

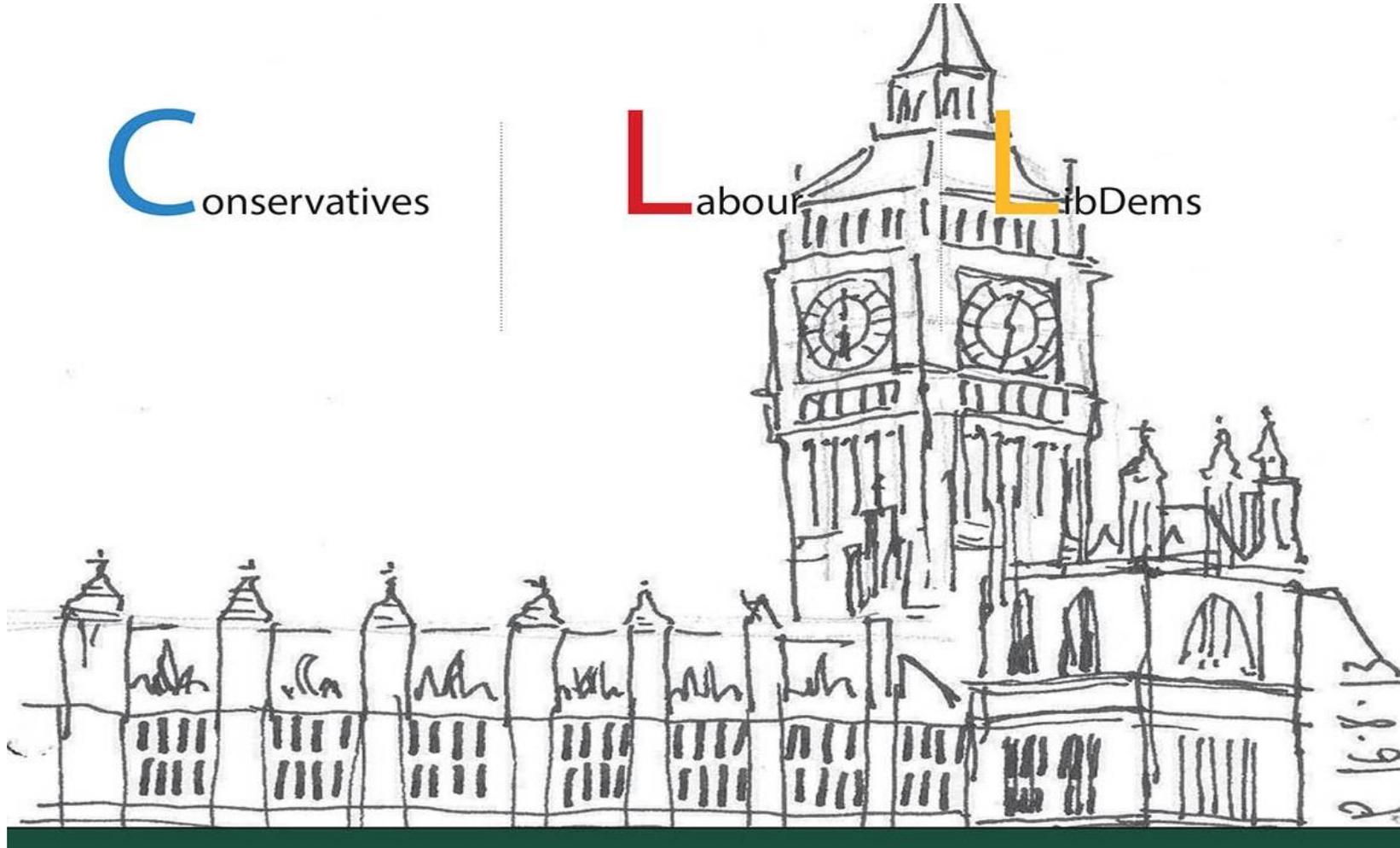
## General Election manifestos 2019

What the main political parties say in relation to Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

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<b>Accommodation</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle unauthorised <b>Traveller</b> camps. Propose giving the police new powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised encampments, in order to protect communities;</li> <li>• Make intentional trespass a criminal offence, and will also give councils greater powers within the planning system;</li> <li>• Reform shared ownership, making it fairer and more transparent;</li> <li>• Extend the Help to Buy scheme from 2021 to 2023;</li> <li>• Maintain a commitment to a Right to Buy for all council tenants. Increase number of homes being built.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a new social housebuilding programme of more than a million homes over a decade;</li> <li>• Propose to establish a new duty on councils to plan and build these homes in their area, and fund them to do so, with backing from national government;</li> <li>• Scrap the current bogus definition of 'affordable' and replace with a definition linked to local incomes;</li> <li>• Make available 8,000 additional homes for people with a history of rough sleeping;</li> <li>• Repeal the Vagrancy Act and amend antisocial behaviour legislation;</li> <li>• End rough sleeping within five years, with a national plan driven by a prime minister-led taskforce.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build at least 100,000 homes for social rent each year and ensure that total housebuilding increases to 300,000 each year;</li> <li>• Allow local authorities to increase council tax by up to 500 per cent where homes are being bought as second homes;</li> <li>• Improve protections against rogue landlords through mandatory licensing;</li> <li>• Introduce a 'somewhere safe to stay' legal duty to ensure that everyone who is at risk of sleeping rough is provided with emergency accommodation and an assessment of their needs;</li> <li>• Increase Local Housing Allowance in line with average rents in an area.</li> </ul>
<b>Brexit</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get Brexit Done.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft a new EU exit deal and put to a People's Vote.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop Brexit.</li> </ul>

## Democracy and voter rights

### Conservative

- Get rid of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act;
- Introduce identification to vote at polling stations;
- Introduce measures to prevent any foreign interference in elections;
- Repeal section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2014, which seeks to coerce the press;
- Do not proceed with the second stage of the Leveson Inquiry.

### Labour

- Repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011;
- Scrap voter identification bill;
- Reduce the voting age to 16;
- Address misconduct and the unresolved failures of corporate governance raised by the second stage of the Leveson Inquiry;
- Consider an inquiry into 'fake news';
- Strengthen Ofcom's powers;
- Repeal the Lobbying Act 2014 and overhaul the rules that govern corporate lobbying.

### Liberal Democrats

- Introduce proportional representation through the Single Transferable Vote for electing MPs, and local councillors in England;
- Scrap voter identification bill;
- Give 16- and 17-year olds the right to vote in elections and referendums;
- Establish a legal duty on local authorities to inform citizens of how to register to vote;
- Bring into force Section 106 of the Equality Act 2010, requiring political parties to publish candidate diversity data;
- Introduce a Leveson-compliant regulator to be given oversight of both privacy and quality, diversity and choice in both print and online media;
- Proceed with Part Two of the Leveson Inquiry.

<b>Domestic Abuse</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass the Domestic Abuse Bill;</li> <li>• Increase support for refuges and community support for victims of rape and sexual abuse;</li> <li>• Pass and implement a Victims' Law that guarantees victims' rights and support;</li> <li>• Pilot integrated domestic abuse courts that address criminal and family matters in parallel.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reintroduce a Domestic Abuse Bill;</li> <li>• Ratify both the Istanbul Convention on preventing domestic abuse and the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment at work;</li> <li>• Appoint a Commissioner for Violence against Women and Girls;</li> <li>• Establish a National Refuge Fund;</li> <li>• Improve the safety of the family court system for domestic violence victims and prohibit their cross-examination by their abuser;</li> <li>• Introduce 10 days of paid leave for survivors of domestic abuse;</li> <li>• Ensure women's refuges receive the long-term sustainable funding they need;</li> <li>• Misogyny and violence against women and girls will become hate crimes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislate for a statutory definition of domestic abuse that includes its effects on children;</li> <li>• Ratify and bring into law the Istanbul Convention;</li> <li>• Expand the number of refuges and rape crisis centres to meet demand;</li> <li>• Ensure sustainable grant-funding for specialist independent support services;</li> <li>• Give local authorities the duty and funding to provide accommodation and support for survivors of abuse;</li> <li>• Establish a national rape crisis helpline;</li> <li>• Ensure access to special measures for survivors in all courts and preventing direct cross-examination of survivors by their abusers.</li> </ul>
<b>Education &amp; childcare</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30+ hours free childcare;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30+ hours free childcare;</li> <li>• Invest an additional £4.5 billion pounds to all 2-4 year-olds;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 hours free childcare;</li> <li>• Invest £1 billion a year in Children's Centres;</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new £1 billion fund to help create more high quality, affordable childcare;</li> <li>• Raise teachers' starting salaries to £30,000;</li> <li>• Expand 'alternative provision' schools;</li> <li>• Back heads and teachers on discipline;</li> <li>• Back heads to use exclusions; help teachers tackle bullying;</li> <li>• £400 million for 16-19 education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reintroduce Sure Start Centres;</li> <li>• create a National Education Service;</li> <li>• Introduce free school meals for all primary age children;</li> <li>• Scrap Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs;</li> <li>• Scrap and replace Ofsted;</li> <li>• Scrap Third level tuition fees and reinstate the grant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrap mandatory SATs;</li> <li>• Reverse cuts to school funding, employing an extra 20,000 schoolteachers;</li> <li>• Replace Ofsted with a new HM Inspector of Schools;</li> <li>• Reinstate maintenance grants for the poorest students;</li> <li>• Establish a review of higher education finance.</li> </ul>
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### Health and mental health

<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50,000 more nurses in 5 years;</li> <li>• Students nurses will receive a £5,000-£8,000 annual maintenance grant every year;</li> <li>• Increase the NHS surcharge paid by those from overseas;</li> <li>• Will treat mental health with the same urgency as physical health;</li> <li>• Legislate so that patients suffering from mental health conditions have greater control over their treatment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase expenditure across the health sector by an average 4.3% a year;</li> <li>• Introduce a training bursary for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals;</li> <li>• Provide an additional £1.6 billion a year to ensure new standards for mental health are enshrined in the NHS constitution;</li> <li>• Implement in full the recommendations set out in the independent review of the Mental Health Act;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £7 billion a year ring-fenced funding for the NHS and social care;</li> <li>• Transform mental health by treating it with the same urgency as physical health;</li> <li>• Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double the annual spend on children and adolescent mental health services;</li> <li>• Free annual NHS dental check-ups;</li> <li>• Guarantee universal healthcare to all.</li> </ul>	
<b>Human Rights, Discrimination and Equality</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Human Rights Act and administrative law and set up a <i>Constitution, Democracy &amp; Rights Commission</i> that will examine these and other issues in depth;</li> <li>• Review EU legislation and regulations;</li> <li>• End the role of the European Court of Justice;</li> <li>• End Freedom of Movement for EU nationals.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive <b>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller</b> community equality strategy to tackle persistent inequalities, in particular within housing, education and criminal justice;</li> <li>• End racism and discrimination against <b>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller</b> communities;</li> <li>• Create a new Department for Women and Equalities;</li> <li>• Equality audit all policies before, during and after implementation;</li> <li>• Enhance the powers and functions of the Equality and Human Rights Commission;</li> <li>• Keep the Human Rights Act and Convention on Human Rights;</li> <li>• End the Hostile Environment;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain freedom of movement for EU nationals;</li> <li>• Maintain the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights;</li> <li>• Scrap the Hostile Environment;</li> <li>• End indefinite detention and take powers away from the Home Office;</li> <li>• Make hate crimes aggravated offences.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant EU nationals the automatic right to continue living and working in the UK.</li> </ul>	
<b>Prisons, Probations and Justice</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add 10,000 more prison places, with £2.75 billion already committed to refurbishing and creating modern prisons;</li> <li>Toughen community sentences;</li> <li>Conduct a root-and-branch review of the parole system;</li> <li>Introduce tougher sentencing for the worst offenders;</li> <li>Maintain the ban on prisoners voting from jail;</li> <li>Invest £500 million in youth services for young people;</li> <li>Make it easier for police officers to stop and search those convicted of knife crime.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle the disproportionate levels of BAME children in custody;</li> <li>Review the youth custody estate, strengthen youth courts and build on the Lammy Review;</li> <li>Restore all early legal aid advice, including for housing, social security, family and immigration cases;</li> <li>Review the Prevent programme;</li> <li>Set new standards for community sentences and introduce a presumption against prison sentences of six months or less for non-violent and non-sexual offences;</li> <li>Invest in proven alternatives to custody, including women's centres, expand problem-solving courts and plug the funding gap in the female offender strategy;</li> <li>Legal aid for inquests into deaths in state custody;</li> <li>Recruit hundreds of new community lawyers;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the overrepresentation of people from BAME backgrounds throughout the criminal justice system;</li> <li>Invest £500 million to restore Legal Aid;</li> <li>Adopt a public health approach to serious violence, including youth violence:</li> <li>Invest £1 billion to restore community policing, enough for two new police officers in every ward.</li> <li>Provide a £500m ring-fenced youth services;</li> <li>End the disproportionate use of Stop and Search;</li> <li>Introduce a presumption against short prison sentences;</li> <li>Increase the use of tough community sentences and restorative justice where appropriate;</li> <li>Establish a Women's Justice Board and provide specialist training for all staff in contact with</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build an expanded network of law centres;</li> <li>• Create and fund a National Youth Service.</li> </ul>	women in the criminal justice system.
<b>Small businesses</b>		
<b>Conservative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut the burden of tax on business by reducing business rates;</li> <li>• Further reduce taxes for small retail businesses and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas;</li> <li>• New £3 billion National Skills Fund; support start-ups and small businesses via government procurement;</li> <li>• Launch a review to explore how we can better support the self-employed.</li> </ul>	<b>Labour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle late payments that leave small businesses waiting months to be paid, including banning late payers from public procurement;</li> <li>• Reverse cuts to corporation tax while keeping rates lower than in 2010;</li> <li>• Ensure no quarterly reporting for businesses below the VAT threshold;</li> <li>• Self-employed people will benefit from a broad range of policies, from free childcare and full-fibre broadband to face-to-face lending and business support through Labour's Post Bank</li> </ul>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace Business Rates in England with a Commercial Landowner Levy;</li> <li>• Create a new 'start-up allowance' to help those starting a new business with their living costs in the crucial first weeks of their business;</li> <li>• Prioritise small and medium-sized businesses in the rollout of hyper-fast broadband;</li> <li>• Expand the rights and benefits available to those in insecure forms of employment, such as offering parental leave and pay to the self-employed.</li> </ul>
<b>Social care</b>		
<b>Conservative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1 billion extra of funding every year for more social care staff and better infrastructure, technology and facilities.</li> </ul>	<b>Labour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a National Care Service;</li> <li>• Repeal the Health and Social Care Act;</li> </ul>	<b>Liberal Democrats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform the Health and Social Care Act as recommended by the NHS;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch a wholesale review of the care system;</li> <li>• Rebuild early intervention services</li> <li>• Replace the Troubled Families programme with a Stronger Families programme, refocused on long-term support to reduce the risk of children going into care;</li> <li>• Protect and build on Staying Put for over-18s in care and the Adoption Support Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding for social care through taxation;</li> <li>• Establish a cross-party health and social care convention.</li> </ul>
<b>Taxes, contracts and wages</b>		
<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will not raise the rates of income tax, National Insurance or VAT;</li> <li>• Increase in the National Living Wage to two thirds of average earnings, currently forecast at £10.50 an hour;</li> <li>• Increase the Employment Allowance for small businesses.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freeze National Insurance and income tax rates for everyone earning under £80,000 p.a;</li> <li>• Reverse cuts to corporation tax;</li> <li>• Establish a Ministry for Employment Rights;</li> <li>• Introduce Real Living Wage of at least £10 per hour for all workers;</li> <li>• End zero-hours contracts and strengthen trade union rights;</li> <li>• No increases in VAT;</li> <li>• Greater protections for the self-employed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Liberal Democrats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1p rise on the basic, higher and additional rates of Income Tax;</li> <li>• Restore Corporation Tax to 20 per cent;</li> <li>• Consult on how to set a genuine Living Wage across all sectors;</li> <li>• Establish a powerful new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority;</li> <li>• Setting a 20 per cent higher minimum wage for people on zero-hour contracts;</li> </ul>

- Giving a right to request a fixed-hours contract after 12 months for 'zero hours';
- Strengthen the ability of unions to represent workers effectively.

### Welfare and Universal credit

#### Conservative

- Continue the roll-out of Universal Credit;
- End the benefit freeze;
- Publish a National Strategy for Disabled People before the end of 2020.

#### Labour

- Scrap Universal Credit;
- Scrap the benefit cap and the two child limit;
- Introduce a right to food;
- Implement an emergency package of reforms to mitigate some of the worst features of UC while developing a replacement system;
- Pay childcare costs up front so that parents aren't forced to turn down work or get into debt to pay for childcare;
- Protect women in abusive relationships by splitting payments and paying the child element to the primary carer;
- End the digital barrier and offer telephone, face-to-face and outreach support.

#### Liberal Democrats

- Reform Universal Credit to be more supportive of the self-employed;
- Establish a legal right to food;
- Introduce a principle of universal access to basic services;
- Invest £6 billion per year to make the benefits system work for people who need it;
- Reduce the wait for the first benefits payment from five weeks to five days.