



Race Equality and Opportunity for All

Britain can be incredibly unfair. People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are more likely to be poor, out of work, and live in deprived areas of the country. Mismanagement of the immigration system has stoked up fear and persecution. Young black and Asian men in particular are far more likely to be stopped by the police, even when they have done nothing wrong. Liberal Democrats will build a fair, united society which has opportunities for everyone, no matter their background, faith or race. At a time when the fastest growing minority group is mixed race, the time has come to move beyond tick-boxes and embrace Britain's strength as a diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-faith society. We will never pander to anti-immigrant sentiment. We have taken on the BNP and won in towns and cities across Britain. We will ensure that everyone is protected from violence, discrimination and harassment, and that people from all races get fairly treated by the police. We'll make the immigration system firm and fair to restore confidence without pandering to hatred. We'll fight terrorism by prosecuting terrorists not persecuting innocent people or communities.

Building a fairer Britain. Our core policies to make Britain fair will make a huge difference to improving lives for people from ethnic communities. We will cut taxes and make work pay by ensuring no-one pays income tax on the first £10,000 they earn. We will cut class sizes and give every child a fair start in life by introducing a pupil premium. This will provide an extra £2.5 billion to our schools, allocated according to the number of disadvantaged pupils on their rolls. We will renovate empty homes that so often blight inner city communities. We will put thousands more police on the streets to keep people safe. In addition to our commitment to fairness for all we make the following commitments to deal with specific issues that primarily or disproportionately affect BAME communities.

Get innocent people off the DNA database. Britain has the largest DNA database in the world, with details of a million innocent people's genetic profile. Black people are hugely over-represented because they're so much more likely to be stopped by the police. We will remove all the innocent DNA from the database, and only store DNA from people who've actually committed a crime.

Create a fair but firm immigration system to restore confidence. We will create a fair immigration system that works and promotes integration. We'll make sure visa applications, especially for relatives, are dealt with fairly and continue Britain's proud tradition of granting safe refuge to people fleeing oppression. We will allow people who have been in Britain without the correct papers for 10 years, but speak English, have a clean record and want to live here long-term to earn their citizenship so we can target deportation efforts on criminals and people-traffickers.

Anonymous job application forms to end race discrimination. It's too easy for people from ethnic minorities to be cut out of the job application process right at the start because their background is clear from the name on their CV or application form. Names should be blanked out so this discrimination can't happen.

Scrap Control Orders. It's vital to convict terrorists rather than putting entire communities under suspicion. We will scrap Control Orders and replace them with

measures designed to secure convictions of terror suspects. We also support efforts to make it easier to charge suspects genuinely suspected of terrorism through a temporary lowering of the 'threshold test', the use of the post-charge questioning and intercept evidence.