

your world. We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality. Above all, climate change is the greatest challenge facing this generation.

securing Britain's future with global action

Liberal Democrats believe that Britain must work together with its partners abroad if we are to have the best hope of meeting the challenges the world faces. We believe in freedom, justice, prosperity and human rights for all and will do all we can to work towards a world where these hopes become reality.

Never has there been such a need for global action. There are only a few years to take action to stop runaway climate change. The global recession proved the need for better international regulation of the financial markets. New security threats are emerging, for which Britain's armed forces are not yet fully equipped, while terrorists and organised criminals exploit international networks. The challenge of tackling global poverty remains, with the Millennium Development Goals still far from being achieved. And the battle for human rights remains to be fought in many countries.

Liberal Democrats will work through the European Union to deliver **a global deal on climate change**. We will transform our armed forces, meeting our obligations through the **military covenant** and conducting a **full defence review** to ensure they are equipped for modern threats. We will push for **better global financial regulation**. We will push for global nuclear disarmament, showing leadership by **committing not to replace the Trident nuclear weapons system** on a like-for-like basis. We will meet our obligations to the developing world by committing to spending **0.7 per cent of GDP on aid**. And we will put **Britain at the heart of Europe**, to ensure we use our influence to achieve prosperity, security and opportunity for Britain.

tackling climate change

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing this generation. Liberal Democrats are unwavering in our commitment: runaway climate change must be stopped and politicians must follow the science in order to make that happen.

We will set a target for a zero carbon Britain that doesn't contribute at all to global warming – making the British economy carbon-neutral overall by 2050, reducing carbon emissions in the UK by over 40 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 as a step on the way.

Our response to climate change will give the British people more secure energy supplies, reduce air pollution and related health costs – and create thousands of new jobs.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Begin a ten year programme of home insulation, offering a home energy improvement package of up to £10,000 per home, paid for by the savings from lower energy bills.
- Set a target for 40 per cent of UK electricity to come from clean, non-carbon-emitting sources by 2020, rising to 100 per cent by 2050, underpinned by guaranteed price support, ensuring that at least three quarters of this new renewable energy comes from marine and offshore sources.
- Set out a clear renewables routemap to 2050, covering grid access and investment in electricity networks, and develop new incentives to promote renewable heat.
- Transform the electricity networks into a dynamic electricity grid that can better connect and integrate new, clean energy technologies, particularly through better use of sub-sea connections, leading to the development of a European supergrid.

- Invest up to £400 million in refurbishing shipyards in Scotland and the North of England so they can manufacture and support offshore wind turbines and other marine renewable equipment.
- Launch an 'Eco Cash Back' scheme, for one year only, which will give you £400 if you install double glazing, replace an old boiler, or install micro-generation. If you choose micro-generation, you will be able to sell the energy back to the National Grid at a profit, with a more attractive feed-in tariff than under current Government plans.
- Set aside extra money for schools to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. They will pay back the loan over time from energy savings, creating a rolling fund to help insulate every public building.
- Invest £140 million in a bus scrappage scheme that helps bus companies to replace old polluting buses with new low-carbon ones and creates jobs.
- Block any new coal-fired power stations – the most polluting form of power generation – unless they are accompanied by the highest level of carbon capture and storage facilities.
- Reject a new generation of nuclear power stations, based on the evidence that nuclear is a far more expensive way of reducing carbon emissions than promoting energy conservation and renewable energy.
- Improve energy efficiency in the commercial and public sectors by strengthening the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency

Scheme and requiring companies and government departments to report on their energy use and set targets for reducing it. We will set a 30 per cent energy efficiency improvement target for 2020 and will commit government to the goals of the 10:10 campaign as a first step.

leading the fight against climate change

Liberal Democrats are committed to securing a legally binding global agreement on limiting the increase in global temperatures to below 1.7 degrees Celsius. We believe that such an agreement must be based on reducing emissions overall while equalising emissions between the developed and developing worlds – the principle of contraction and convergence.

Strong and credible EU ambitions, with effective UK leadership, are essential for achieving a global agreement, so that total greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015. Liberal Democrats will work within Europe and internationally to give renewed urgency to global efforts to combat climate change.

We will press the EU to:

- Promote the transition to a low-carbon economy in Europe, by moving unilaterally and immediately to an EU emissions reduction target of 30 per cent by 2020, adopting new long term targets and policies for clean energy and energy efficiency, and expanding investment in energy technology innovation, within Europe and internationally.
- Boost investment in clean energy by reforming the EU Emissions Trading Scheme – bringing in a tighter cap on emissions, auctioning as many allowances as possible and encouraging other European countries to increase the use of reserve prices in allowance auctions.

- Engage with major emitters and deepen diplomatic co-operation between the EU and emerging economies and developing countries, provide enhanced financial support for low carbon solutions and lead international efforts to promote the transfer of technologies that will help to tackle climate change.

- Work for the adoption of 'quick win' measures that could be initiated within the next few years, such as reducing use of hydrofluorocarbons.

At the UN level we will support the provision of UN Adaptation Funds for developing countries, financed from international emissions markets, such as a cap and trade system for international emissions from aviation and shipping.

protecting the global environment

Humans are living beyond the ability of the planet to support life; more than 60 per cent of the basic ecosystems that support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. Co-ordinated international action and effective global institutions are necessary to help create a sustainable future and improve the quality of life for all the world's citizens.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Work through the EU to make sure that the environment is fully integrated into the objectives of international institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation.
- Work to increase the resourcing of the UN Environment Programme and improve the enforcement of international environmental treaties.

- Protect the world's forests, to reduce carbon emissions and also to preserve this reservoir of biodiversity. We will argue for an international target of zero net deforestation by 2020, support a new system of payments to developing countries to enable them to reduce deforestation, and adopt at EU – or, if necessary, at UK level – a new law making it illegal to import or possess timber produced illegally in foreign countries.

- Work with other countries to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of products, helping consumers choose those with the least impact on resource use and pollution.

meeting Britain's obligations to the developing world

Liberal Democrats are committed to working towards a world free from poverty, inequality and injustice, and meeting the Millennium Development Goals is a vital first step. But beyond this we will also ensure that action is taken to allow developing nations to grow and not to suffer unfairly the effects of climate change inflicted by the developed countries.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Increase the UK's aid budget to reach the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013 and enshrine that target in law. We will hold the G8 to its Gleneagles pledges on aid, including on the 0.7 per cent target.
- Work with other countries to establish new sources of development financing, including bringing forward urgent proposals for a financial transaction tax and a cap and trade system for carbon emissions from aviation and shipping.

- Support reform of the global finance institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.
- Ban banks from facilitating the transfer of funds obtained by corruption. We will crack down on tax-havens which allow individuals and corporations to avoid paying taxes to developing countries.
- Ensure the developing world is prepared to deal with the consequences of a changing climate. We will ensure that adaptation and mitigation measures are financed by industrialised nations on top of existing aid commitments.
- Prioritise health and education programmes which aim to promote gender equality, reduce maternal and infant mortality and restrict the spread of major diseases like HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. We will focus effort on supplying basic needs like clean water.
- Support a global fund for social protection to help developing countries build viable welfare systems.
- Push for a renewed international effort on debt and support 100 per cent cancellation of the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries. We will also take measures against 'vulture funds' and lobby for similar action at international level.

equipping our armed forces for the 21st century

Modern armed forces face a series of complex challenges. Alongside fighting conventional wars, they seek to protect us from the threats of terrorism,

maintain the peace, undertake conflict prevention and help facilitate development in poorer nations.

The world has changed enormously since the end of the Cold War. New threats are emerging and yet Britain's armed forces remain largely equipped to fight the old ones. The Iraq war, and allegations over British complicity in torture and in secret 'rendition' flights of terrorist suspects, highlight the dangers of a subservient relationship with the United States that neglects Britain's core values and interests.

The threats of tomorrow are likely to be driven by failed states, mass migration, climate change and regional instability. So we will ensure that taxpayers' money is spent more effectively on equipping the forces for the tasks of the future, not old Cold War threats. **We will:**

- Hold an immediate Strategic Security and Defence Review (SSDR) to ensure that Britain deploys its resources to face the most serious threats to its citizens' security and well-being, including non-military challenges such as climate change.
- With strong Treasury involvement, review all major defence procurement projects through the SSDR to ensure money is being spent effectively. We will not purchase tranche 3B of the Eurofighter.
- Rule out the like-for-like replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system. At a cost of £100 billion over a lifetime, it is unaffordable, and our security would be better served by alternatives. We support multilateral nuclear disarmament and will ensure the UK plays a proactive role in the arms reduction talks starting later this year.
- Reinvigorate Franco-British and wider European defence co-operation to ensure procurement costs are kept low.



a fair deal for our service personnel

The brave men and women of Britain's armed forces are the most precious military asset we have. They must be treated fairly, with pay and conditions that reflect their outstanding commitment to this country, and properly valued and supported after they leave the services.

Liberal Democrats will put the forces' welfare first. **We will:**

- Give a pay rise to the lower ranks so that their pay is brought into line with the starting salary of their emergency services counterparts.

- Double the rate of modernisation of forces' family homes to ensure they are fit for heroes.

While it is necessary to find resources to support the troops properly, at the same time fairness requires that we make savings where possible within the defence budget as a whole. We will reduce the number of civilian staff in the Ministry of Defence and reduce numbers of top brass officers.

putting Britain at the heart of Europe

Liberal Democrats believe that European co-operation is the best way for Britain to be strong and safe and powerful in future. We will ensure Britain maximises its influence through a strong and positive commitment.

But just because Europe is essential, that doesn't mean the European Union is perfect. We will continue to campaign for improved accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. Working together, the member states of the EU have a better chance of managing the negative impacts of globalisation, such as cross-border crime and environmental pollution.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Work with Britain's European neighbours to create thousands of new jobs by breaking down trade barriers and boosting support for green jobs.
- Work through the European Union for stricter international regulation of financial services and banking.
- Keep Britain part of international crime-fighting measures such as the European Arrest Warrant, European Police Office (Europol), Eurojust, and the European Criminal Records Information System, while ensuring high standards of justice.

- Keep pressure for reform of agricultural subsidies so that consumers, farmers and taxpayers get a fair deal and the environment is protected.
- Fight to stop MEPs having to travel to the Strasbourg Parliament every month, wasting €200 million a year.
- Campaign for continuing reform of the EU budget so that money is spent only on the things the EU really needs to do.
- Make fisheries management the responsibility of regional management arrangements, involving stakeholders, better able to sustain and support fleets and fish stocks.
- Work for the proper enforcement of regulations for the transportation of live animals across all EU member states.

The European Union has evolved significantly since the last public vote on membership over thirty years ago. Liberal Democrats therefore remain committed to an in/out referendum the next time a British Government signs up for fundamental change in the relationship between the UK and the EU.

We believe that it is in Britain's long-term interest to be part of the euro. But Britain should join only when the economic conditions are right, and in the present economic situation, they are not at the moment. Britain should join the euro only if that decision were supported by the people of Britain in a referendum.

standing up for Liberal values around the world

Liberal Democrats will put British values of fairness and the rule of law back at the heart of our foreign policy. British people used to be proud of what our country stood for. But Britain's reputation has been damaged by unscrupulous

arms deals with dictators, allegations of involvement in torture, and of course the disastrous and illegal invasion of Iraq.

We will also give greater support to conflict prevention – which saves money and saves lives.

We will:

- Make the EU use its collective weight effectively in other areas of foreign policy. Britain can have a far stronger voice on relations with Russia, China, Iran and the Middle East peace process when it joins with the rest of Europe.
- Be critical supporters of the Afghanistan mission. The military surge must be accompanied by a strategy to ensure a more legitimate government, tackle corruption and win over moderate elements in the insurgency. We will continue to demand a strategy that involves other players in the region. We believe that a successful strategy will stabilise Afghanistan enough to allow British troops to come home during the next Parliament.
- Support the establishment of an International Arms Trade Treaty to limit the sale of arms to dangerous regimes and work for a full international ban on cluster munitions. We will ensure British arms are not sold to states that would use them for internal repression. We will require arms brokers to register under a code of conduct and revoke the licences of those who break the code.
- Support action by the international community to stop Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. We would follow a diplomatic route of active engagement, and are ready to back targeted sanctions, but we oppose military action against Iran and believe those calling for such action undermine the growing reform movement in Iran.

- Hold a full judicial inquiry into allegations of British complicity in torture and state kidnapping as part of a process to restore Britain's reputation for decency and fairness.
- Remain committed to the search for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A sustainable solution can be reached in the context of two separate Israeli and Palestinian states, mutually recognised and internationally accepted within borders which are secure and based on the situation before the 1967 conflict. We condemn disproportionate force used by all sides. We believe Britain and the EU must put pressure on Israel and Egypt to end the blockade of Gaza.