, and promise to institute new protections for victims when giving evidence in court.

Commitments are made to uphold the Dubs amendment and criticisms are directed at the last Westminster government for not taking its 'fair share' of refugees, although no explicit proposals for Wales to take more refugees are made.

### Tackling domestic extremism

The Plaid Cymru manifesto does not address domestic extremism. Plaid Cymru Assembly Member Steffan Lewis has called for the devolution of police work, but upheld the position that counter-terrorism matters should still be centralised.

### Brexit as a human rights issue

Plaid Cymru acknowledge the possibility of the Human Rights Act being abolished but do not advocate for it to be retained. Instead they pledge to draft a human rights charter for Wales. Human rights are not addressed outside of discussion of the Human Rights Act.

The Plaid Cymru manifesto frequently addresses Brexit but almost solely as an issue of devolution. No mention is made of cooperation with the EU on defence, security, refugees, human rights or foreign affairs. Plaid Cymru do promise to guarantee the rights of all EU citizens within Wales.

Plaid Cymru are committed to maintaining 0.7% GNI spending on overseas aid.

In their statement to UNA, they reiterated their support for legal international action through the International Criminal Court against governments of any countries that commit human rights abuses and for certain minorities at risk including the Tamils and Kurds.

