

# Impacting the Nation for Good

General Election Manifesto 2019



CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE



Christian Peoples Alliance



**Christian Peoples Alliance**

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## Sid Cordle MBE - Leader's Introduction

Brexit has dominated the political agenda for a long time now and caused deep divisions in our society. The Christian Peoples Alliance would implement the 2016 Referendum decision by leaving completely, and then negotiate the best trade deal we can with the EU. We would, however, guarantee another referendum 5 years after we've left with the simple question, "Do you wish to rejoin the EU?" We believe we can make a success of leaving but if we can't then there is a mechanism to go back, if the British people decide that is what they want. This process honours democracy and is the only truly credible way of re-uniting the country. The EU will certainly have us back as we have been contributing around £10bn net to their coffers but right now it is imperative that we move on.



The Christian Peoples Alliance is a business-friendly party that also cares for the poor. One of our key pledges is that taxation must be fair. We have identified a number of problems in this respect and proposed solutions. A key one is that multinational mega-companies who trade predominantly online — such as Google, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft — send all their profits abroad and so pay no Corporation Tax in the UK. This gives them a highly unfair tax advantage against UK companies who are paying the price with store closures and lost jobs. To overcome this we are proposing a Turnover Tax. This will operate like a Seller's VAT. In the same way as we pay employers' and employees' National Insurance, in future VAT will be paid by both purchasers and sellers (as happens in many other countries). The same current VAT threshold will apply, now £85,000 turnover before any tax is payable. We will also offset this Turnover Tax or Seller's VAT against Corporation Tax, so British Companies that currently pay Corporation Tax will be better off than foreign companies and there will be a persuasive tax incentive for companies to locate in the UK.

Setting our Turnover Tax at 5% we will raise substantial sums, around £32bn. We will use £15bn of this to immediately halve commercial rates, with a view to getting rid of them completely over time, so there will be a level tax playing field between buying online and buying in a shop. Of course, we never want to stop people buying online, but no-one should have to pay more in tax when they buy in a shop than when they purchase online.

Marriage and the family are the fundamental building blocks of our society. These are in grave crisis today and our society is suffering as a result. Therefore around £3bn from our Turnover Tax will be used to provide a grant of £12,000 when men and women first get married, backed up with effective training and support, as well as a further grant of £6,000 on the birth of their first child — again backed up with effective training and support. This will strengthen both marriage and the family, making their breakdown far less likely.

We also want to invest around £2bn on supporting people leaving prison, guaranteeing them good accommodation, help to break any addictions, and the assistance they need to get them back into work, and back into society. This will include incentives for employers to take on ex-offenders. Christian

charities, like Saltbox in Stoke and the Message Trust in Manchester, have helped get reoffending rates down to around 10%. This is compared with a national average of around 30% but which is as high as 62% for those imprisoned for less than 12 months. This crucial investment works three ways: 1) There will be many fewer crimes committed, so many fewer victims. 2) Ex-prisoners will be able to live more fulfilled lives contributing to society rather than wasting further years in prison. 3) The cost of keeping just one prisoner in prison is over £30,000 per year, so there will be significant cost savings there, as well as less pressure on the courts.<sup>1</sup>

We will use the remaining £12bn from the Turnover Tax to restore the Tory benefit cuts and so make Universal Credit work. There is nothing wrong with the system but it is massively underfunded, and it is this which has caused serious hardship.

We will also

- Maintain our uncompromising pro-life stance, aiming to save over 200,000 babies each year lost to abortion, including by supporting mothers in crisis pregnancy situations.
- Support persecuted Christians worldwide and withhold aid from countries that violate freedom of religion and conscience.
- Guarantee free night shelters for every homeless person, so sleeping rough will be a thing of the past.
- Ensure moral education in our schools and open debate in our universities.
- Discontinue Trident, using the resources for a missile shield and missile-diverting technology

The Christian Peoples Alliance is standing for policies no other party offers — policies for justice, transformation and prosperity across the nation. We alone stand for the true moral values which recognise marriage and the family as the bedrock of our society. We understand the needs of business but we also understand the most basic needs of our poorest neighbours. We alone stand for taxation that is both fair and wealth creating — stimulating British business whilst providing a hand up to the poorest in society and our hard pressed city centres. We alone are willing to transform the lives of the most rejected and marginalised, supporting prisoners as they leave jail to be properly reintegrated into society. We alone are standing for the much-threatened sacred and natural right of parents to educate their children according to their own beliefs and values, without the oppressive interference of an increasingly corrupt State. We alone will defend freedom of belief and expression, and champion open debate in our universities and our society.

We alone offer you a clear coherent alternative that sets out a fresh vision for a revived society and I commend it to you in our Manifesto for the 2019 General Election.



Sid Cordle MBE  
**Leader, Christian Peoples Alliance**

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Justice & Office of National Statistics, *Proven reoffending statistics quarterly bulletin, July 2017 to September 2017*, 25 July 2019;  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/820356/proven\\_reoffending\\_bulletin\\_July\\_to\\_Sept\\_17.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820356/proven_reoffending_bulletin_July_to_Sept_17.pdf)



## Basic Principles

The Christian Peoples Alliance set out in this Manifesto a fresh vision for an alternative society — one based upon **six basic principles**, each and all of which work in harmony together to produce a happier, healthier and economically more prosperous society. These principles are:

- **The Effective Use of Resources**
- **The Empowerment of the Individual and Communities**
- **Active Compassion**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Respect for Life**
- **Social Justice**

This is not the capitalism of Conservatism or the socialism of Labour; it is not the licence of the Liberal Democrats or the isolationism of UKIP, and it does not fit under any ‘right’, ‘left’ or ‘centre’ label. Instead it is a distinct political philosophy, proposing actual solutions to current issues in order to increase the vitality and well-being of all in our society.

Over the following pages we will set out how these principles, as practised by the CPA in Government, will positively affect all aspects of life in Britain.

Before doing so we set out our five key policies for the 2019 Election:

1. **Brexit** - to implement the 2016 Referendum decision by leaving completely then seeking to negotiate the best trade deal we can with the EU. We will guarantee another referendum 5 years after we’ve left with the simple question, “Do you wish to rejoin the EU?”
2. **Marriage and the Family** - Supporting couples when they get married both financially and with training and also again when they have their first child.
3. **5% Turnover Tax** - to be levied on all sales in the UK above the VAT threshold, currently £85,000, so that tax is collected from those multi-nationals who divert their UK earnings to low-tax regimes by ‘licence fees’ or ‘invoice address’.
4. **Care for the poor** We will use the money to restore the £12bn cuts to benefits, halve commercial rates, strengthen marriage and the family , help people leaving prison and guarantee night shelters for people sleeping rough.
5. **Respect for Life** We seek to give full protection of the law again to unborn children, whilst providing genuine help and support to those in crisis pregnancy situations.

We now turn to these, and our other policies, in greater detail.

## Brexit and the post-Brexit Economy

It's time now to get on with effective planning for a post-Brexit future. We will:

- **Negotiate trade agreements with more countries;** in particular, with the new economic powerhouses of China, India, Brazil and Russia, as well as the USA and Japan and other key countries outside the EU. These may be direct one-to-one agreements, or achieved in partnership with other countries. Eg. New Zealand lamb production and UK lamb production are at different times of the year, leading to the possibility of a combined export throughout the year to a third country. It is this type of new, co-operative, thinking that is needed.
- **Invest in major industries (steel, ship building, car, energy etc) to increase efficiency and increase production in a sustainable manner.** As John Longworth, Director General of British Chamber of Commerce, said in August 2014 "We need to invest and export more, innovate and build". We will do this by providing 0% loans for capital spending over a given period until new industries come into production. We do not favour State ownership except at the margin.
- **Continue agricultural subsidies for the first 5 years after Brexit** so as to provide continuity for farmers, whilst discussing with farmers the phasing out of subsidies (eg New Zealand) and the availability of capital injection to improve efficiency.
- **Maintain other EU grants for a minimum of 3 years** (unless they were due to finish earlier).
- **Review the regulatory system and quangos<sup>2</sup>.** All the current regulatory systems will need to remain in force when we leave the EU, but we do not thereafter have to keep any of them. We will keep what is working well and repeal what is not useful. The CPA wants a much reduced regulatory system in every single industry, which we believe will lead to lower taxation. We will ensure this review is conducted in an orderly and thorough fashion, and that there is also a robust appeals system both for and against regulatory changes.
- **Invest in research and development, and then patenting and implementation of new products** (eg. different new forms of 'graphene' — a newly discovered material which promises to be as revolutionary and diverse as plastic once was ).
- **Increase Investment in UK transport infrastructure;** in particular, high-speed rail links and a new London airport in the Thames Estuary with supporting transport links.
- **Conduct a review of all Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts** (covering hospitals, schools, government buildings, etc) to ensure that they are providing value for money, and introducing primary legislation, where required, to rectify those arrangements where excessive charges or profits are being made at the expense of true social benefit.
- Encourage whole-company bonus schemes and whole-company share schemes. We want ALL employees in a company to feel that they belong and that their work is valued. Bonuses and shares should not be for the benefit of executives only, but for everyone in a company, at whatever level, who has contributed to its success.

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<sup>2</sup> 'Quango' - A semi-public administrative body outside the civil service but receiving financial support from the government, which makes senior appointments to it.



These policies are a practical outworking of the basic Christian Democratic principles of effective use of resources, and the empowerment of the individual and communities, and will lead to greater social justice as the (currently) more disadvantaged areas of the UK will benefit from regeneration and development.

## The Political Process

The CPA considers that the following reforms to our political process are currently needed:

1. All voters should provide proof of identity when voting to avoid impersonation.
2. We would review the right of recall by the electorate of a sitting MP and how it is triggered. The figure of 10% seems too low.
3. The introduction of Proportional Representation for local elections with a 5% threshold.
4. The reform of the House of Lords, with all members of the Second Chamber being elected by Proportional Representation with no threshold.

## Strengthen Marriage and the Family

Natural marriage between one man and one woman has been and remains the fundamental building block for a successful and healthy society, and the safest and most beneficial environment for the raising of children.<sup>3</sup>

Even financially, defending marriage makes sense, since family breakdown has been estimated to cost the country around £51 billion each year in terms of the overall social impact.<sup>4</sup> What is lacking is the political will to rise above political correctness and simply state the truth. The CPA has both the courage and the will.

Research shows that many couples are unprepared for both marriage and parenting. We therefore have detailed proposals to strengthen marriage and encourage its stability, as well as to support parenting.

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<sup>3</sup> Research on the situation in Britain, for instance, shows that married, as opposed to cohabitating parents, are around 3 times more likely to still be together by the time their child is 5 years old; 3 out of 4 parents will still be together by the time their child does their GCSEs (as opposed to 1 in 4 who are not married); adults whose parents were married at the time of their birth are 16% less likely to ever receive benefits, 23% more likely to have been to university. See Harry Benson, *Married and Unmarried Family Breakdown: Key Statistics Explained* (Bristol Community Family Trust, 2009); Harry Benson & Spencer James, *The Long Term Effect of Marriage of Social Mobility* (Marriage Foundation, Jan 2018).

Statistically, very few horror stories of child abuse come from married households. Robert Whelan, *Broken Homes & Battered Children*, 1994, Family Education Trust). <http://marriagefoundation.org.uk/government-pressure-back-marriage-cost-family-breakdown-hits-51-billion/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://marriagefoundation.org.uk/government-pressure-back-marriage-cost-family-breakdown-hits-51-billion/>

- First, we would give a grant (initially set at £12,000 per couple) to be made available to all couples on the occasion of their first marriage, provided that they go for at least 5 sessions of marital awareness training
- Second, we would give a grant (initially set at £6,000) to be made available to all before or just after the birth or adoption of their first child, provided they go for at least 5 sessions of training in child raising, since the child is the priority.
- Third, we want the tax threshold to be fully transferable from husband to wife if there is a child under 5 in the family so that there is a tax benefit for one parent to stay at home with young children. Equally there will be an incentive for the other parent to look for work when the youngest child reaches age 5. As resources make it possible we will extend this age limit preferably right up to age 12
- Fourth, we will allow married couples to name 2 properties as their main home, one each, to end the Capital Gains tax anomaly where unmarried couples are better off

The reason for these measures is that research has shown that too many couples are sliding into marriage without properly thinking about what they are doing. Equally many parents receive little or no training, and so are not always supported in catering for the needs of their children as they should. The whole of society will benefit from a change of culture which these measures will help to bring about.

As one Christian leader has stated regarding the political redefining and undermining of natural marriage, "at stake is the identity and survival of the family: father, mother and children. At stake are the lives of many children who will be discriminated against in advance, and deprived of their human development given by a father and a mother and willed by God. At stake is the total rejection of God's law engraved in our hearts." (Pope Francis 2010) Another said, "Marriage is like a structural wall in a building. If we destroy marriage the whole of society can come crashing down." (Jonathan Olyede of the Global Day of Prayer)

Whilst looking to strengthen marriage, there can and should be state recognition for other mutually supportive relationships where two people have lived together for a long time, including siblings, so that inheritance and property can be passed between them and they can be named "next of kin". We will therefore retain an adapted legal concept of 'civil partnership' and consult further on the details, including finding a more appropriate name for this kind of recognised relationship.

We have opposed all attempts to redefine the meaning of marriage and will repeal those laws which have already attempted to do this. As is normal in British politics we will not, however, make those laws retrospective.

Schools should not be used as an apparatus for social engineering and promoting the secular liberal agenda. They should respect the views of parents and the cultural background of pupils. Schools must not be able to take action against teachers who support real marriage and neither should any employer, government or otherwise, be able to take action such discriminatory action on this basis.

## **Adoptive families**

The CPA believes adoptive parents make a highly significant contribution to the lives of the children they adopt and to the community as a whole. They provide a home for a child (or children) in need and may end a cycle of abuse and/or neglect within families. Potentially they save a lot of social work costs and so they need and deserve support from government at all levels.

The CPA believes every effort should be made to ensure that once a child is placed with adoptive parents the placement succeeds. The cost of an adoption placement breakdown, both in terms of emotional damage to the child and to the wider community, should be avoided if at all possible.

Therefore we propose:

1. Legislation to require that couples who apply for adoption are married and of the opposite sex. This is so that the adopted child can benefit both from a mother and father, and from the proven greater family stability that marriage provides. Single people will also be able to apply for adoption of a child in appropriate circumstances (such as a prior established relationship with the child).
2. We will seek to re-address the injustice done as a result of the Sexual Orientation Regulations (2007), where Catholic and other adoption agencies, who could not in conscience or best judgement place children with same-sex parents, were forced to close. We will work to help re-establish Christian and faith adoption agencies who wish to be true to their values, so that children and families may once again benefit from the excellent work that they do.
3. We will investigate and address discrimination in adoption and fostering decisions, as well as in social work recruitment and employment, against faithful Christians and others whose moral and political views may conflict with the ideological bias of the social work profession and family court system. It is unacceptable that Christians and others who rightly hold to the benefits of natural marriage are increasingly being barred from adoption, fostering, and the caring professions where they are most needed. This has been highlighted by the high profile cases of social work student Felix Ngole and magistrate Richard Page, amongst others. We will conduct a review of the children and social care sectors to address such discrimination, with recommendations for possible new regulations. The welfare of children and families is at stake.
4. When advertising for new adoptive parents it should be recognised by government at all levels that a child's problems (such as learning difficulties, Attachment Disorder, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, foetal alcohol syndrome or the effects of physical or sexual abuse) do not disappear because the child is moved into an adoptive family.
5. Post-adoption support staff should be actively encouraged to assist adoptive parents in matters such as school placements, even when this requires them to openly disagree with their employers.

6. Every school should be encouraged to have a specific policy with regard to 'looked after' and adopted children that recognises the unique needs of this group and sets out how these will be addressed in the school situation. (The views of agencies such as Adoption UK and similar groups may be considered when policies are made.) Reports by Ofsted on schools and other institutions should include an assessment of how well the body concerned meets the needs of 'looked after' and adopted children.
7. Civil servants who have contact with adoptive parents should recognise the contribution the parents have made not just to their children but to the community as a whole. This contribution is often made at a very real cost to the parents concerned. The notion of 'win/win' whereby the community is seen as benefiting from the child being moved out of 'care' and the adoptive parents as benefiting by getting the child they want should be actively challenged and dismissed.
8. Courses in colleges and universities for the training of teachers, health professionals, social workers and others from the caring professionals should cover how to meet the unique needs of adopted children and their families. Wherever possible relevant agencies such as Adoption UK and similar should be included in the development of policies and training programmes.
9. Churches and other community groups should be encouraged to support adoptive families wherever possible.
10. Local authorities and other adoption agencies should be required to maintain a record of how many of the children they place with adoptive parents remain with those parents and how many are returned to 'care'.
11. When an adoption placement fails there should be a full investigation by the local authority. This investigation should lead to a report giving reasons for the placement failure and recommendations for future practice. It should be submitted to the department of the relevant minister of state. A summary of these reports should be presented annually to Parliament along with recommendations for any legislative or other changes that may be considered necessary. If the adoptive parents are not satisfied with the investigation then they should have the right to appeal to an independent inspector appointed by central government giving their reasons.

We would provide more respite centres for families experiencing breakdown and easy access to counselling and training in child rearing free-of-charge to anyone who wants to commit to participating in it.

Our concern is focussed on the needs of children and we should be doing all we can to rebuild a society where children live with their natural parents and, where that fails, in a safe, secure and welcoming adoptive family. Of course, full help and support must and will be given to lone parents, but not at the expense of seeking to solve the reason why families are breaking down in the first place.

## **Further Family Support**

In order to give additional support to the family we will:

1. Restore Sunday as a day of rest and family time. We will make it obligatory to close most retail outlets by limiting the numbers that can be employed on any premises to 5 people on a Sunday, at Easter and at Christmas. We will also make it obligatory for Government and local authority workers to be given the day off on Sunday if they want it, and we will normally make it illegal to include compulsory Sunday working in any contract of employment. Exemptions would include, for instance, emergency and essential services.
2. Make available free of charge counselling and treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, in order to help individuals and families cope with, and overcome, the terrible pressures that come through drug misuse.
3. Tackle child poverty by introducing new child tax allowances of £2,373 per child to all. The cost of this has been estimated at £4 billion.
4. Allow parents who stay at home to receive enhanced child benefit in the early years to encourage parents to spend more time with very young children.

## **Valuing the Life and Health of All**

### **Free, Efficient & Compassionate Health Care & Services for All**

Caring for the sick and providing health care has always been an integral part of Christian mission - and the foundations of the health system in this country are built on what the Church first provided. However, the principles of good healthcare are increasingly being eroded.

We want to promote and provide health services in line with our core principles of empowering individuals and local communities, and to ensure the effective use of resources directed with respect for life, social justice and active compassion.

One of the results of strengthening marriage and the family will be less sickness and therefore less pressure on the NHS. However the policy of the CPA is to use resources consequently freed up to improve and expand treatment, not just to save money.

The CPA is committed to providing:

- a publicly funded, effective and value-for-money National Health Service
- that is based on a strong pro-life ethic
- that promotes health and well-being and provides the best possible outcomes

- is free at the point of delivery for all UK citizens
- is patient focussed, with integrated health care on a geographical basis
- and that has adequate additional funding for improvements to health and social care.

### Essential care for all:

The CPA is completely committed to providing emergency treatment to all who need it, without first requiring payment. Whilst health insurance will be required by all coming to the UK the CPA will require payment or proof of insurance after emergency treatment or before non-emergency treatment, but subject always to that not affecting the wellbeing of the patient. This must be maintained in all cases for the first 5 years of living in this country.

### Promoting the Health of the Nation through Partnership

The CPA is committed to improving the health and well-being of all residing in the UK, to encourage personal responsibility and to provide high-quality health care whenever needed, regardless of through whom that is provided — the State, charities, voluntary organisations or private companies. The CPA will seek to encourage and facilitate differing forms of partnership, suitable for local circumstances, mostly involving the NHS, with local authorities, charities, non-profit and for-profit organisations and, above all, with patients. Health innovations through such **partnerships will include:**

- **promoting holistic patient-centred care** — the emphasis will be on encouraging and supporting individuals and families to take responsibility for their personal fitness, natural health and well-being
- **prevention and self-cure programmes** – in particular relating to smoking, obesity and exercise; workplace health schemes and incentives; alcohol, excess sugar and salt
- **planning treatment (including prevention) in conjunction with individuals** (who are often experts by experience) so that it is an agreed course of action to which they are fully subscribed
- **involving carers** fully in that planning including respite planning
- **providing integrated health care** on an appropriate geographical basis, breaking down the current barriers between primary and secondary care
- **encouraging and facilitating out-of-hospital services** (including GPs and community services) to find appropriate ways within their communities of working at scale, whilst still maintaining the personal link with ‘my GP’
- **Better connecting services** to ensure the patient gets the most appropriate treatment at the most appropriate level, quickest. For instance:
  - a more effective dovetailing of urgent and emergency care from NHS 111 and GP out of hours service through the 999 and ambulance service urgent care centres to full A&E and major trauma centres.
- **Integrate health and social care funding, with clinical support. We will run** further pilot schemes where care homes and intermediate care homes can provide long-term patient accommodation at a

lower cost whilst still having the clinical support there if require. This will free up several thousand beds for actual acute use

- Increase the provision of good quality terminal, palliative and respite care for infants, children and adults, whether in their own homes or in hospices, mostly by encouraging additional work to take place between the NHS and the voluntary sector. This care will be benchmarked against the world's best examples of each kind.

### **A Health Service that is Efficient and Value-for-Money**

- The CPA will institute a major consultation and review of NHS provision with a view to reducing bureaucracy, increasing efficiency and managing change in a way that best enables the service to deliver according to our core principles.
- We will enhance the capability and capacity of the NHS to plan and deliver appropriate change without calling on expensive external consultants. This will involve increasing the influence of healthcare professional bodies, health staff and patient groups, and so restore responsibility for health planning to public health and clinical leaders.
- Use the purchasing power of the NHS to get the best deals for all NHS procurement.

### **Restoring a Pro-life Ethic of Care to the Health Service.**

Restoring a pro-life ethic across the NHS involves every member of staff doing their best to save the life and/or assist the healing of a patient, and where life is coming to an end to provide the best care for the best possible quality quality of life. Our National Heath Service should always provide care and never killing, and such practices as abortion and euthanasia, whether by act of omission, as well as being wrong in themselves, always corrupt the medical culture and sap the will of society to care for (see below).

We will also ensure respect for older people and others with long-term illnesses by working towards state-funded personal care for the elderly and disabled. As part of our 'partnership' proposals, domiciliary home care services must be improved and the option of sheltered accommodation should be made available where it is the right solution for an elderly person. Where the best solution is for an elderly person to move in with a relative or close friend we would assess the the possibility of a grant towards the cost of adapting the new premises or putting in an appropriate support package. The CPA would also reward those who stay at home to look after an elderly parent by increasing the Carers Allowance substantially from £39.90 per week and not linking it to any other benefit. We would consult on how that may be increased due to age or frailty increasing as time passes.

### **Supporting Parents in Making the Right Medical Decisions for their Children:**



The CPA will redress the state takeover of parenting that is also taking place with regard to the authorities usurping the natural right of parents to make medical decisions concerning their children. Children, by nature of their physical and psychological immaturity, are vulnerable and reliant on adults to make the right decisions for them. By default, it is the sacred and rightful duty and responsibility of a child's parents to make such decisions, supported by the medical profession with their expertise and advice:

- We will introduce an 'Alife's law' (named after Alfie Evans) so parents are able to act on a second opinion and transfer the care of their child, without obstruction, to another hospital (including in another country) where they have been offered a better prognosis and the chance of life-saving treatment. High profile cases such as those of Charlie Gard, Ayasha King and Alife Evan have shown a dangerous trend of public bodies depriving parents and families of the right to make decisions they believe are in the best interests of their children.
- We will restore the right of parents to be fully consulted over any medical treatment their child is to receive and to be able to make decisions on their child's behalf up to their 16th birthday, and to retain the right to be consulted and access medical information up to when they are 18 years of age. This includes sexual health services. For too long decisions have been made behind parents' backs which may have disastrous life-long consequences and parents have been left to pick up the pieces.
- We will oppose any move to introduce mandatory vaccinations. Every individual, or parent of a child, must have the opportunity to provide informed consent in relation to any kind of proposed medical intervention or treatment. Whilst public health authorities may advise and promote particular treatments based on a range of expert opinion, patients and parents must have the opportunity to research and look into different medical options themselves if they choose, including natural immunity and health, and be able to weigh up the pros and cons of each, including all known side effects and consequences of pharmaceutical products. They must be free to make health decisions for themselves and their families without harassment, scapegoating or vilification from the authorities and the media.

### **Treatment and Therapy Relating to Sex, Gender & Sexuality.**

We will make it strictly illegal to provide or perform any kind of gender reassignment treatment or surgery on children under 18 years of age. We will also make it a policy not to fund or make available any kind of gender reassignment treatment or surgery on the NHS for adults. If adults over-18 want to spend their own money on such treatment for themselves, no matter how destructive, in a free society they should be permitted. This does not include those extremely rare cases where people are born with a physical intersex condition that requires corrective treatment and surgery.

We will, however, provide free therapy and counselling for those suffering from 'gender dysphoria' to help live a fulfilling life in their natural identity based on their God-given biological sex. Similarly, people should be free to obtain counselling of whatever kind they choose (faith-based or otherwise) to deal with, and overcome, unwanted same-sex attraction. Attempts to ban so-called 'conversion therapy' are an infringement on the civil liberty of those freely seeking to change their lives in a way that they believe is

for the better, and we would always oppose such measures. We wish to allow and encourage objective academic research and scientific enquiry on such matters.

### **Other issues that the CPA considers important for the NHS and public health policy**

- We will conduct a review of the pharmaceutical industry's role in the funding and outcome of research, and influence on public health information and policy, to ensure that decision making in these areas is based as far as possible on credible medical requirement rather than commercial self-interest.
- Have national standards of healthcare rather than targets
- Encourage nurse training to contain an increased sense of vocation and practical training.
- Improve the means for staff to identify and report their concerns about quality of care and patient safety without fear of recrimination for whistle blowing.
- Institute a no-fault liability system to allow members of staff to admit to mistakes. This will do three things:
  - Allow any system malfunction and rectification to be for the benefit of future patients. Such a 'system malfunction' may be a member of staff who needs retraining or additional training, or being moved to other duties
  - Allow for the speedy compensation of the impaired patient, without a lengthy legal battle in which the medical professional/institution seek to deny liability
  - Remove the expensive legal costs in fighting such cases which can be far more than the compensation. This in itself will be a saving of £418 million (2015-16) for claimants' lawyers as well as the money spent by the NHS on its lawyers.
- Enhance the voice of the patient and improve responsiveness to patients and public by improving the NHS complaints process.
- Encourage the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to put the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes in the red book given to new parents. A child is five times more likely to be diagnosed with type 1 diabetes than meningitis, yet the symptoms are not documented in the red baby book that every new parent is given.

### **Public Support**

It will be essential that this programme of enhanced health care receives public support and changes are not seen simply as a 'cost-cutting exercise'. In order to do this the CPA:

- Maintain NHS spending at current levels with all proposed increases applied.
- encourage engagement and genuine consultation with local populations as well as health professionals;
- require improvements in local health care to be experienced before there is a transfer of resources; and

- encourage personal participation – in personal prevention programmes, membership of health boards or volunteering within the community

In keeping with the core principles of the CPA, these improvements need to be, and be seen as, empowering individuals and local communities whilst being a more effective use of resources for a more effective health service with better outcomes.

## **Finance**

- Ensure the NHS makes demand and efficiency savings (cutting back on duplication of services, more efficiently utilising staff and resources) of 2 - 3% per annum (currently 1.6% per annum).
- Utilise the sugar and salt tax for health purposes. The existing sugar tax is expected to raise £240m per year which we would add to the NHS budget.
- We would continue to use private contractors in the NHS where work can be carried out more efficiently for services like cleaning, laundry, meals, machine maintenance, building maintenance, security etc.. here is no reason whatsoever why the NHS should not buy in help and support from the private sector where savings can be made.
- The drug budget is exorbitant, currently around £16bn per year and we would constantly look for savings on these where they can be made without harming health care. Our review on the influence of the pharmaceutical industry (see above) will identify areas where commercial interests are overriding genuine clinical needs.

## **The sanctity of life from conception to natural death**

No human life is unimportant or not worth living. The abortion statistics in the UK are both a national tragedy and a scandal. Around 9 million unborn children have lost their lives to abortion since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. In 2018 alone, there were 218, 581 registered abortions.

The Christian Peoples Alliance is unashamed to declare its total commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so every citizen from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. The language of human rights is often heard in both our national and the European Parliament, but rarely that of the most basic human need – to be born, nurtured and protected without fear of death in utero. Abortion leads to increased exploitation of women, not their 'liberation'. Abortion violates the dignity and integrity of women. It leaves a trail of anger, guilt, resentment, depression and loss of self-respect. Whenever we act or speak, we pledge to do so, however, without judging or condemning any individual, especially any woman who has been involved in abortion.

This compassionate Christian approach also requires that we speak up for those who, because of age or infirmity, are perceived in many European states to be a burden on others, and we will strongly oppose

the growing euthanasia culture. EU member states which proclaim their commitment to equal opportunities for disabled adults often ignore their duty to afford equal protection to disabled pre-born human beings. They have adopted a double standard. We will use our voice in Parliament to challenge these primitive prejudices and fears concerning disability. Negative and defeatist, deeply insulting to the born disabled, eugenic abortion also causes severe trauma to the mother.

There are already demographic consequences of an anti-life culture. With birth-rates falling dangerously below replacement levels, we now face major economic and social problems associated with an ageing population. The issue of live birth-rate in turn has implications for the question of migration. States which kill their unborn and do not support marriage and family life, are having to replace this missing workforce through liberalising the numbers of people they admit, with inevitable issues relating to integration.

Much western aid to developing countries is ruthlessly anti-life, with tens of millions of taxpayers' money being spent on promoting abortion and sterilisation in China, Africa, India and elsewhere. The CPA deplores such 'aid' programmes: they do not provide solutions to poverty but merely export our 'culture of death' to countries struggling to develop their economies.

In Parliament, we pledge ourselves to a nation in which all citizens enjoy equal status, in which the extended family is reinforced as the bedrock of social structure, where motherhood is once again respected, and where we use with wisdom the fruits of new scientific discoveries.

MPs for the CPA therefore pledge to:

- Complete repeal of the 1967 Abortion Act and 1990 Human Fertilisation Act so that all unborn children are legally protected from intentional destruction. We would also repeal the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Act 2018 which was so abused and hijacked in order to impose abortion on Northern Ireland, completely against the will of the electorate there. We would legislate for a new Offences Against the Person's Act if necessary to prohibit abortion, embryo experimentation and all forms of euthanasia. In this way we would challenge and overturn the culture of death by giving the full protection of the law to all innocent human beings from conception until natural death.
- Until such a time as this legislation is achieved to allow those who have philosophical or moral objections to abortion and other anti-life practices to be able to conscientiously object to any of the processes leading up to them.
- Seek the nationwide provision of pro-life pregnancy care services, including provision of accommodation for women made homeless by pregnancy, pregnant women with special needs and one-parent families.
- We would divert the £200+ million of UK taxpayers' money spent each year on funding abortion here and abroad onto supporting any mother in a crisis pregnancy situation.
- Ensure recognition for the millions of women who have had abortions. Post-abortion trauma affecting many women must now be recognised and non-judgemental post-abortion counselling will be made available for any woman who wants it, no matter how long ago the abortion took place.

- End the practises of cloning, embryo experimentation and all reproductive technologies which lead to the intentional destruction of human life.
- Support legislation to prevent the patenting of natural genetic material, modifications to the human germline and the trade in sperm, ova and human beings at the embryonic stage of development.
- Outlaw voluntary, non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia by omission or by direct act, including neonatal euthanasia and euthanasia of patients in a 'persistent vegetative state'.
- Enable additional work to take place between the NHS and the voluntary sector to increase the provision of good quality terminal and palliative and respite care for infants, children and adults, whether in their own homes or in hospices. This care will be benchmarked against the world's best examples of each.
- International aid will be ended to any agency or government which promotes abortion, euthanasia or forced sterilisation programmes, coercive contraception or other violations of human rights (e.g. arbitrary imprisonment or deportation, slavery, or sale of women or children).

## The Economy and Economic Justice

### Introduce a Turnover Tax and make Tax Fair

The CPA will introduce a Turnover Tax at a rate of 5% of company turnover, payable quarterly in arrears along with VAT. The threshold will be the same as the VAT threshold, currently £85,000. This is intended to ensure that appropriate tax is collected from those multi-national companies who make their money by selling in the UK but transfer their profits overseas by way of 'licence' and other 'costs' or 'invoice' addresses. This will be a fairer company tax system across the board and eventually make buying online taxed at the same level as buying in shops.

#### How much will this raise?

The total turnover of the UK economy in 2017 was £2.62 trillion<sup>5</sup> — 5% of which gives £106.5bn. The Turnover Tax would be offset against Corporation tax which raised £56.1bn in 2017/18 despite the rate being cut.<sup>6</sup> Small companies would be exempt and we would look to introduce other fair exemptions which would take away about £20bn. Some Corporation Tax would be more than the Turnover Tax but we estimate that would generate at least £32bn which would be spent funding the following key manifesto pledges:

- £15bn on reducing Commercial Rates to help our city centres
- £12bn on restoring the Government benefit cuts, so we can make Universal Credit work
- £3bn on supporting marriage and the family through our grant system

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=d5bncppjof8f9\\_&met\\_y=ny\\_gdp\\_mktp\\_cd&idim=country:GBR:IND:CAN&hl=en&dl=en](https://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=d5bncppjof8f9_&met_y=ny_gdp_mktp_cd&idim=country:GBR:IND:CAN&hl=en&dl=en)

<sup>6</sup>HM Revenue & Customs, Corporation Tax Statistics 2018; [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/752467/181018\\_CT\\_stats\\_2018\\_-\\_11.1A\\_footnote\\_amendment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752467/181018_CT_stats_2018_-_11.1A_footnote_amendment.pdf)

- £2bn on our policy to support ex-prisoners on their release from prison in order to reduce reoffending and crime.

### **Balancing the Books**

The capital spending on infrastructure improvements will come from savings we make from exiting the European Union, as well as responsible borrowing. Otherwise we will observe the existing Government's spending limits on the Health Service, Education, Defence and Overseas Aid, Local Government, Transport and other headings. Concretely the CPA is committed to seeking to balance the Government's books over the medium term whilst steadily bringing down debt as a proportion of GDP.

### **Income Tax and National Insurance**

In the meantime there is an anomaly in the tax system which must be corrected. In 2019/20 taxation on the earnings of individuals is as follows:-

- Income Tax 0% up to £12,500; Nat Ins 0% up to £8,632
- Income Tax 20% up to £50,000; Nat Ins Employee 12% to £50,000 / Employer 13.8%
- Income Tax 40% from £50,000 to £150,000; Nat Ins Employee 2% / Employer 13.8%
- Income Tax 45% over £150,000; Nat Ins Employee 2% / Employer 13.8%.

(Normally when the Government provides its rates it gives them as the rate above the tax threshold, so gives a 20% rate of up to £37,500 of additional income. We have given the rate on total earnings presuming a full tax allowance.)

- For self-employed people National Insurance is charged at 9% on profits between £8,632 and £50,000, with 2% above that. Income Tax remains the same as employee earnings.

From this it can be seen that as soon as the tax rate climbs from 20% to 40% then National Insurance reduces so the marginal increase is only 10% and not 20%.

We propose the following tax on earnings:-

- Income Tax 0% up to £12,500; Nat Ins 0% up to £12,500
- Income Tax 20% up to £50,000; Nat Ins Employee 12% / Employer 13.8%
- Income Tax 30% from £50,000 to £150,000; Nat. Ins Employee 12% / Employer 14%
- Income Tax 40% over £150,000; Nat. Ins Employee 12% / Employer 14%.
- For self-employed people we propose 9% Nat Ins on all profits above £12,500.

The effect of this will be that:

- Everyone earning less than £150,000 will be £464 per year better off, and a high percentage of those earning £5,000 to £10,000 per year.
- People earning over £150,000 will pay 5% more tax on their salary above £150,000.

- For self-employed people the new 30% band will mean those earning between £50,000 and £150,000 will keep 3% more of their salary. Those earning over £150,000 will pay 2% more on their salary above £150,000.

We believe these changes overall will be cost neutral. If additional money is needed it would come from raising the Turnover Tax. This measure will make a big step towards combining Income Tax and National Insurance and so making tax much simpler. It will also make the real tax rate paid much more transparent. It will give the greatest help to the lowest paid. If at the same time we are able to reduce tax rates we will.

### **Corporation Tax**

We will also review the effectiveness of Corporation Tax once the Turnover Tax is in place. We want to assist manufacturing companies and one way or another we will ensure that they pay a lower rate of tax and this will be part of the review. We need to encourage the growth of manufacturing in the UK and this measure will do a lot to encourage large manufacturing companies to base themselves here.

### **Stamp Duty Land Tax**

Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) changed from 1 April 2016, very much along the lines we proposed in our 2015 manifesto. It wasn't in the Conservative Party manifesto. It is welcome that they implemented our manifesto on this issue rather than theirs. We would now change it further to introduce another SDLT rate above £4,000,000 at 20% (currently 12% over 1.5 million).

Where commercial or residential properties are being purchased as income-producing investments (eg buy-to-let) the SDLT would be 20%. The effect of this would be to decrease the price paid by the investor, leading to cheaper flats and houses for occupation and in the commercial field rebalancing of the price received by the seller and that received by the community. We want to stop, in particular, investors from abroad buying up properties, driving up house prices, and leaving the property ladder inaccessible for so many who are trapped in an ever upward spiral of increasing rent

What effect will this have?

- Fewer people will buy residential property as an investment so demand and house prices go down
- First time buyers will no longer be priced out of the market. Buy-to-let landlords tend more to go for cheap houses as they provide a much better percentage return when they are let out than expensive ones.
- Rebalances the market in favour of first time buyers and those who only own one home at a time
- No-one without money is hurt because this form of tax is only paid when people have spare money to invest. We can then use the proceeds from this tax to help the poorest in society on our programmes including restoring the £12bn benefit cuts and providing shelters and cheap move-on accommodation for those sleeping rough.
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## **Council Tax**

- We are not in favour of a 'mansion tax' as that would adversely affect those who are income poor but live in a large house (often for historic or sentimental reasons). However, a revaluation of the Council Tax Bands is now well overdue. We would schedule this for mid-way through the next Parliament, with new bands being introduced at £500,000 and every £250,000 thereafter to £5,000,000. This will allow for the re-adjustment of relative prices in different areas across the UK since the 1 April 1991 valuation some 26 years ago. We would consult on the mitigation of any consequential effects on the 'income poor' following such a revaluation.

## **Inheritance Tax**

- We will review the inheritance tax levels to see if they are working effectively. Rather than a flat 40% rate we favour a scaled increase starting at 20% and then rising to 30% , 40% and 50% for larger inheritances. We would seek to maintain the overall revenue from inheritance tax but shift the burden more to larger inheritances.

## **Sugar and Salt Tax**

- The Government has also introduced the tax we proposed in our 2015 manifesto on drinks which contain sugar. We welcome that but would now go further and put a tax on all foods that contain salt and processed sugar (other than home produced cakes, jam, etc, sold for charity or non-profit causes). These taxes will take effect after a period (to be decided after consultation), allowing the food industry to decrease salt and sugar levels gradually over that time, whilst allowing individuals' tastes to become accustomed to the change.

## **Clamping Down on Tax Avoidance and Fraud**

- The CPA will work with other countries to require 'country by country' reporting by companies; to make open records of beneficial ownership available, and to increase the automatic exchange of financial accounting information between different tax jurisdictions. The CPA will start with the Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories, where these do not already conform to these requirements. The CPA considers that the current framework, by which individuals and companies can avoid paying their fair share of tax, causes the costs of running our society to fall disproportionately onto the shoulders of others. This must be brought to an end.

We will clamp down on tax avoidance by making it illegal to offset losses from one company against the profits of another. In future each company will have to stand alone and, if necessary, loss making companies will have to close down. At the moment some people have created loss making companies as a means of tax avoidance.

Company pension schemes will continue to be given tax relief and encouraged, but a threshold will be placed on the amount of tax-free benefit that can be paid into a company pension scheme for an

employee at £30,000 per tax year without incurring corporation tax. Sometimes these benefits have been used to make enormous payments to executives tax free. If those executives are over 55 they can effectively be receiving a massive tax free payment as 25% of the fund could immediately be drawn tax-free and the rest taken immediately as an income. The idea of promoting company pensions is to help those in retirement across the board — they should not be used as a tax loophole.

We continue to be appalled by the scandal of tax evasion and fraud that robs our society of the resources it needs. It is now clear that the HSBC tax scandal involved 30,000 people and the Government were first informed of it in 2009. Then there is the Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) Tax fraud which has been going on unchecked for over 15 years and involves HMRC giving enormous amounts of money in VAT refunds to fraudsters. Europe wide it is estimated the loss is 60bn euros.<sup>7</sup> We will institute a full public inquiry into these scandals with prosecutions of the guilty. The cost of the enquiry will be nothing compared to the money that can be regained. Labour's call simply to ask HMRC to clamp down has not worked and will not work.

**Our tax policies overall are also designed to further social justice, whilst empowering the individual and encouraging the effective use of resources.**

## **Wealth Creation and Employment**

Our economic policies will also result in increased wealth, whether due to the effects of capital investment spreading down through the economy, or the increased innovation and efficiency of UK production, or the new trade routes which we will open up. That wealth must be spread throughout society. To this end the CPA will:

- Change the responsibility of company directors, such that they must consider best balanced interests to shareholders, employees, suppliers, the local community and wider society, with everything there being considered in a business process audit to be carried out and published every 3 years. This process audit will include the rating of executives.
- Bonuses to be paid to everyone in a company, proportionate to their basic salary. If bonuses are paid only to executives then they will be taxed at a rate of 80%, so that the benefit flows out to wider society.
- Company share schemes must be allocated on the same basis to all employees (who have been employed for more than 2 years), with employee shares having enhanced voting rights, giving a greater say to employees in how their company is run
- Reforming taxation on capital allowances so as to simplify the system and concentrate it on future expenditure by barring claims for pre-April 2012 expenditure.

These policies are also designed to encourage both the effective use of resources and social justice, whilst empowering the individual.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/economic-crime/mtic-missing-trader-intra-community-fraud>

## **Reform the Banking System**

Having debt-based economic growth is bad for society. Debt is getting out of hand at all levels and measures must be taken at all levels to deal with it. See Appendix 2 for full statistics.

The Christian Peoples Alliance proposes to:

- End the right of the banks to create money (known as ‘fractional reserve banking’). All money loaned out must either come from repaid mortgages, savings, or loans from the Bank of England.
- Introduce limits on the amount of interest that can be charged on loans. We will consult on the details, including the exact rate, but we would initially propose, for instance, a limit on interest rates higher than 15% above the Bank of England Base Rate (currently 0.25%) or 20% — whichever is the higher. This level will be subject to review. An institution that routinely charges the maximum level would be subject to scrutiny with the power of the Regulatory Authorities to close it down. The aim of this is to tackle rogue lenders not good banks. Pay day lenders will be prohibited.
- Separate the banking roles between saving and lending and riskier investment banks.
- Give the Bank of England the power to impose maximum multipliers for home mortgage loans and/or loan-to-value percentages. This will have the effect of dampening down (or increasing) house prices as is required by the economy and housing needs.
- Consult on how the Bank of England can be made much more transparent in its dealings and how measures can be introduced to bring it under greater democratic control. We will seek to install a supervisory board independent of Government that has the power to see any Bank of England documents and demand the reconsideration of a decision. The Supervisory Board would also have the power to interview Bank of England officials over any matter and veto appointments. The Supervisory Board could be called to account in the Administrative Court if it in turn overstepped its power. This accountability can and should be completely separate from the Government and at least some members should be elected. Others could be appointed by regulators

## **Greening the Economy and Transport**

Whilst we firmly believe that the world is in the hands of God and does not face extinction purely because of what man does, nevertheless we have a duty to be the best custodians possible of our planet and of its natural resources. We must have utmost respect for God’s creation, both for our good and for that of future generations.

Greening the economy and transport are closely interlinked because our transport choices having a significant effect on the environment, as well as our health and well-being. For example, approximately 40,000 early deaths every year in the UK are currently attributable to nitrogen dioxide and particulates, primarily from diesel engines. However, in line with our principle of empowerment of local communities, transport strategies are primarily devolved to regional and local government.

At a national level the CPA would:

- Invest in High Speed Rail to help revitalise the regions and eliminate internal air travel.
- Institute a scrappage scheme for older diesel cars and vans.
- Encourage regional and local government to institute Ultra Low Emission Zones in city and town centres and in the vicinity of schools and hospitals as soon as possible, and no later than 2022.
- Introduce the 'red, yellow, green' sticker system of car pollution identification and monitoring, which has been shown to move motorists from high pollution cars (red stickers) to low pollution cars (green stickers).
- Consult on the introduction of car sharing lanes on busy motorways that may only be used by a car that has three or more occupants.
- Provide and incentivise for electric car charging points at designated separate service stations on the motorway and main A roads, as well as inner city and supermarket car parks (note: there are fire safety concerns with placing electrical charging points at conventional petrol stations).
- Encourage regional and local authorities to move towards 100% electric taxis and private hire vehicles, eventually with all new taxis and private hire vehicles to run on electric, and new taxi and private hire licences to use electric vehicles (note: the timescale of this will depend on the successful roll-out of sufficient charging points and technological improvement of the cars to travel sufficient distances between charges).
- Encourage local transport authorities to move towards '100%' green buses by 2022.
- Encourage regional and local authorities to physically separate cyclists and vehicles, have safer left-hand turns where appropriate and introduce traffic light priority for cyclists.

Whilst dealing with pollution by transport is a major part of greening the economy it is not all of it. Consequently the CPA would enact policies in the following areas:

## **Energy and Climate Policy**

- Keep to the Paris Agreement 2015 whilst working towards the first 5 year review in 2020, using our diplomatic, foreign aid and investment strategies to that end.
- Review the UK's Climate Change Agreement and Climate Change Levy to ensure it is working effectively at reducing emissions whilst allowing energy-intensive sectors of industry to work and compete effectively post-Brexit.
- Consult on the most cost-effective way of insulating all UK homes to cut down on heat loss and consequently on energy bills
- Utilise our diplomatic and investment strategies to reduce deforestation and increase reforestation both abroad and at home.
- Consult on replacing subsidies so as to increase alternative electric production by solar, wind and tidal mechanisms at all levels (for example, from solar panels on individual houses to large scheme tidal barrages).

- Fund research and development into better batteries and other electrical storage devices, again from house level to regional generators. This would be on the basis outlined at the end of the Brexit section of this Manifesto.

## **Recycling**

- Seek standardisation of recycling policies and materials across all local authorities
- impose a charge, similar to the 'carrier bag' charge on each item of non-recyclable packaging on any item sold. This will lead to manufacturers and consumers wanting fully recyclable packaging. (Note: the 'carrier bag' charge of 5p resulted in an initial drop of 85% from circa 7 billion in 12 months to 500 million in 6 months).
- Fund research into far greater use of recyclable materials (for example, making roads out of plastic)

## **Food and Agriculture**

- Operate a 'safety-first' or 'precautionary principle' to all pesticides and insecticides (including neonicotinoids) such that they may only be used once shown to be safe
- Refuse licences for genetically modified foods.

## **Further Transport issues**

### **Air Travel**

- The CPA considers there has to be one large hub airport in the South of England. We believe the ideal solution is to build a new hub airport in the Thames Estuary with six runways and linked to Crossrail and the Tube.
  - Sufficient initial work has already been done on design and costing by the Thames Estuary Research and Development Company. We will offer shares in the project and a bond to those who wish to lend money, as well as having a significant public share.
  - This project will be integrated with the further regeneration of large parts of East London. When it is built Heathrow will be scaled down or redeveloped for housing. This project will create enormous wealth and help redevelop the East of London that is currently, despite Canary Wharf, still in the shadow of the West.
  - The greatest cost will be in providing the necessary transport links to the new airport. They may not all arrive in one year but over time they can be made better and better. Links to the channel tunnel and France will be easy.

### **Road transport**

In 2018 in Great Britain there were 165,100 road injuries (averaging 452 a day), with 26,610 people killed or seriously injured (73 per day) with 1,770 reported road deaths (5 per day).<sup>8</sup>

- The CPA propose all vehicle drivers should be retested following any serious accident. Any accident that involves a fatality will lead to mandatory re-testing otherwise it will be at the police discretion given the circumstances of the accident. In the meantime the driving licence will be rescinded. Driving a half-ton of metal and glass on the roads, at speeds of between 30 - 70 mph is a privilege rather than a right and must be treated as such.

## Cyclists

As with other road users (eg motorcyclists having helmets, car drivers and passengers wearing seatbelts) cyclists also have responsibility for their own wellbeing and the CPA will require:

- helmets of a suitable standard and luminosity to be worn
- clothing and backpacks to be worn of a suitable reflective luminosity for day and night (as appropriate).
- lights, both front and rear, to be of an appropriate power and position so the cyclist will be seen, be able to be seen, but not 'blind' motorists
- In all cases we will consult on the actual standards to be adopted.

## Housing and Development

The breakdown of families and marriage coupled with increased immigration has together put the need for housing in our society under increased strain.

The first resort is not just to build more houses but to address some of the underlying causes of the increased need. This we have done elsewhere in this manifesto. Coupled with this, where wealth has increased there is also an increased likelihood that some people will own both a working home in a city and a rest home of some sort away from a city.

Despite this, even while the underlying causes are being addressed there will still be a need for more houses to be built. The CPA proposes:-

1. The process of encouraging more new housing to be built in city centres will be increased. As shopping habits are changing and more people are either buying online or going to out of town shopping centres, old city centres can be re-invigorated by building as much housing as possible in city centres which will include new shops with flats above them. This housing is useful for anyone who does not want a garden, particularly young people, and in many cases reduces travel

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<sup>8</sup> Department of Transport, *Reported road casualties in Great Britain, provisional estimates: year ending June 2018*; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-in-great-britain-provisional-estimates-year-ending-june-2018>

requirements so easing congestion on road and rail. It also helps the shopping centres themselves by increasing the number of people who live nearby and does away with places that are dead at night.

2. Unused development areas will be identified and significant new sites will be made available for housing.
3. In an area where there are a significant number of empty houses if these cannot be brought back into use we will look at redevelopment to improve and invigorate an area. This will sometimes be painful in the short term but will always have long term benefits.
4. We will ensure that 90% of housing is CO2 neutral by 2050 through housing developments that are carbon neutral and by taking further measures to encourage the insulation of existing houses.
5. We will do our level best to avoid turning green sites into housing estates. This should only happen as an exception.
6. Second Homes to be a different use class in planning to main residence (to protect rural communities) with automatic planning permission for reversion from Second Home status to Main Residence status, but not the other way round. This will lead to an increase in current Second Home values faster than Main Residence values in the same area (as the supply of Second Homes is restricted), but that can be addressed, if need be, through Capital Gains Tax.
7. An urgent need for good quality and affordable move-on accommodation (for those coming out of homelessness) to be provided using a mixture of voluntary, private and state sponsored provision. As with other matters in this Manifesto it is about the quality of the provision, rather than who is the provider

There is an urgent need to reform the Leasehold Reform legislation by which people may purchase the freeholds or extend their leases on their homes. This now dates back up to 50 years and is no longer fit for purpose. The CPA would

1. Remove the concept of 'marriage value' from all lease extensions and freehold purchases. In relatively simple cases, of leases of less than 50 years outside of Prime Central London this will reduce the cost to leaseholders by up to £100,000.
2. Reduce the complexity of the timetabling of all claims and remove all the 'traps' in the legislation (to prevent the 'game-playing' of solicitors) resulting in a far simpler process, reduced costs and fewer professional indemnity claims.
3. Reform the 'commercial' system so it is workable and require all new blocks of flats and blocks where the leaseholders purchase the freehold to be on the new revised commercial basis.
4. Consult on bringing all leases of residential property under consumer legislation rather than just land law legislation, such that unfair terms in the lease can be voided by the courts. In particular, the CPA would introduce legislation such that all leases where ground rents increase by more than double every 25 years become a fixed ground rent for the remaining length of the lease.



## **Action Against Poverty: support for the homeless; help for those on low incomes, those who cannot work and the elderly**

### **Making Universal Credit Work**

We support the new Universal Credit system but it is hopelessly underfunded. George Osborne in 2015 decided to take £12bn out of the system as Chancellor, and Ian Duncan Smith, then Work and Pensions Secretary, cried “foul”. He made it clear that there is nothing wrong with the system, it just needs more money in it. That is our position. To abandon Universal Credit and go back to the previous myriad of benefits without any additional funding would be disastrous. With the funding restored the system will work.

It is obviously desirable to get people off benefits and into work if at all possible. We will follow the Biblical principle of refusing financial help to those clearly capable of work who refuse any suitable work offered to them. To be clear, in justice we would exempt from benefit withdrawal:

- Anyone who is physically disabled to the extent that they need assistance to move around.
- Anyone who is registered mentally disabled and has not been completely discharged.
  - We will remove the test of being “able to do any work” and replace it with the test “able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform.” If it is deemed by a doctor that an applicant previously able to receive benefits is now “able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform” then we will not cease benefits until a job offer is actually made, or until the applicant misses 3 interviews for jobs or at a job centre without reasonable cause. This will end the injustices portrayed in the recent film *I, Daniel Blake*.
  - If an appeal is made against a decision to remove benefits those benefits will be kept in place until the appeal is heard. (These benefits include the current provision of a motability car).
- A single parent with a pre-school age child.
- Someone who cares for more than 35 hours per week for a sick, infirm or dependent person (who will be a recipient of a carer’s allowance)

In addition we will introduce a new rule that anyone who applies for benefits is given immediate help if there is a reasonable prospect that their application will be successful. This help will only be required to be paid back if it is shown that there has been serious dishonesty in the application and the authorities were misled. This should mean that the days when job centres are sending applicants to food banks are

over. Where benefits are used to avoid taking responsibility and finding work then they can be counter productive to the community but we will always make sure that the poorest are cared for.

## **A hand up for the homeless**

We will also guarantee free emergency night shelters with a free meal for anyone who would otherwise be sleeping rough, with the offer of affordable move-on accommodation and practical help with immediate job seekers allowance and finding work. No one should be left hungry and out in the cold.

## **Tackling the low wage economy and labour injustices**

It is easy to assume that things cannot change for the British workforce. But it is possible, relatively quickly, to change the work patterns of substantial numbers of people for the better. Working with business organisations, unions and employer forums, the CPA will seek to increase the working income of the poorest sectors of our society.

- We will **raise the minimum wage** (currently £7.70 per hour under-25s; £8.21 per hour over-25) to the current 'Real Living Wage' of £9 across the UK and £10.55 in London for ALL aged 18 and over.<sup>9</sup> We believe this is a key factor in our drive to tackle low-wage poverty.
- We will **make Zero Hours contracts illegal** except for employees under 21 or over 65. These distort the workforce by tying someone to a job from which they may be receiving no income at all and makes it very hard for them to find other work. Agencies are available for employers to get workers at short notice. The only reason for zero hours contracts is to have a reserve of cheap labour. It must stop. Where Zero Hours contracts do continue for the under 21s or over 65s, anyone called in must be paid for at least 2 hours work.
- We will also identify ways of overcoming problems related to over-work, so that time is released for people to spend in rest and recreation and in developing relationships, especially spending quality time with family.

Christians have long been involved in many initiatives 'on the ground' in their communities, including foodbanks, debt counselling, and practical care for people on the streets. Low wages are not the only cause of poverty and we will always look for ways to help people who need help for whatever reason. We don't just talk good policies we act them out whether or not we are elected to public office. In everything we do we will seek to support all initiatives from the voluntary sector, including those from faith groups that help the poorest in our society.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage>

## **Dignity and justice for the elderly and retired**

The full new State Pension is currently £168.60 . As finances allow the CPA will increase this to £200 per week at current prices, but thereafter the CPA would keep a double lock — the higher of either the increase in inflation or of average earnings, but we would remove the minimum increase of 2.5% a year. This is because once the pensioned have a reasonable figure on which to live it is not right that there is a transfer of resources (in real terms) from the young to the old that is greater than either average earnings or the rate of inflation.

The National Insurance record is used to calculate the new State Pension. 10 qualifying years are usually needed to get any new State Pension. The amount paid can be higher or lower depending on National Insurance records. It will only be higher if you have over a certain amount of Additional State Pension. We welcome these changes which finally put to bed all the argument over SERPS.

In general we consider the idea to allow people to cash in previously purchased annuities to be an ill thought out gimmick and we do not support it. However there should be an exception for those who have annuities paying out small amounts, say less than £100 per month. Such amounts should not be offset against benefits.

For the elderly and severely disabled we will make it mandatory for Local Authorities to keep a full record of elderly and disabled citizens in their borough and to make an assessment of their risk to floods, snow, extreme weather or to natural disasters. Support must be put in place to ensure that those least able to care for themselves are looked after in the community and that full support is given to carers, especially those who are close relatives and tend to be forgotten.

## **Crime: Getting our Priorities Right**

Closely connected to strengthening marriage and the family is the route to tackling crime. For a real and lasting reduction in crime we need to tackle its root causes. If Christian values of loving our neighbours and our enemies, and forming lasting stable relationships, are followed perfectly then real crime would effectively cease. However, simply promoting such values will positively impact our crime rates. The by-product of this will be safer streets, better parenting and a happier society. Our aim is to eliminate the yob culture and the “me first” society. The CPA focus is not simply on punishing but also on restoring the offender.

## **The Current Situation and the CPA’s Approach**

In the past decade (2010-19) overall police funding nationwide has fallen by 19% in real terms, with a 30% reduction in funding from central Government. A third of this short fall has been met by an increase in

forces raising funds locally via the council tax (determined by Police and Crime Commissioners).<sup>10</sup> We welcome the greater democratic accountability that PCC's have brought to the communities they serve, and it is right that appropriate portion of the budget is raised at a local level. However, at a time of rising crime and social problems the overall reductions in public funding, including from central Government, are concerning.

Simply pouring more money into the system, however, will not in the long run be beneficial without tackling the root causes of crime. The CPA will provide both the resources required and the policies to tackle the causes of crime. We will provide £2bn of extra funding generated from our Turnover Tax in order to tackle reoffending through targeted programmes supporting those leaving prison (see below). These sort of programmes have proven to have a major impact on crime reduction. Our policies on supporting marriage and the family will also have a positive effect on helping to overcome the majority of social problems, including crime, over time. We can all cite many examples of individual lone parents doing a fantastic job raising their children, but the proven social benefits are marriage means its promotion should be a central part of Government social policy. The evidence of a series of 6 UK longitudinal studies, for example, shows strong correlations between broken homes and delinquency with 70% of young offenders coming from lone-parent families.<sup>11</sup>

### **End political correctness in policing: focussing on real crime not 'thought crime'.**

Recent newspaper reports, based on published figures and Freedom of Information requests, have demonstrated how Police are routinely 'screening out' (in other words 'ignoring') nearly half of all reported crimes - whilst at the same time forces are pledged to investigate every single so-called 'hate incident', which are not actual crimes but experiences of virtually kind which are subjectively interpreted as being 'hateful'.<sup>12</sup> According to these reports<sup>13</sup>:

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<sup>10</sup> National Audit Office, 'Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018: Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General', <https://fullfact.org/crime/police-funding-england-and-wales/>

<sup>11</sup> Iain Duncan Smith, *Social Justice Policy Group, Being Tough of the Causes of Crime: Tackling Family Breakdown to Prevent Youth Crime*, p.6; citing Wadsworth, M., 1979 National Survey of Health and Development 1946 cohort; Colvin et al, 1990, *Continuities of Deprivation: Newcastle 1,000 Family Study*; Farrington and West, 1990, *The Cambridge study in delinquent development*; Youth Justice Board, 2002.

<sup>12</sup> 'Victims of violent crime denied justice as figures show huge rise in cases closed within 24 hours', *The Telegraph*, 23 Feb 2019, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/23/victims-violent-crime-denied-justice-figures-show-huge-rise/>

UK Police 'Screen out' Nearly Half of Crime Reports While Every 'Hate Incident' Investigated, *Breitbart*, 25 April 2019, <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2019/04/25/uk-police-ignore-crime-probing-hate/#>

'Police waste 3,750 hours dealing with 'hate incidents' that are too trivial to be considered actual crimes', *Mail Online*, 8 June 2018; <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5823019/Police-waste-3-750-hours-dealing-hate-incidents-trivial-considered-actual-crimes.html>

- Police across ten UK forces gave up investigating 431,000 reported crimes within a day — a figure which has more than doubled from the 194,500 recorded in 2014
- While most of reported offences dropped related to thefts, number of violent crime cases shut within 24 hours quadrupled from 11,927 to 44,548 in the same period between 2015-18 while sex crimes ignored surged from 703 to 1,605 in this period (doubled).
- National Police Chiefs Council (NCP) figures show officers wasted thousands of hours looking into almost 12,000 non-criminal ‘hate incidents’.
- NCP praised as “vital”, protocol which sees forces required to proactively solicit reports of ‘hate’ from the public and to investigate every complaint with either phone interviews or sending officers out to make home visits.

This situation is completely unacceptable and cannot continue. It is an absolute scandal that investigation into so many violent crimes are dropped so quickly, and that if you have your property maliciously damaged, stolen or broken you have little better than a 50% chance of the Police bothering to show up at all; whereas, if someone complains they have been ‘misgendered’ on Twitter the accused can virtually guarantee being contacted and questioned by the Police for a ‘hate incident’. The role of the police force is to protect all of the public from crime and disorder, not to act as the private militia of certain groups favoured by the establishment. Inciting violence or harassment against individuals or groups is of course wrong and should be prevented, but the freedom to robustly express and argue one’s point of view must be defended by the Police. We will ensure policing priorities are once again sane, sensible and just, with the Police.

Under the CPA everyone would be regarded as equal under the law and would receive the same treatment and justice according to the concrete circumstances and severity of the case. Every real crime has a victim and we would abolish the concepts of ‘hate crimes’ and ‘hate incidents, which are subjectively determined, which end up favouring certain categories of people over others, and are leading to a severe distortion of justice and actual persecution of minorities and those who disagree with the ideology of their accusers. The CPA wants to ensure we have a free society where no one has to fear the ‘thought police’ – We will ensure we have POLICE WHO FIGHT REAL CRIME, NOT THOUGHT CRIME

### **Supporting those leaving prison:**

Rather than building new prisons the first thing we will do is to invest around £2bn on working with people leaving prison, guaranteeing them good accommodation, help to get work and also help to break any addictions. Christian charities like Saltbox in Stoke and the Message Trust in Manchester have got reoffending rates down to around 10% compared with a national average of around 30%, but which is as high as 62% for those imprisoned for less than 12 months.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Justice, ONS, ‘Proven reoffending statistics quarterly bulletin, July 2017 to September 2017’, 25 July 2019; [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/832662/proven\\_reoffending\\_bulletin\\_July\\_to\\_Sept\\_17.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/832662/proven_reoffending_bulletin_July_to_Sept_17.pdf)

This £2bn investment package will succeed in 3 ways:

1. There will be many fewer crimes committed so many fewer victims.
2. Ex-prisoners will be able to live more fulfilled productive lives for the benefit of themselves and of society, rather than spending further wasted years in prison.
3. The cost of keeping a prisoner in prison is over £30,000 per year, so there will be further cost savings there, as well as less pressure on the courts.

## **Restorative Justice**

Relationships are absolutely key when we are talking about crime. Stable loving and caring relationships are needed in every society and are the fundamental basis of a Christian community. Marriage and the family are the main foundation on which they are built and cultivated outwards towards others.

Of course, everyone at some time in their life will make mistakes. When this happens as a society we should look towards restoration and not only punishment. At the moment we too easily arrest people and bang them up in a police cell or jail without making any attempt to understand why the crime or misdemeanour has been committed. This frequently causes resentment and anger and needs to change where appropriate to a process of 1/ ask questions first 2/ seek to resolve the problem and 3/ arrest only as a last resort, where restoration cannot be achieved or where the perpetrator is a credible threat to others or their property. For minor crimes, as indicated above, 62% reoffend which shows prison isn't working. The second crime is likely to be much more serious than the first.

Where the criminal justice system is involved the central goal of the Christian Peoples Alliance is to repair the relationship between the offender and the victim. This process, where the victim is willing, ensures that victims can tell offenders the real impact of their crime and hopefully receive an apology. Offenders have a chance to understand the real impact of what they've done and do something to repair the harm. They will also have a chance to explain their motive to the victim and explain why they did what they did, whilst at the same time they are held to account by the justice system. The willingness of the offender to express repentance and agree to appropriate restoration can then be taken into account in sentencing. This helping of the victim is central to the process. There is research which shows that this is the best way to reduce crime and anti social behaviour, reduce re-offending rates and has the by-product of cost savings and less fear of crime. This is not done in isolation and is not a soft option: people can still be sent to jail and receive due punishment, but we would make it a vital part of the criminal justice system.

There must also be recognition that, when a life is taken, whether accidentally or on purpose, that something significant has happened.

- We propose (in addition to any necessary sentencing) a payment of £100,000 payable by the person or organisation causing the death as 'life compensation'. That is not to say this is the value of a life, but that with their death something significant has taken place and that must be recognised by all concerned. It may be paid by the individual or others on their behalf or insured

against. It will rest against the person causing death and against their estate (but no further) and survives bankruptcy.

- The three year limit on any civil claim for damages, whether financial, physical or psychological due to criminal activity would be lifted.
  - There is no reason why, because a criminal wins the lottery or receives an inheritance or similar more than three years after committing the crime that they should still be free of any obligation to recompense their victim (for the injury or damage caused, no matter how long before).

## **Prison Policy and Reform**

- We will increase the resources spent on vocational courses in prisons to give prisoners the best possible chance of working when they're released. Studies in America have shown that those who acquire vocational qualifications in prison are 33% less likely to offend.
- We will look to implement the recommendations of Ian Acheson on radicalisation in prisons. This is a very serious problem which needs constant monitoring. CPA will ensure that all prison officers get appropriate training to spot radicalisation (which for us means the intention to commit acts of violence and terrorism). Will also train them in countering violent extremism through effective debate.
- Consult on the introduction of mobile telephone and drone frequency blocking technology, preventing these in use in, or close by, prisons.

At the moment half of all offenders go on to recommit crime so the prison system on its own simply isn't working. New initiatives are desperately needed. In addition to the restorative justice system outlined above we will also commit to the following policy objectives to combat crime:-

## **Radicalisation, terrorism & human rights**

- Under CPA there will be freedom to leave or change religion for anyone at any time, and freedom for anyone to express their views in a non-violent way. We will do away with the notion of subjective 'hate incidents' which are being greatly abused to stifle legitimate freedom of speech on important matters.
- No tolerance or acceptance of any individual or organisation that supports violence and terrorism, and we will if necessary proscribe any such organisation as illegal in the UK.

- Human trafficking is an issue that has arisen in recent years and authorities have been very slow to get to grips with it. Also called “modern slavery” the CPA will increase resources to see it stamped out for good.

## **A Community Approach**

- We are very keen to re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and these will be properly funded.
- Our support for street pastors and special constables will also support the community approach.
- CPA policy is to invest in social institutions which encourage a law-abiding lifestyle and especially to support the family, which forms the foundation of any healthy and stable society.
- We will launch a “pathway out of crime” initiative to help parents whose children have been lured into crime. This will be linked in with our overall policy to support marriage and the family outlined above.
- Restore local authority licensing of sale of alcohol and repeal 24-hour licensing legislation to seek to reduce number of alcohol related offences and number of people who become alcoholics.
- We will take a stricter approach to drug use because of the clear link between drug use and crime.
- Gambling Act 2005 will be repealed and new controls put on casinos with mandatory warnings having to be placed in all betting shops that gambling can cause serious poverty. Will ban the advertising of all gambling just as the advertising of smoking has been prohibited.
- Oppose any attempts to relax moral laws such as legalising brothels or legalising prostitution. This undermines the welfare of society as a whole by treating people as objects for abuse and exploitation. It also denigrates the true meaning and purpose of human sexuality.
- Social Media providers will be treated as ‘publishers’ not ‘platforms’ of any pornographic or violent material, or material promoting violent or otherwise illegal activity, such that they will become criminally liable for publishing it.
- Consider results of current consultation on Money Laundering Regulations so as to ensure that these are truly effective in dealing with crime and money laundering whilst not imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses. At present they do not seem to be effective whilst causing undue time and cost on the businesses that have to implement them.

We make 2 further proposals relating to Extra Territorial Sovereignty

1. Anyone who harms a British Citizen abroad may be brought back to the UK for trial;
2. Any British Citizen who acts illegally abroad can be tried in UK (including consideration by the Attorney General and referral to the Court of Appeal if sentence abroad was too light) with all sex offenders convicted abroad made to sign the Sex Offenders Register on return.



## Youth Policy

Britain's youth unemployment was around 13% at the end of last year. Changes to the welfare state for unemployed under 25's is creating a sense of hopelessness among some who have nowhere to turn from age 18 to 25.

At the same time the cost of living has increased (albeit at a slower rate), but it is still rising, whilst a lack of discipline in society has led young people to resort to loan sharks as a first option to manage bills. Social tensions have encouraged racism and class hatred among youth and even a gang psychology.

There are alarming reports of children engaging in emotional and physical abuse towards their parents and society. A breakdown of moral signposts from a very young age has become a norm. In the past 5 years, knife crime has increased by 71%, and the number of young people who lost their lives to violence rose by 45% from 2017-2018. In the meantime, youth programs and services have faced massive cuts to their funding.

The CPA proposes:

1. To reinforce and strengthen programmes to ensure unemployment is not an option for any young person. We want to see more resources allocated to encourage apprentice schemes and voluntary placements which can lead to full-time employment after a period. These placements must not be motivated by greed for 'financial sweeteners' or cheap labour, but the desire to give a young person a chance. Rogue employers will be weeded out.
2. We want young people to have community mentors who can help them make the right decisions. The ethos of loving our neighbour has almost become outdated whereby we may not even know who are living on our streets. If young people are engaged with their community then it encourages safer neighbourhoods and involvement with the elderly so they feel supported. We need more community spirit and less division. We want these community schemes to operate outside the police or social services.
3. We will divert some of the money collected from our Turnover Tax to provide supervised activity centres with properly funded activities for young people to go. Along with our pro-family social policies, these will be an important contribution in combating the gang, knife crime and drug cultures, which are destroying too many of our young peoples' lives.

These policies are also designed to empower the young within the context of increasing the quality of social justice within our society.

# Education and Opportunity for All

## Basic Principles

The CPA strongly believes that all children have the right to a suitable, quality education which equips them, as far as possible, for success in life, especially making the most of the unique skills, talents and aspirations which God has endowed and blessed them with. Children are not the same – they are individuals. A ‘one size fits all’ approach to education with a monolithic comprehensive state education system does not produce good results.

We also affirm that a child’s education is the prime responsibility of his/her parents which it is the duty of Government to support but never to undermine. The family, by God’s design, is the foundation of a child’s social and learning environment. Parents allow their children to attend school in order for them to be educated by the school on their behalf, *in locus parentis*, and we hold that it is a God-given human right of parents to be able to choose the particular kind of education they regard as being best for their children.

## Structuring the Education System: Ensuring Parental Choice and Opportunity for Children

1. There should be no change in the current basic education structure with a mixture of private, state and voluntary schools. The issue is about the increasing the quality of educational outcome, not the means by which that is delivered. To this end money must be spread equally across the schools, not favouring any one form of school and where there is an imbalance that must be addressed by increasing resources to those who lack but without taking away from existing providers. We believe every child should have the opportunity to receive a free education tailored as far as possible to their particular needs, abilities and talents, but also support the right of parents to choose to use their own resources for alternative or additional educational options that they believe are appropriate.
2. We welcome the increasing diversity in state-sponsored school provision which has come about as a result of the introduction of academies, city technology colleges and the different types of free school (university technology colleges and studio schools). We would continue to develop further this model of school provision where pupils study central core academic subjects (always including English and Maths), whilst being able to pursue more specialised trajectories of learning at secondary level according to the different talents, interests and aspirations of the pupils and the best judgement of their parents.
3. Whereas we want to continue to develop, for the better, the choice and opportunities available in our education system we also recognise the importance of stability in education, without which children can be left feeling insecure. Too many structural changes have been taking place over the past 20 or so years. Rather than further radical overhauls we want to develop what is best about these changes — more autonomy to schools, greater freedom from central control, greater specialisation for the benefit of pupils

## School Discipline and Supporting Teachers

- Discipline problems in our schools is a constant complaint of pupils, parents and teachers alike. Too many children are underachieving, with their learning impaired on a daily basis, because of regular disruption in the classroom.
- We will engage in a thorough consultation to review the effectiveness of school discipline, including the way that exclusion policies are working in practice. Whereas exclusion must always be option in extreme circumstance to protect the education of other pupils, too many children, when removed from the classroom, are left to wander the streets without any help or support which is a danger to society.
- Discipline can have a various causes (including problems family, home and social problems). Our policy of greater flexibility and specialism in the education system (as above), however, is one of the principle means we believe by which discipline can be improved. When children, whose main talents lay elsewhere, are forced to try and achieve within a rigid timetable of academic subjects, then boredom, frustration and behavioural problems inevitably ensue. Whilst we should ensure children develop the best literacy and numeracy skills they can, it is also right that they have a greater opportunity to pursue more learning in practical, vocational, technical, sporting or artistic areas that may make better use of their time, skills and talents.
- Class sizes and teacher workloads are also a factor in terms of both student achievement rates and discipline . Figures show that nearly a third of new teachers are leaving the profession after just five years.<sup>15</sup> Too many teachers are over-stressed, over-worked and forced into an unacceptable work-life imbalance that results in a high burn-out rate. Teachers face too much unnecessary admin and not enough time to plan and concentrate on their teaching. We will conduct a comprehensive review on how to readdress this balance in conjunction with our developmental reforms to the education system outline above, since structural and curriculum reforms need to take place before simply pouring more money into the system.

## Parental Rights

Whereas parents rightly have a lawful duty to ensure their children receive a regular and suitably broad education, they also have the right to ensure that education is in line with their own religious and/or philosophical convictions. This is a principle recognised in International Human Rights Law and one that must be upheld by the UK Government.<sup>16</sup> As Christian Democrats we oppose encroaching interference by

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.tes.com/news/nearly-third-new-teachers-leave-profession-within-five-years-figures-show>

<sup>16</sup> See Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 26 (1-3); European Convention on Human Rights [Incorporating] Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Paris, 20.III.1952), ARTICLE 2.

the State in the content of the curriculum and conduct of schools, often in a liberal and immoral way. As a result the content of the National Curriculum has become a key battle ground and it is set to become even more of a battle ground in the future.

Parents should always have the right to know the details of the curriculum in their children's school and to withdraw their children from certain classes if the learning is against their convictions of what is best for their child (provided attendance is still regular).

### **Relationships and Sex Education**

The decision by the British Parliament to make Relationships Education (primary) and Relationships and Sex Education (secondary) compulsory, and take away the parent's right of withdrawal, constitutes a serious violation of parents' human rights and is also highly questionable under international human rights law. This has been done on spurious, largely unevidenced, justifications such as 'keeping children safe', helping children have 'happy healthy relationships' or 'equipping them for life in modern Britain'. In reality the new subjects are further deconstructing marriage and the family, promoting a destructive ideology, and putting children at risk of early sexualisation and the promotion of harmful lifestyle choices.

Compulsory sex education in the classroom also fails to take into account that what is 'age-appropriate' differs from child-to-child, and undermines, disrupts and damages the natural parent/child relationship. It is important that children have information on their reproductive development, health and sexual matters at the right time, but it is parents who must have both the responsibility and the opportunity to provide this in the context of their own beliefs and values, and at a timing of their best judgement. The CPA believes that schools have an important role to play in supporting parents to provide this learning to their children (for instance, through training, peer-led workshops and providing helpful resources). Where parents are unable or unwilling to provide this learning in the home, for whatever reason, then there will be an 'opt in' system where parents are able to choose to have it provided for their children in extra-curricular sessions at school.

### **The Place of Christianity in Schools**

Christian worship in all schools was part of the 1944 Education Act. Today the CPA believes that all children should know what Christian worship is and the role it plays in our society. Christianity forms an essential part of our cultural heritage and development as a nation, and the majority of the population (59.9% according to last census) still identify themselves as Christian. To get a full understanding they must participate in it and be encouraged to engage themselves if they wish to. However parents should equally always have the right to say they do not want their children to participate in Christian or other worship or any other religious activity. If it another faith school (Muslim, Sikh, etc) then teaching about Christianity and other faiths will be required, but the ethos and daily act of worship can be of their own religion.

## **Christian and Other Faith Schools**

Christian schools, and provision for children from other faiths, should be encouraged and if appropriate state funded, but every effort should be made to ensure a broad enough basic curriculum in these and all schools. Other points of view, and different beliefs, should be taught in a factual way so that children learn and understand about other cultures, but parents also have a right to choose an education for their children where their own faith is given more focus and emphasis, and that their own form of worship is part of the school day.

Schools set up with a clear religious ethos should have the right to set their own admission policies which give priority to children who are adherents to that faith. However, they will also be required to allow in children of other faiths and none where they have spare places.

## **Education not Indoctrination**

As children mature and develop their critical faculties at secondary level education means teaching and examining all points of view, otherwise it becomes indoctrination, not education. Sadly, today too much of our education is beginning to fall into the indoctrination category at all stages of their education and development. An official state ideology is currently being imposed on our children (secular liberal LGBT based) which is stifling freedom of thought, critical enquiry and expression, whilst undermining parental rights.

Whilst we seek, for the good of children, to offer a morally framed education and to respect parental rights, it is not the aim of CPA to 'indoctrinate' something different but to educate properly. Most notably:

- Whilst Religious Education may be tailored and have an overall emphasis on the faith ethos of the school, it must explain what adherents of religions believe in a clear way and it is good practice for adherents of a religion to be invited into a school to explain their views. At the same time children can also be taught what critics of a religion teach and this must apply to all religions, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist etc.
- Students should be able to critically examine and consider the practical outcomes of the moral codes they are presented with (whether the moral tenets of their faith, or secular notions of human rights).
- When teaching history great care should be taken to examine history from different perspectives (including what motivated the people involved on different sides, etc) and also to teach history which is relevant to the child (both how their nation's culture and systems developed, as well as examining more recent and international conflicts and developments)
- The idea of macroevolution should be taught as the majority position of the scientific community. However, students should be encouraged to critically examine establishment views and so, for example, the strength of Intelligent Design, which caused the long term leading atheist Antony

Flew to side with Einstein and Aristotle in acknowledging God as universal creator, should also be considered.

- Teachers should be encouraged to teach from different perspectives not just their own, but they should have the right to express their views as well as teaching the views of others.

## **OFSTED and the Schools Inspection System**

It is right that schools are inspected by certain agreed national standards to ensure, at the very least, that sufficient standards of child welfare and educational practice are being maintained. However, there is also a problem when an over-centralised Quango-based inspection system, such as OFSTED, is being misused to impose an official state ideology on all children and schools, or otherwise fail to recognise the possible diversity of education models. OFSTED have failed certain independent faith schools, for instance, for not promoting LGBT ideology, even where all genuine education standards have been met. This is unacceptable.

We will review, with intention to reform where necessary, OFSTED and the way that the inspectorate system is working. We would favour, example, more of a peer-review inspectorate system, more along the lines of that used in higher education, which would better cater for a more diverse and better specialised school system. The inspectorate team visiting a school, for example, should always include representatives from similar types of school who would better understand the particular community and educational ethos and approach of the school.

At the same time such reviews must take into account such matters as support for violence and attitudes towards those of other faiths if their people wish to convert. Whilst schools with either a secularist or a religious ethos have a right to exist, schools should never be allowed to become a breeding ground for violent extremism or terrorism.

## **Higher Education**

For Universities the CPA wants open debate on all issues and to encourage close relationships between Universities and the world of work. Our universities should increasingly become national debating centres and state funding should be given to encourage this process with certain debates and lectures being open to people from outside the University to come and participate. The CPA wants an open and free society where ideas can be expressed and no-one lives in fear of expressing them.

The CPA is in principle opposed to tuition fees which are saddling young people with debt from an early age. We will immediately consult on how we can increase funding for Universities and maintain and increase student numbers without tuition fees. One way of doing this, for instance, will be encourage an increase in vocational courses and qualifications which are funded by industry. Every school leaver should have the opportunity to pursue further training or a qualification that will help them pursue their chosen vocation, but the goal of having half of all school leavers studying academic subjects for three years at

university does not recognise the diversity of natural talent, and is leading to underachievement, dissatisfaction and debt for too many young people.

## **Integration Agenda**

The CPA believes totally in the freedom of religion. We will address all issues relating to other religions by encouraging and sponsoring national debate on the rights and wrongs of different religions. We will encourage the best minds in the world to come and take part in televised debates and encourage those debates to continue in our schools and Universities. Under the Christian People Alliance there will be freedom to change religion for anyone at any time and freedom for anyone to express their views in a rational non-violent way. We believe this is the process that will undermine and overcome Islamic terrorism, and other forms of violent extremism, more than any other. We will, however, at the same time keep a very careful eye on anyone individual or organisation that supports violence and terrorism, and where necessary proscribe the organisation as illegal in the UK.

We would stop all state support for any organisations in the UK for which opposition to Christianity is part of their creed. We will give full support where we can to Christians and other faith groups who are being persecuted and offer them refuge wherever it is needed. We will seek international agreements to aid in their protection.

The CPA does not believe in state control of what people wear so we would not ban the burqa. There is widespread concern about the operation of religious courts in the UK. The CPA believes their operation should be reviewed and, if need be, regulated to ensure they operate in accordance within the basic concepts of British jurisprudence. A parallel legal system can be very dangerous and should only exist if the judgements made are reasonable, a necessary part of the religion, and within the basic concepts of British jurisprudence.

We believe these policies are in accord with the principle of social justice.

## **Immigration**

It is essential we have a mature and balanced approach to this problem and avoid emotional rhetoric that can lead to racism and hatred of others. The Christian Democratic position is based on all of humanity being in God's Image (Imago Dei). This is not over-ridden by nationalism nor ethnicism which, themselves, lead to social discord. Consequently, the CPA urges social peace within the global community and societal harmony within the UK.

The Christian Democratic position allows nationality change: indeed the UK has undergone many changes, such as Romanisation, Saxonisation and Normanisation. However, such changes must be by fair means not foul. Immigration must be fair.

## Definitions

The term 'immigrant' defines someone who has permanently moved into a country, while 'migrant' generally refers to someone who has entered an area (or country) from outside for a short term work or educational objective. There are numerous instances where official migrants remain without permission beyond their legal term and so become illegal immigrants. Whilst immigration has been of great benefit to our country, unrestricted immigration is unfair, both on existing citizens and those who seek to settle here by legitimate and legal means; and it's costs are considerable.

Consequently, the CPA immigration priorities are to provide a safe haven and to bring into the country those with the necessary skills who wish to live here. Once they have arrived CPA policy is that immigrants are to be treated as we treat our native born. That, however, is not, and should not, be, at the expense of the values, freedoms and culture of our society.

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## Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- We will fulfil our obligations under UN Convention on Refugees 1951, offer first-port-of-call shelter for those perceived to be fleeing from unjust persecution (and if other country's ports are overloaded)
- Give priority to those who have faced or may face genuine persecution
- Prioritise those unaccompanied children currently in France not receiving adequate shelter, protection or freedom from exploitation (in line with principles of Kindertransport policy in WWII)

## Economic/Educational Immigrants

The UK economy needs migrant workers due to declining and ageing populations. But it is unjust to take migrant professionals from developing countries to meet our own skills shortages, whether nurses, doctors or IT specialists. This long-term issue will be addressed by our policies to support marriage and family life to reverse the catastrophic domestic de-population trend.

- Until the declining birth rate and demographic disadvantage is reversed, CPA will use a UK version of the American Green Card system for determining who can come to work in Britain (based on the



current 5 Tiers for non-EEA migrants) to assess how useful applicants are likely to be to the UK workforce, or how genuine their claim to student status.

- Its Tier 3, designed to monitor low-skill short-term economic immigration, has never been used since the European Economic Area (EEA) visa-free door remains open to EU citizens.
- Until Brexit future EEA access should have a monitored condition which makes migrant workers and their sponsors responsible for housing and medical cover independent of the State. This will broaden accountability and encourage self-responsibility for those without current citizenship status, whilst reducing the burden on the taxpayer.
- After Brexit, EEA access (currently visa-free) will be treated in the system as non-EEA access, as the CPA considers all humanity, all should be treated equally.

### **People Trafficking**

This is a great and genuine evil. Economic migrants can, by stolen passports, be enslaved, their wages stolen by traffickers and deprived of many of the protections relating to health, pay, housing, travel, and other welfare needs that many of us take for granted. They can end up homeless and completely disempowered. CPA would:

- widely publicise an official mechanism to help immigrants enslaved (trafficked) without passport protection
- assist with funds those voluntary organisations who work in this field.

### **Illegal Immigrants**

There are an estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants in the UK, mostly in London. The UK Border Agency is tasked with finding and deporting them: it is costly and time consuming. We should not be legitimising illegal immigration but ensuring that the system is fair for those who wish to live and work here legally, and for genuine asylum seekers:

1. We reject a one-off Qualified Amnesty. It may cause financial and social problems down the line. Crime should not pay. There inevitably has to be a time, however, when illegal immigrants have been here so long without committing any crime and without recourse to the State that they should be allowed to remain. We consider this point to be 10 years though there should be a further limit of 5 years for such people before State benefits can be claimed.
2. We will reward voluntary surrender by more sympathetic evaluation or free repatriation if required. This more sympathetic evaluation will be especially so where the person coming forward voluntarily has the support of a significant part of the local community relating to their positive commitment to society and thus for their continued residence in the UK. We will, however, punish concealment with tough penalties. Attrition through enforcement could make it harder to obtain benefits such as paid employment, medical care, and formal education, significantly reducing the size of the illegal population at reasonable cost by making re-immigration the best option. We will then pay for the air fares of those returning on the condition that it is understood they will never be allowed to visit the UK again unless the cost is refunded.

3. It is crucially important that the citizenship status of both parties to a marriage should be checked, and both parties fully warned about the possibility of illegal immigrants being denied a right to remain, before any wedding is conducted. Marriage should not be abused merely as a way of gaining citizenship status. However, there are valid marriages which are denied access to the UK by current rules, in particular 'the financial requirement'. This is currently £18,600 pa a year for a spouse with £3,800 for the first child and £2,400 for each subsequent child. Consequently any British citizen who is on a low income or who has been working overseas for many years in an unpaid or low paid voluntary aid programme and has married overseas (whether with or without children) is unlikely to be able to return to the UK without leaving his wife and children behind. The CPA will consult on how this destructive policy on marriage may be rectified without allowing for the abuse of marriage for unlawful immigration.
4. We will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness in which our borders are managed. Outside of the EU this can be much more effective and fairer to all non-Britons wanting to come here.

## **Defence and Foreign Policy**

The Christian Peoples Alliance seeks international peace and security by multilateral security initiatives, reducing the amount of armaments in the world and reducing the international arms trade starting with our own.

The danger of a nuclear weapons exchange by intention or accident remains a credible possibility and nuclear proliferation among nations and into terrorist groups must be prevented. Furthermore, now nuclear weapons are in the hands of other states and there is a real risk they may proliferate further into non-state hands, the 'Mutually Assured Destruction' idea doesn't work. Nuclear weapon states must take practical steps towards nuclear disarmament and thereby prevent nuclear weapon proliferation in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The CPA believes that it would never be a Christian act to use weapons of mass destruction, nor ask others to do it on their behalf. We would cancel the Trident renewal programme saving around £50bn. We would, however, not dispose of our existing weapons except by negotiation.

We believe that the focus of our defence spending should now be on developing defensive systems including missile shields round the UK. We must work with other countries in Europe to achieve an effective shield, similar to that being installed in South Korea and already installed in Israel. Technology exists which is currently able to shoot down 95% of all incoming missiles, but this will improve to take its reliability nearer 100%. We must aim to be able to destroy incoming missiles as near as possible to the launch site so any country thinking of launching them will know they are endangering their own people. We also want to develop technology that can lock onto incoming missiles and redirect them into the sea. We will always seek to ensure that we are able to defend our nation and our people against all credible threats.

We want a Britain that plays its full part in the world through the United Nations where we must maintain our permanent seat on the Security Council. We must be involved and give support to international peace agreements and international trade agreements. We must re-establish a close relationship with the Commonwealth and maintain the special relationship with the USA. We will also seek, however, to maintain the principle of subsidiarity in our foreign policy and would oppose attempts by the UN to make decisions best left to individual sovereign nations. The UN should be a forum for co-operation and ensuring peace between the nations of the world — it should never seek to constitute in any way a One World Government.

## **Fair Trade and Overseas Aid**

We believe in fair trade worldwide so that developing economies have the opportunity to grow without the unfair disadvantage of competing with cheap subsidised products from elsewhere. In some circumstances fair trade will need to be supplemented by Overseas Aid. Grinding poverty still holds 2.8 billion people around the world in its grip. For the Christian Peoples Alliance, poverty is not an accident. The CPA will therefore pursue policies, including grant aid, loans and other forms of diplomacy and finance, so as to challenge the root causes of poverty, such as war, generalised violence, persecution, human rights abuses, the arms trade, corrupt government, the crippling debt burden and unfair trade practices that distort the economies of poor countries.

Whilst maintaining our foreign aid budget at 0.7% of GDP we will refocus it on helping refugees and to ensure people don't become refugees. We will also ensure that the emphasis of our foreign aid is on development for the recipient's self-sufficiency, rather than rewarding inefficiency and corruption, funding politically correct causes or pursuing forms of cultural neo-colonialism. We will do this by working in partnership with those organisations, charities and governments that have shown themselves to be effective in utilising resources to achieve genuinely positive outcomes. The response to disasters such as that in the Philippines shows that the British people do care about those abroad that need help. We must be ready to extend a compassionate hand to anyone in our human family who needs it, wherever they are in the world.

We will rebuild favourable trading relationships with any country in the world which wants to join with us in doing so to our mutual benefit, provided they do not have an unacceptable human rights record. Prior to our membership of the European Economic Community (EEC) this was granted to Commonwealth countries and they will probably be the core of these new arrangements, but not necessarily so. The reality is that before we joined the EEC, or the EU as it now is, we had a small trading surplus with the other EEC nations. After we joined that quickly became a large deficit. That means that our membership of the EU has been more beneficial to other EU nations than it has been to the British.

We want to be a country that plays its full part in the world and seeks trade agreements with the new economic powerhouses of China, Russia, India and Brazil as well as the emerging powerhouse of Africa. Trade with Europe may initially be diminished if we leave the EU, but we will then be in a stronger position

to increase our trade with the rest of the world, especially the Commonwealth. Over time there is no reason why we should not develop mutually beneficial trading relations with the EU as indeed Switzerland and Norway have done, both of whom have stayed outside the EU.

## **Support Persecuted Christians**

While persecution of Christians is being carried out so obviously and clearly by foreign governments and non-government bodies (including Boko Haram and Islamic State) we will give full support where we can to Christians and other faith groups who are being persecuted and offer them refuge wherever it is needed. We will seek international agreements to aid in their protection. All direct aid to governments should be conditional on Christians and other faith groups not being persecuted. Thus, at present, the UK Government is giving £441million in aid to Pakistan whilst, under law 295C of the Pakistan Penal Code, if anyone criticises the prophet Muhammad they have to be put to death (mandatory punishment). Consequently Mrs Asia Bibi was on death row because she said, "Jesus Christ died for my sins, what has Muhammad ever done for you?" This cannot continue. Only on the release of all Christians accused of blasphemy and with the repeal of this law could any aid to Pakistan resume, and we would work with other governments and agencies to ensure freedom of religious expression and the human right to change one's religion here and throughout the world.

## **Israel**

Israel is a small country in the heart of the Middle East surrounded by some very aggressive neighbours. Since the modern state of Israel's foundation, these neighbours have on three occasions tried to wipe it out (in 1948, 1967 and 1973). There have been many attempts at peace, most notably with Egypt and Jordan, which have led to Israel returning land it has gained during war in return for peace. They have also unilaterally withdrawn from the Gaza strip in an effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Despite all these efforts they still have enemies committed to wiping them off the map.

1. We assert the right of the nation of Israel to exist in peace, recognised by the PLA and Hamas.
2. We assert the right of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, to live in peace
3. We assert the duty of all people within Israel and without to engage in a democratic process to help bring peace in the region.
4. We assert the duty of the international community to support Israel in promoting these rights and duties.
5. We assert the right of Israel to name its own capital and would therefore move the British Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Support to the Palestinians must be given in surrounding countries and not just within the borders of Israel.

- Size of Jordan 89,341sq km — 3.24m Palestinians of which 2.1million are refugees out of 7.6m
- Size of Lebanon 10,452 sq km — 300,000 Palestinians out of 6.2m

- Size of Egypt 1,001,450 sq km — 270,000 Palestinians out of 100.39m
- Size of West Bank 5,882 sq km — 2.5m Palestinians out of 3m
- Size of Israel 20,770sq km — 1.8m Palestinians out of 8.2m
- Size of Gaza Strip 365 sq km — 1.7m Palestinians out of 1.8m

What we need is a Four State Solution where Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt are all involved in improving the lot of the Palestinian people and increasing their democratic rights. It is not a problem for Israel alone. In fact it has been said that the Palestinians are treated far worse in Jordan than Israel. If they are to have their own homeland it cannot be purely within the bounds of Israeli occupied territory.



Photograph showing many of our candidates for the 2019 General election

