

Jeremy Corbyn speech to Labour Party Conference

Jeremy

Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton today, said:

*****CHECK
AGAINST DELIVERY*****

Conference, thank you for that. We meet here this week as a united Party, advancing in every part of Britain, winning the confidence of millions of our fellow citizens, setting out our ideas and plans for our country's future, that have already inspired people of all ages and backgrounds.

And it's a privilege to be speaking in Brighton. A city that not only has a long history of hosting Labour conferences, but also of inspirational Labour activists.

It was over a century ago, here in Brighton, that a teenage shop worker had had enough of the terrible conditions facing her and her workmates. She risked the sack to join the Shop Workers' Union, after learning about it in a newspaper used to wrap up fish and chips, and was so effective at standing up for women shop workers, she became assistant general secretary before the age of 30.

In that role she seconded the historic resolution at the Trades Union Congress of 1899 to set up the Labour Representation Committee so that working people would finally have representation in Parliament.

That became the Labour Party and it was this woman, Margaret Bondfield who later become a Labour MP. And in 1929, the first ever woman to join the British cabinet'

From a Brighton drapery to Downing Street. Margaret Bondfield's story is a reminder of the decisive role women have played in the Labour Party from its foundation, and that Labour has always been about making change by working together and standing up for others.

Conference, against all predictions in June we won the largest increase in the Labour vote since 1945 and achieved Labour's best vote for a generation. It's a result which has put the

Tories on notice and Labour on the threshold of power.

Yes, we didn't do quite well enough and we remain in opposition for now, but we have become a Government-in-waiting. Our outstanding shadow cabinet team here today. And our message to the country could not be clearer – Labour is ready.

Ready to tackle inequality, ready to rebuild our NHS, ready to give opportunity to young people, dignity and security to older people, ready to invest in our economy and meet the challenges of climate change and automation, ready to put peace and justice at the heart of foreign policy. And ready to build a new and progressive relationship with Europe.

We are ready and the Tories are clearly not. They're certainly not strong and they're definitely not stable. They're not remotely united. And they're hanging on by their fingertips.

But this Tory Government does have one thing that we lack. They have tracked down the Magic Money Tree when it was needed to keep Theresa May in Downing Street. It was given a good old shake – and lo and behold – now we know the price of power – it's about £100m for each Democratic Unionist MP.

During the election campaign, Theresa May told voters they faced the threat of a "coalition of chaos". Remember that? Well, now they're showing us exactly how that works. And I don't just mean the Prime Minister's desperate deal with the DUP. She's got a "coalition of chaos" around her own cabinet table – Phillip Hammond and Liam Fox, Boris Johnson and David Davis.

At each other's throats, squabbling and plotting, manoeuvring to bundle the Prime Minister out of Number Ten and take her place at the first opportunity. Instead of getting to grips with the momentous issues facing our country.

But this coalition of chaos is no joke. Just look at their record since the Conservatives have been in office;

The longest fall in people's pay since record began

Homelessness doubled

NHS waiting lists lengthening

School class sizes growing and teachers leaving

Over 4 million children now in

poverty

20,000 police officers ... and 11,000
firefighters cut

More people in work and in poverty ... than
ever before

Condemned by the United Nations for
violating the rights of disabled people.

That's not strong and stable. It's
callous and calculating. Because the Tories calculated that making life worse
for millions in the name of austerity would pay for hefty tax handouts to
the rich and powerful.

Conference, your efforts in the election
campaign stopped the Tories in their tracks. The election result has already
delivered one Tory U-turn after another over some of their most damaging
policies. The cruel dementia tax was scrapped within three days of being
announced. Plans to bring back grammar schools have been ditched. The
threat to the pensions' triple lock abandoned. Withdrawal of Winter Fuel
payments dumped. The pledge to bring back fox hunting dropped. And their
plan to end free school meals in primary schools has been binned.

The reality is that barely three months
since the election this coalition of Conservative chaos is tearing up its
Manifesto and tearing itself apart. They are bereft of ideas and energy.
Indeed, they seem to be cherry-picking Labour policies instead, including on
Brexit.

I say to the Prime Minister: "You're
welcome. But go the whole hog end austerity, abolish tuition fees, scrap the
public sector pay cap. I think we can find a Commons majority for all of
that.
This is a weak and divided Government with no purpose beyond clinging to
power.

It is Labour that is now setting the
agenda and winning the arguments for a new common sense about
the direction our country should take.

Conference, there were two stars of our
election campaign. The first was our Manifesto that drew on the ideas of
our members and trade unionists and the hopes and aspirations of their
communities and workplaces. And we were clear about how we would pay for
it by asking the richest and the largest corporations to start paying their
fair share.

Not simply to redistribute within a
system that isn't delivering for most people but to transform that
system. So we set out not only how we would protect public services but
how we would rebuild and invest in our economy, with a publicly-owned engine

of sustainable growth, driven by national and regional investment banks, to generate good jobs and prosperity in every region and nation.

Our Manifesto is the programme of a modern, progressive socialist party that has rediscovered its roots and its purpose, bucking the trend across Europe.

And Conference, the other star of that campaign was YOU. Our members, our supporters in the trade unions, our doorstep and social media campaigners. Young people sharing messages and stories on social media, hundreds of thousands organising online and on the ground to outplay the Tories' big money machine.

Is it any wonder that here today in Brighton you represent the largest political party in western Europe, with nearly 600,000 members, alongside three million affiliated trade unionists, brimming with enthusiasm and confidence in the potential of our people. You are the future. And let me say straight away. I'm awed and humbled by everything you have done, along with hundreds of thousands of others across the country, to take us to where we are today.

I have never been more proud to be your elected leader. Our election campaign gave people strength. It brought millions on to the electoral register and inspired millions to go to vote for the first time.

And Labour was the Party of unity, bringing generations and communities together, rather than pitting young and old against each other, as the Tories did. We will never seek to squeeze one generation to support another. Under Labour, people will win together.

The result of our campaign confounded every expert and sceptic. I see John McDonnell said the 'grey beards' had got it all wrong. I'm not sure that's entirely fair, John? We wiped out the Tory majority, winning support in every social and age group and gaining seats in every region and nation of the country.

So please, Theresa May take another walking holiday and make another impetuous decision. The Labour campaign machine is primed and ready to roll.

Of course, there were some who didn't come out of the election too well. I'm thinking of some of our more traditional media friends. They ran the campaign they always do under orders from their tax

exile owners to trash Labour at every turn. The day before the election one paper devoted fourteen pages to attacking the Labour Party. And our vote went up nearly 10%.

Never have so many trees died in vain.
The British people saw right through it. So this is a message to the Daily Mail's editor- next time, please could you make it 28 pages?

But there's a serious message too, the campaign by the Tories and their loyal media was nasty and personal. It fuelled abuse online and no one was the target of that more than Diane Abbott. She has a decades-long record of campaigning for social justice and has suffered intolerable misogynistic and racist abuse. Faced with such an overwhelmingly hostile press and an army of social media trolls, it's even more important that we stand.

Yes we will disagree, but there can never be any excuse for any abuse of anybody. We settle our differences with democratic votes and unite around those decision.

That is the Labour Party, here this week, and out in the communities EVERY week -diverse, welcoming, democratic and ready to serve our country.

There is no bigger test in politics right now than Brexit, an incredibly important and complex process, that cannot be reduced to repeating fairy stories from the side of a bus or waiting 15 months to state the obvious. As democratic socialists, we accept and respect the referendum result, but respect for a democratic decision does not mean giving a green light to a reckless Tory Brexit agenda that would plunge Britain into a Trump-style race-to-the-bottom in rights and corporate taxes.

We are not going to be passive spectators to a hopelessly inept negotiating team putting at risk people's jobs, rights and living standards. A team more interested in posturing for personal advantage than in getting the best deal for our country. To be fair, Theresa May's speech in Florence last week did unite the cabinet for a few hours at least. Her plane had barely touched down at Heathrow before the divisions broke out again.

Never has the national interest been so ill-served on such a vital issue, If there were no other reason for the Tories to go their self-interested Brexit bungling would be reason enough. So I have a simple message to the cabinet for Britain's sake pull yourself together or make way.

One thing needs to be made clear

straight away. The three million EU citizens currently living and working in Britain are welcome here. They have been left under a cloud of insecurity by this government when their future could have been settled months ago. So Theresa May, give them the full guarantees they deserve today. If you don't, we will.

Since the referendum result our Brexit team has focused above all on our economic future. That future is now under real threat. A powerful faction in the Conservative leadership sees Brexit as their chance to create a tax haven on the shores of Europe a low-wage, low tax deregulated playground for the hedge funds and speculators. A few at the top would do very nicely, no question. But manufacturing industries would go to the wall taking skilled jobs with them our tax base would crumble our public services would be slashed still further.

We are now less than 18 months away from leaving the European Union. And so far, the Tory trio leading the talks have got nowhere and agreed next to nothing. This rag-tag Cabinet spends more time negotiating with each other than they do with the EU. A cliff-edge Brexit is at risk of becoming a reality. That is why Labour has made clear that Britain should stay within the basic terms of the single market and a customs union for a limited transition period. It is welcome at least that Theresa May has belatedly accepted that.

But beyond that transition, our task is a different one. It is to unite everyone in our country around a progressive vision of what Britain could be, but with a government that stands for the many not the few.

Labour is the only party that can bring together those who voted leave and those who backed remain and unite the country for a future beyond Brexi. What matters in the Brexit negotiations is to achieve a settlement that delivers jobs, rights and decent living standards.

Conference, the real divide over Brexit could not be . A shambolic Tory Brexit driving down standards .Or a Labour Brexit that puts jobs first a Brexit for the many, one that guarantees unimpeded access to the single market and establishes a new co-operative relationship with the EU.

A Brexit that uses powers returned from Brussels to support a new industrial strategy to upgrade our economy in every region and nation. One that puts our economy first not fake immigration targets that fan the flames of fear. We will never follow the Tories into the gutter of blaming migrants for the ills of society. It isn't migrants who drive down wages and conditions but the worst bosses in

collusion with a Conservative government that never misses a chance to attack trade unions and weaken people's rights at work.

Labour will take action to stop employers driving down pay and conditions not pander to scapegoating or racism. How Britain leaves the European Union is too important to be left to the Conservatives and their internal battles and identity crises.

Labour will hold Theresa May's squabbling ministers to account every step of the way in these talks. And, with our Brexit team of Keir Starmer, Emily Thornberry and Barry Gardiner we stand ready to take over whenever this government fails. to negotiate a new relationship with Europe that works for us all reaching out to help create a Europe for the many for the future.

The truth is ... That under the Tories Britain's future is at risk whatever the outcome of the Brexit process. Our economy no longer delivers secure housing secure well-paid jobs or rising living standards. There is a new common sense emerging about how the country should be run. That's what we fought for in the election and that's what's needed to replace the broken model forged by Margaret Thatcher many years ago.

And Ten years after the global financial crash the Tories still believe in the same dogmatic mantra – Deregulate, privatise ,cut taxes for the wealthy, weaken rights at work, delivering profits for a few, and debt for the many. Nothing has changed. It's as if we're stuck in a political and economic time-warp.

As the Financial Times put it last month our "financial system still looks a lot like the pre-crisis one" and the capitalist system still faces a "crisis of legitimacy", stemming from the crash.

Now is the time that government took a more active role in restructuring our economy. Now is the time that corporate boardrooms were held accountable for their actions, And now is the time that we developed a new model of economic management to replace the failed dogmas of neo-liberalism ... That is why Labour is looking not just to repair the damage done by austerity but to transform our economy with a new and dynamic role for the public sector particularly where the private sector has evidently failed.

Take the water industry. Of the nine water companies in England six are now owned by private equity or foreign sovereign wealth funds. Their profits are handed out in dividends to shareholders while the infrastructure crumbles the companies pay little or nothing in tax and executive pay has soared as the service deteriorates.

That is why we are committed to take back our utilities into public ownership to put them at the service of our people and our economy and stop the public being ripped off.

Of course there is much more that needs to be done. Our National Investment Bank... and the Transformation Fund will be harnessed to mobilise public investment to create wealth and good jobs.

When I've met business groups I've been frank we will invest in the education and skills of the workforce and we will invest in better infrastructure from energy to digital but we are going to ask big business to pay a bit more tax.

The Tory approach to the economy isn't entrepreneurial It's extractive. They're not focused on long-term investment and wealth creation. When you look at what they do rather than what they say it's all about driving down wages, services and standards ... to make as much money as quickly as possible with government not as the servant of the people but of global corporations. And their disregard for rampant inequality the hollowing out of our public services, the disdain for the powerless and the poor have made our society more brutal and less caring.

Now that degraded regime has a tragic monument the chilling wreckage of Grenfell Tower. A horrifying fire in which dozens perished an entirely avoidable human disaster. One which is an indictment not just of decades of failed housing policies and privatisation and the yawning inequality in one of the wealthiest boroughs and cities in the world, it is also a damning indictment of a whole outlook which values council tax refunds for the wealthy above decent provision for all and which has contempt for working class communities.

Before the fire, a tenants' group of Grenfell residents had warned ... and I quote words that should haunt all politicians "the Grenfell Action Group firmly believes that only a catastrophic event will expose the ineptitude and incompetence of our landlord". Grenfell is not just the result of bad political decisions It stands for a failed and broken system which Labour must and will replace.

The poet Ben Okri recently wrote in his poem "Grenfell Tower":

Those who were living now are dead

Those who were breathing are from the living earth fled

If you want to see how the poor die, come see Grenfell Tower.

See the tower, and let a world changing
dream flower.

We have a duty as a country to learn the
lessons from this calamity and ensure that a changed world flowers . I hope
that the public inquiry will assist. But a decent home is a right for
everyone
whatever their income or background. And houses should be homes for the many
not speculative investments for a few. Look at the Conservative housing
record
and you understand why Grenfell residents are sceptical about their
Conservative council and this Conservative government.

Since 2010: homelessness has doubled,
120,000 children don't have a home to call their own, home ownership has
fallen, thousands are living in homes unfit for human habitation. This is
why alongside our Shadow Housing minister John Healey we're launching a
review of social housing policy – its building, planning, regulation and
management.

We will listen to tenants across the
country and propose a radical programme of action to next year's
conference. But some things are already clear tenants are not
being listened to.

We will insist that every home is fit for
human habitation, a proposal this Tory government voted down. And we will
control rents – when the younger generation's housing costs are three
times more than those of their grandparents, that is not sustainable.

Rent controls exist in many cities across
the world and I want our cities to have those powers too and
tenants to have those protections. We also need to tax undeveloped land
held by developers and have the power to compulsorily purchase. As
Ed Miliband said, "Use it or lose it". Families need
homes.

After Grenfell we must think
again about what are called regeneration schemes.

Regeneration is a much abused
word.

Too often what it really
means is forced gentrification and social cleansing, as private developers
move
in and tenants and leaseholders are moved out.

We are very clear: we will stop the cuts to social security.

But we need to go further, as
conference decided yesterday.

So when councils come forward with proposals for regeneration, we will put down two markers based on one simple principle:

Regeneration under a Labour government will be for the benefit of the local people, not private developers, not property speculators.

First, people who live on an estate that's redeveloped must get a home on the same site and the same terms as before.

No social cleansing, no jacking up rents, no exorbitant ground rents.

And second councils will have to win a ballot of existing tenants and leaseholders before any redevelopment scheme can take place.

Real regeneration, yes, but for the many not the few.

That's not all that has to change.

All parties unite in paying tribute to our public sector workers:

The firefighters who ran into Grenfell Tower to save lives; the health service workers caring for the maimed in the Manchester terrorist outrage; the brave police officers who confronted the attackers at London Bridge; and PC Keith Palmer who gave his life when terrorists attack our democracy.

Our public servants make the difference every day, between a decent and a threadbare society.

Everyone praises them. But it is Labour that values them and is prepared to give them the pay rise they deserve and protect the services they provide.

Year after year the Tories have cut budgets and squeezed public sector pay, while cutting taxes for the highest earners and the big corporations.

You can't care for the nation's health when doctors and nurses are being asked to accept falling living standards year after year.

You can't
educate our children properly in ever larger class sizes with more teachers
than ever leaving the profession.

You can't
protect the public on the cheap.

The police
and security services must get the resources they need, not 20,000 police
cuts.

Scrapping
the public sector pay squeeze isn't an act of charity – it is a necessity to
keep our public services fully staffed and strong.

Not
everything worthwhile costs money though.

Like many people, I have been
moved by the Daily Mirror's campaign to change the organ donation law.

There are more than 5,000
people on organ transplant waiting lists, but a shortage of donors means that
in recent years only 3,500 of them get the life-saving treatments they need.

So that everybody whose life
could be saved by an organ transplant can have the gift of life – from one
human being to another.

The law has already been
changed in Wales under Carwyn Jones's leadership, and today I make the
commitment
a Labour government will do the same for England.

In the
last couple of days John McDonnell and Rebecca Long-Bailey have set out how
we
are going to develop the economic plans in our manifesto to ensure that
sustainable growth and good jobs reach ALL parts of the country.

So that no
community or region is held back.

To
establish regional development banks,. to invest in an industrial strategy
for
every region.

But the
challenges of the future go beyond the need to turn our backs on an economic
model that has failed to invest and upgrade our economy.

We need

urgently to face the challenge of automation – robotics that could make so much of contemporary work redundant.

That is a threat in the hands of the greedy, but it's a huge opportunity if it's managed in the interests of society as a whole.

We won't reap the full rewards of these great technological advances if they're monopolised to pile up profits for a few.

But if they're publicly managed – to share the benefits – they can be the gateway for a new settlement between work and leisure. A springboard for expanded creativity and culture.

The tide of automation and technological change means re-training and management of the workforce must be centre-stage in the coming years.

So Labour will build an education and training system from the cradle to the grave that empowers people.

Not one that shackles them with debt.

That's why we will establish a National Education Service which will include at its core free tuition for all college courses, technical and vocational training so that no one is held back by costs and everyone has the chance to learn.

That will give millions a fair chance.

Lifelong learning for all is essential in the economy of the future.

The huge shift of employment that will take place under the impact of automation must be planned and managed.

It demands the reskilling of millions of people. Only Labour will deliver that.

As Angela Rayner said yesterday, our National Education Service will be run on clear principles: universal, free and

empowering.

This is central to our socialism for the 21st century, for the many not the few.

During the election I visited Derwentside College in the constituency of our new MP Laura Pidcock – one of dozens of great new MPs breathing life and energy into Parliament.

They offer adult courses in everything from IT to beauty therapy, from engineering to childcare.

I met apprentice construction workers. They stand to benefit from Labour's £250 billion National Transformation Fund, building the homes people need and the new transport, energy and digital infrastructure our country needs.

But changing our economy to make it work for the whole country can't take place in isolation from changing how our country is run.

For people to take control of their own lives, our democracy needs to break out of Westminster into all parts of our society and economy where power is unaccountable.

All around the world democracy is facing twin threats:

One is the emergence of an authoritarian nationalism that is intolerant and belligerent.

The second is apparently more benign, but equally insidious.

It is that the big decisions should be left to the elite.

That political choices can only be marginal and that people are consumers first, and only citizens a distant second.

Democracy has to mean much more than that.

It must mean listening to people outside of election time. Not just the rich and powerful who are used to calling the shots, but to those at the sharp end who really know what's going on.

Like the Greater Manchester
police officer who warned Theresa May two years ago that cuts to
neighbourhood
policing were risking people's lives and security.

His concerns were dismissed
as "crying wolf".

Like the care workers sacked when they
blow the whistle on abuse of the elderly..

Or the teachers intimidated when they
speak out about the lack of funding for our children's schools.

Or the doctors who are ignored when they
warn that the NHS crumbling before our eyes, or blow the whistle on patient
safety.

Labour is fighting for a society not only
where rewards are more fairly spread, but where people are listened to more
as
well by government, their local council, their employer.

Some of the most shocking cases of people
not being listened to must surely be the recent revelations of widespread
child
sex abuse.

Young people – and most often young working
class women – have been subjected to the most repugnant abuse.

The response lies
in making sure that everybody's voice must be heard no matter who they are or
what their background.

The kind of democracy that we should be
aiming for is one where people have a continuing say in how society is run,
how
their workplace is run, how their local schools or hospitals are run.

That means increasing the public
accountability and democratization of local services that Andrew Gwynne was
talking about on Monday.

It means democratically accountable
public ownership for the natural monopolies, with new participatory forms of
management, as Rebecca Long-Bailey has been setting out.

It means employees given their voice at

work, with unions able to represent them properly, freed of undemocratic fetters on their right to organize.

I promised you two years ago that we would do politics differently.

It's not always been easy.

There's quite a few who prefer politics the old way.

But let me say it again. We will do politics differently.

And the vital word there is "we".

Not just leaders saying things are different, but everyone having the chance to shape our democracy.

Our rights as citizens are as important as our rights as consumers.

Power devolved to the community, not monopolised in Westminster and Whitehall.

Now let's take it a stage further – make public services accountable to communities.

Business accountable to the public, and politicians truly accountable to those we serve.

Let the next Labour government will transform Britain by genuinely putting power in the hands of the people, the creative, compassionate and committed people of our country.

Both at home and abroad, what underpins our politics is our compassion and our solidarity with people.

Including those now recovering from hurricane damage in the Caribbean, floods in South Asia and Texas. and earthquakes in Mexico.

Our interdependence as a planet could not be more obvious.

The environmental crisis in particular demands a common global response.

That is why President Trump's threats to withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Treaty are so alarming.

There is no contradiction between meeting our climate change commitments and investing to build a strong economy based on

high skill industries.

In fact the opposite is the case.

Action on climate change is a powerful spur to investment in the green industries and jobs of the future. So long as it is managed as part of a sustainable transition.

We know, tragically, that terrorism also recognises no boundaries.

We have had five shocking examples in Britain this year alone.

Two during the course of the General Election campaign and one in my own constituency.

Both Andy Burnham and Sadiq Khan – the mayors of Manchester and London – played a crucial role in bringing people together in the aftermath of those brutal attacks.

The targeting of our democracy, of teenage girls at a pop concert, of people enjoying a night out, worshippers outside a mosque, commuters going to work – all of these are horrific crimes.

And we all unite in both condemning the perpetrators and in our support for the emergency and security services, working to keep us safe.

But we also know that terrorism is thriving in a world our governments have helped to shape, with its failed states, military interventions and occupations where millions are forced to flee conflict or hunger.

We have to do better and swap the knee-jerk response of another bombing campaign for long-term help to solve conflicts rather than fuel them.

And we must put our values at the heart of our foreign policy.

Democracy and human rights are not an optional extra to be deployed selectively.

So we cannot be silent at the cruel Saudi war in Yemen, while continuing to supply arms to Saudi Arabia, or the crushing of democracy in Egypt or Bahrain, or the tragic loss of life in Congo.

And I say this today to Aung San Suu Kyi – a champion of democracy and human rights – : end the violence now against the Rohingya in Myanmar and allow the UN and international aid agencies in to

Rakhine state.

The Rohingya have suffered for too long!

We should stand firm for peaceful solutions to international crises.

Let's tone down the rhetoric, and back dialogue and negotiations to wind down the deeply dangerous confrontation over the Korean Peninsula.

And I appeal to the UN secretary general, Antonio Guterres to use the authority of his office and go to Washington and Pyongyang to kick start that essential process of dialogue.

And let's give real support to end the oppression of the Palestinian people, the 50-year occupation and illegal settlement expansion and move to a genuine two-state solution of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Britain's voice needs to be heard independently in the world.

We must be a candid friend to the United States, now more than ever.

The values we share are not served by building walls, banning immigrants on the basis of religion, polluting the planet, or pandering to racism.

And let me say frankly – the speech made by the US President to the United Nations last week was deeply disturbing.

It threatened war and talked of tearing up international agreements.

Devoid of concern for human rights or universal values, it was not the speech of a world leader.

Our government has a responsibility. It cannot meekly go along with this dangerous course.

If the special relationship means anything, it must mean that we can say to Washington: that way is the wrong way.

That's clearly what's needed in the case of Bombardier where thousands of jobs are now at stake.

A Prime Minister betting our economic future on a deregulated trade deal with the US might want to explain how 220% tariffs are going to boost our exports.

So let Britain's voice be heard loud and clear for peace, justice and cooperation.

Conference,
it is often said that elections can only be won from the centre ground.

And in a way that's not wrong – so long as it's clear that the political centre of gravity isn't fixed or unmovable, nor is it where the establishment pundits like to think it is.

It shifts
as people's expectations and experiences change and political space is opened up.

Today's
centre ground is certainly not where it was twenty or thirty years ago.

A new
consensus is emerging from the great economic crash and the years of austerity,
when people started to find political voice for their hopes for something different and better.

2017 may
be the year when politics finally caught up with the crash of 2008 – because we
offered people a clear choice.

We need to
build a still broader consensus around the priorities we set in the election,
making the case for both compassion and collective aspiration.

This is
the real centre of gravity of British politics.

We are now
the political mainstream.

Our
manifesto and our policies are popular because that is what most people in our
country actually want, not what they're told they should want.

And that
is why Labour is on the way back in Scotland becoming once again the champion
of social justice.

Thank you
Kezia. And whoever next leads Scottish Labour – our unifying socialist
message
will continue to inspire both south and north of the border.

That is
why our party now has around twice the membership of all the other parties
put
together.

Conference,
we have left the status quo behind, but we must make the change we seek
credible and effective.

We have
left our own divisions behind. But we must make our unity practical. We know
we
are campaign-ready.

We must be
government-ready too. Our aspirations matched by our competence.

During the
election campaign I met and listened to people in every part of the country.

Struggling
single parents, young people held back by lack of opportunity.

Pensioners
anxious about health and social care, public servants trying to keep services
together.

Low and
middle earners, self-employed and employed, facing insecurity and squeezed
living standards.

But
hopeful that things could change, and that Labour could make a difference.

Many
hadn't voted before, or not for years past.

But they
put their faith in our party.

We offered
an antidote to apathy and despair.

Let
everyone understand – We will not let you down.

Because we
listen to you, because we believe in
you.

Labour can
and will deliver a Britain for the many not just the few.

Thank you.

Tom Watson speech to Labour Party Conference

Tom Watson MP, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton today, said:

*****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*****

Conference, thank you for being here. Thanks for your enthusiasm, for your passion, for all your hard work on behalf of the Labour Party, on behalf of our country. I'm grateful to every one of you.

Last week, the Prime Minister made yet another speech to reboot, yet again, her Brexit strategy. She chose to deliver this latest oration in the great city of Florence, though no-one seems to know why. For politicians, Florence, even more than the city of Dante, the Medicis and Michelangelo, is the city of Niccolo Machiavelli.

I can only assume Michael Gove picked the venue. Michael Gove, who undermined his own Tory leadership bid last year, by admitting he doesn't have the right skills to be Prime Minister. For once in his life, he was right. Trouble is, none of the rest of them do either.

So now he's back. Machiavelli's famous advice was that it's better to be feared than to be loved. This mantra runs as deep in the Tory Party as blue through a stick of Brighton rock. Fear is how they win. Fear is how they govern.

It's fear of strangers behind this Government's callous treatment of EU citizens living here. It's with the peddled fear of economic ruin that they justify their cruelty to our nurses and teachers, our armed forces and our police officers. It's with fear that they hammer our poorest and most vulnerable, while turning a blind eye to their plutocrat friends.

I'm going to be honest with you, Conference: fear is a powerful force. It won the Conservative Party elections in 2010 and in 2015. But this year, something magical happened. The spell has been broken. Jeremy told this country that we don't need to be afraid. That another way is possible. That living in fear is not inevitable: we can choose to live in love and hope instead.

And this country, our great country, began to throw off the shackles.

Mrs May, the Tory Party was never loved. But you were happy to be feared. It worked for you. Well not any more. 15 months in, you still seem as dazed as on day one. Caught between your enemies and, even worse, your friends.

Caught in the headlights. Living on Boris time.

As Shadow Culture Secretary, I've got one of the best jobs there is. When I get invited to the theatre or to the cinema or, yes, to Glastonbury, I get to say I'm only there for work. And one of the most surreal moments of my political life happened to me late at night, in a field, surrounded by people much younger and far more stylish than me.

I realised something as the crowd at Glastonbury's silent disco began to sing:

"Oh, Jeremy Corbyn...." And as they sang, I realised it's actually better to be loved than to be feared. And Jeremy has shown us that it's possible.

Thank you Jeremy.

There are some serious bits to my job, too, though. It's not all music festivals and opening nights. Digital, culture, media and sport are key battlegrounds in our fight against fear and despair.

And alongside me in those battles I have the best Shadow DCMS team you could want: Kevin Brennan, my deputy, Rosena Allin-Khan, Liam Byrne, Steve Reed, Ruth Smeeth and Wilf Stevenson.

And we've recently lost Louise Haigh, the finest mind of her generation, who was rightly promoted to join Diane's team in the shadow Home Office.

And we have a leader in Jeremy who stamped his leadership on culture policy when the two of us launched our innovative culture manifesto in Hull – deservedly the UK City of Culture.

What a great job they've done this year. An early priority for our DCMS team in Government will be to finally confront

problem gambling. Of course, gambling isn't risk free. Even bets you think are absolute certainties can end up costing you a lot. Just ask Theresa May.

That was a joke, by the way, but it's a serious problem. The damage to the families of gambling addicts can be terrible. Yet some gambling firms, driven by greed, are deliberately targeting our poorest communities. We now know that when vulnerable people try to opt out of online gambling, companies don't always block their accounts as they should.

Gambling companies are even harvesting data to deliberately target low-income gamblers and people who've given up.

As Mike Dixon, boss of mental health charity Addaction says, "gambling addiction tears lives and families apart. It's outrageous that an industry with a £13bn revenue contributes less than £10m to treatment".

Well Mike, I can tell you that a Labour Government will introduce a compulsory levy.

Can you imagine the uproar if the drinks industry started targeting Alcoholics Anonymous by selling drink outside AA meetings? We wouldn't tolerate that – and we shouldn't tolerate the same kind of behavior by some bookmakers. And addicts must be given the help they need. Gambling addiction is an illness and it's about time it was taken seriously.

So I can announce today that, together with Jonathan Ashworth, our shadow Health Secretary, I'm launching a thorough review of gambling addiction in this country and current provision for treatment on the NHS. Jon Ashworth, by the way: what a sparkling star of Labour's front bench. He's going to be an outstanding Health Secretary in the next Labour Government.

Our review will look at how best to fund NHS treatment and help free problem gamblers from the destructive cycle of addiction. My message to gambling firms today is clear: stop targeting vulnerable people. Start acting properly. And meet your obligation to help those whose lives have been blighted by addiction.

You can do it now, because it's the right thing to do. Or you can wait for the next Labour Government to do it for you.

Oh and by the way, the same applies to the organisations that run football in this country. If you won't ban football clubs from signing shirt sponsorship deals with betting companies – Labour will.

Conference, as I said, I know how lucky I am. I love my job. Serving my constituents in West Bromwich, serving the Party, serving each of you as Deputy Leader. There's no better job – perhaps that's why so many

people
want to do it.

But I know not everyone's as lucky as me. More and more are being left behind by an economy that serves the few, not the many.

And the world's changing in ways we can't continue to ignore: the labour market's polarising. Today's choice for too many young people is precarious employment or no employment, a zero hours contract or no contract, shabby, dangerous, soul-destroying work, or no work at all.

Income inequality in Britain is amongst the highest in the developed world. Inequality between those with fulfilment and security in work, and those without it is growing too.

This is a stain on our country. But the Tories just shrug their shoulders and say there's no alternative.

Just like they did on low pay, before our party introduced the minimum wage. Just like they did on maternity rights, before we secured them. Just like they did on healthcare, before we created the NHS to treat the many, not just the few.

And the Tories are still doing it now. Transport for London has told Uber it has to follow the same rules as everyone else. Nothing more. That it can run its mini-cab service, as long as they respect our rules. Treat your customers with respect and keep them safe, like everyone else has to. And then you'll be welcome to make money in London.

Uber, you're becoming the perfect picture of how the future gig economy must *not* look. You may think you're immune because your friends in the Tory party run Britain and its newspapers. You know the Tories don't care about level playing fields and orderly markets. They don't care about consumer protection. They certainly don't care about workers' rights. But they don't run London – and that's where you make your money.

And, mark my words, they won't be running Britain for much longer. Conservatives don't have the imagination to embrace change. They never have. Theresa May summed it up in her now infamous line from the election:

"Nothing has changed.

Nothing. Has. Changed."

So: no lessons learned. No message received. It's the same old

Tories. No end to austerity. No change for public servants who deserve a pay rise.

No change for the millions who desperately need something different. The truth

is, the Tories don't really want to change things.

But Labour does. And when Jeremy forms the next Government, Labour will. A time for change is upon us. The old fear is gone. We're ready for bold,

transformative reform, hungry for it.

That's what Labour's campaign showed – as hundreds of thousands knocked on doors, went to rallies, got out the vote and delivered stunning Labour victories in Tory strongholds like Canterbury. Like Kensington.

This year's election showed that real change is possible. We can and we will form a radical Government which does things differently.

We have the imagination; we have the drive; we have the momentum.

The fight is so important. Not just because we need to undo the damage of all these years of Tory rule. But because fresh challenges lie ahead.

On the horizon – in sight, in the next few years – automation and artificial intelligence threatening jobs and wages on a scale the world has never

seen. Digital platforms making access to work much more direct and immediate. But the quality of that work, the safeguards, the wages, the pensions – too often these are cast aside, disguised as innovation.

Whereas Labour believes that secure, high-quality work should be available to every adult who wants it. And in order to get it, in the digital age, the successful worker will need to be a creative worker. It's the job of Government to make that happen. And that starts with education.

In an age when every child has access to all the knowledge that has ever existed on a device that fits in the palm of their hand, just teaching

them to memorise thousands of facts is missing the point. Michael Gove's curriculum reforms were a useless return to the past – obsessed by what children can remember, instead of how they use the knowledge they have.

We don't yet know what the jobs of the future will be, so we've got to teach children not just what

to learn but how to learn. And

how to be. Self-awareness, emotional

intelligence, social skills, creativity and collaborative learning.

Transferable skills they can adapt as the new world swirls around them.

Great schools are places of imagination, inspiration, love. They help our young people become great humans, constantly adjusting in a continually changing world. Such schools are as powerful as the creative imaginations they nurture. They're fabulous places. And, let's be clear, they

do exist.

But let's be equally clear that they exist in spite of Michael Gove, Nicky Morgan and Justine Greening, and all the other names of Tory shame. If it was left up to them, our children would be totally ill equipped for the economy of now – let alone the economy of the future.

Whereas Angela Rayner, our fantastic Shadow Education Secretary, will lead an education system that prepares our young people for a world we can't yet see.

Angie's talked about how a Labour Government helped her grow from teenage mom into Shadow Minister. Our education system failed her at first, but when she's running it, she won't let it fail the next generation. We're all so proud of her. So proud of what she's going to do.

The next Labour Government will educate and train a nation of workers that are the most creative and adaptive on the planet. We'll give working people the tools to use technology to enhance their lives, rather than restricting them to a digital elite.

The digital economy succeeds only when it gives each of us the means to realise our true potential. Which doesn't stop in our schools. It must be threaded throughout our economy, throughout our lives.

So let's extend employment rights to all workers in the gig economy – the self-employed, agency workers and contractors as well as the traditionally employed. Let's stop dancing on the head of a legalistic pin about when is a job not a job and when is self-employed not really self-employed. It's a fake fight which big business always wins and Tory governments love to hide behind.

So let's put an end to all that and just give rights to people. Yes, in one of the richest countries in the world in the 21st century, let's just make basic employment rights non-negotiable in all circumstances and give them to everybody.

Anybody tells you it can't be done, it's because they don't want to do it. They said it about the minimum wage. They said it about maternity rights. They said it about the NHS. Don't let them frighten you out of the rights you deserve.

We need to revolutionise our trade unions for the digital age, finding new ways to build solidarity and collectivism.

And let's not forget social enterprises: community-focused,

people-oriented companies, that have thrived since the recession and will be vital to unlocking the future.

At last year's Conference, I announced an independent commission to look at the future of work. It will be reporting shortly, having done a tremendous job, and I'd like to thank the chair, Helen Mountfield, and all the Commissioners.

This year, Conference, together, we rewrote the rules of politics. We overcame fear and we took the country with us. Using new digital platforms, instead of our biased media, we talked straight to the people and they heard our message.

In contrast, last September Theresa May had a secret meeting with Rupert Murdoch in New York. Nine months later, at the election, Murdoch's papers did their best to start a Tory landslide. They threw the kitchen sink at Jeremy. But this time the dirty tricks didn't work. This time it was not the Sun wot won it.

And let me tell you, Conference: it never will be the Sun wot won it again.

Winding up my speech last year, I predicted an early election. In which, I also said, we're going to give the Tories the surprise of their lives. Well conference, we did it.

Jeremy, you did it. So this year I'm going to go out on another limb.

Yes, there's hard work to do and no, we mustn't be complacent, but Jeremy Corbyn has broken the spell of fear the Tories sought to cast on this country. He has helped us all to remember that politics should be about inspiring hope, not peddling despair. He has shown us again what a real alternative to Toryism looks like and what it can achieve.

And because of that, I tell you, Conference, Jeremy Corbyn will be our next Prime Minister.

And in ten or twelve years' time, this Conference will be celebrating the achievements of two transformative terms of Labour government:

Abolishing tuition fees and reintroducing the education maintenance allowance;

Taking back our utilities into social ownership;

Re-nationalising our railways;

A £10/hour real living wage, and rising;

Hundreds of thousands of new council houses;

Waiting

lists down by at least a million and A&E waiting times back to 4 hours;

No

more Tory hospital closures;

Freezing

the state pension age;

Free

school meals for all primary school children and smaller class sizes;

Banning

zero hours contracts and giving all workers full and equal rights from day one.

That's what a Labour Government

looks like. That's what we do.

That's who we are.

Politics now is a fight between those who want to be feared and those who're not frightened to love. Britain's run out of patience with the tin-pot Machiavellis. Boris Johnson, Michael Gove, Liam Fox and the rest of you: your time is up.

This country is ready for change. Ready to throw off the shackles, to turn back the tide; ready to do the right thing and to do the thing right. In place of fear, love.

Conference, Britain is ready for Labour.

Love wins and so will we.

Thank

you.

ends

[Barbara Keeley speech to Labour Party Conference](#)

Barbara

Keeley MP, Shadow Cabinet Member for Mental Health and Social Care, speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton today, said:

*****CHECK
AGAINST DELIVERY*****

Conference,

It is an honour to close this debate as Labour's Shadow Cabinet Member for Mental Health and Social Care

I am proud to have this role in a Labour party that understands how vital Mental Health and Social Care services are. And that makes protecting these services a major priority.

And it's even more important when we see the crisis the Tory Government has created in both social care and mental health. A crisis made in Downing Street

They are failing people across the country, failing those who need care and their families, failing unpaid family carers and failing hundreds of thousands of care workers.

People are now going without the care they need. Nearly half a million fewer people getting publicly-funded care since the Tories came to office. Over a million older people with unmet care needs, many of them isolated and lonely

But this Tory Government isn't just failing social care users, it's failing their families too. With hundreds of thousands of unpaid family carers struggling to balance work and care. It's failing hundreds of thousands of care staff, because under the Tories too often they are under-paid, under-trained and under-valued.

Caring staff who are forced to work on zero-hours contracts, denied pay for travel time, underpaid for sleep-in shifts, with care visits of just 15-minutes. Prevented from giving the quality of care which people deserve

And the Tory Government is failing children and young people in need of mental health services, denied treatment due to Tory cuts. Young people told they are not thin enough to be treated for an eating disorder. Children who have self-harmed being turned away unless they have made a serious suicide attempt.

And thousands of people in mental health crisis being sent hundreds of miles from their families just to get the treatment they need. Mental health services for young people that are now so poor, a High Court Judge had to tell Jeremy Hunt that this country: would have "blood on its hands" if suitable care could not be found for a suicidal teenage girl.

Conference, it's time for us
in the Labour Party to say that this is not good enough.

Not good enough that care
quality has fallen, with one in four services now failing on safety grounds.

Not good enough that
thousands of vulnerable people are stuck in hospital for weeks or months,
because there is no care for them at home or no place in a care home.

Not good enough that last
winter the British Red Cross talked of a humanitarian crisis that saw people
sent home from hospital without clothes, people falling and not being found
for
days, people going unwashed because there are no care services to help them
to
wash.

This Social Care Crisis was
made in Downing Street. A crisis made by a Tory Government cutting billions
of
pounds from council budgets. And by Tory Ministers failing to find the extra
funding needed for social care

And then during the Snap
General Election, Theresa May announced her solution to the crisis would be a
new tax on care. Dubbed the "Dementia Tax", hitting people who need care even
harder. Making people use the value of their homes to pay for their own home
care

Such a failing and toxic
policy that Theresa May announced a U-turn on it within 4 days. And then the
Tories quietly dumped their policy. But in its place, the Tories now have
nothing to say on the future funding of social care. They just promise a
consultation
and a Green Paper.

And on the crisis in mental
health for children and young people, they also promise only a Green Paper.

Conference, Labour will fill
the Tory policy vacuum. We will show that we are the party that values social
care and mental health. At the election, we pledged an extra £8 billion for
social care in this Parliament, with an extra £1 billion this year to deal
with
the Tory crisis.

This would have delivered:
paying a real living wage to care staff, paying them travel time and letting
them choose regular hours; finally ending inadequate 15-minute care visits
and
ensuring free end of life care.

And Conference, Labour believes funding must be found to pay care staff properly for sleep-in shifts.

And Labour will support family carers. We have pledged to increase the carers allowance for unpaid carers to at least the same rates as Jobseeker's Allowance. A small first step to recognise the value of the work of unpaid family carers.

And Conference, a Labour Government will build a National Care Service. A service in which we pool the risk of high care costs, so that no-one is faced with catastrophic costs as they are now.

In its first years, our National Care Service will receive an extra £3 billion in public funds every year. Enough to place a cap on what individuals have to pay towards care. Enough to raise the asset threshold for paying for care. Enough to provide free end of life care

To act on our pledge, we will invite an independent, expert panel to advise us on how we move from the current broken system of care to a sustainable service for the long term.

In mental health, we will increase the amount we spend on services for children and young people. We will ring-fence mental health budget,s so that money isn't siphoned off by other parts of the NHS. We will bring an early end to patients being sent hundreds of miles for mental health treatment. And we will offer school-based counselling for young people in every one of our high schools.

Conference, under the Tories we have seen years of neglect of care needs. Neglect of older people. Of younger people. Of vulnerable disabled people.

This Tory Government has no solution to the problems it has created. Only Labour will end this crisis made in Downing Street. Only Labour will bring hope to those in need of care and those who care for them

And only Labour will build care services fit for the many. Not the few.

[Jonathan Ashworth speech to Labour Party Conference](#)

Jonathan Ashworth MP, Shadow Secretary of

State for Health, speaking at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton today, said:

*****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*****

It is a tremendous privilege to speak from this platform, humbled in the knowledge that it was this Conference over 80 years ago that demanded public universal healthcare.

And this Party, almost 70 years ago, established a National Health Service, free at the point of use covering every man, woman and child in the land.

So today we renew our commitment to that cause and dedicate ourselves to electing a Jeremy Corbyn Labour Government whose mission will be the rebuilding of a comprehensive, reintegrated, public NHS, free at the point of use, there for all who need it.

And we must also speak out with a sense of urgency about what is happening to our NHS. In the past year: waiting lists topped 4 million and 2.5 million people waited over four hours in A&E; over the winter, patients crammed on trolleys in corridors; ambulances backed up outside overflowing hospitals.

And the nation left shocked by a little boy, with suspected meningitis, waiting 5 hours in A&E without a bed, forced to lie on two plastic chairs. Some called it a humanitarian crisis. When you underfund the NHS and slash billions from social care let's call it what it is, a Tory manufactured crisis.

A crisis where waiting lists are so lengthy, more and more patients feel they have no option but to pay for a surgeon to come to their bedside, while the rest wait longer and longer.

Friends, a person's health should never depend on their individual wealth.

So a Labour Government would allocate an extra £45 billion for our NHS and social care sector. And to avoid another winter like the one we've just had, we would establish a half billion pound emergency winter fund, so that patients and their families never suffer like that again.

And we will invest in general practice too, and start recruiting so everyone can access a GP when they need one.

Don't let anyone tell you we cannot afford to invest in the NHS. If our forebears were able to marshal their resources to create our

NHS in 1948, then we owe it to their endeavour 70 years later, to give our NHS the funding it needs today.

This is the leadership Jeremy Hunt should be showing. Instead he ordered hospital bosses to a summit last week where they were instructed to chant 'we can do this' The NHS doesn't need silly Jeremy Hunt gimmicks; it needs a Jeremy Corbyn Labour Government.

I will be a Health Secretary, who will work closely with NHS staff.

So let us send a message to the staff of the NHS, who work day in day out, at weekends too, whose hands deliver us into the world, who comfort us in our final moments, you have our gratitude, our backing and you have our commitment that a Labour Government will tackle vacancies, will bring back bursaries and scrap the pay cap to deliver fair pay for you all.

To those who come to our shores from the EU and beyond, we say you are welcome, your rights will be secured, you are not bargaining chips, but part of our society and of the fabric of our NHS.

Our NHS is undermined by millions of pounds wasted on endless tendering of services to private providers. It is patient care that suffers.

Let me give a quick example, an ambulance contract here in Sussex handed to a private company who didn't own any ambulances so they sub-contracted to 20 other companies. Two ceased trading, and ambulance drivers couldn't be paid. Thankfully the contract was taken back off private hands.

I had the privilege of meeting those ambulance drivers recently. They continued taking patients to appointments for 8 weeks without pay. Doesn't that show public service is about a greater calling, is about compassion, care and public duty, not contracts, markets and commercialisation.

So a Labour Government will legislate to reinstate the Secretary of State's duty to provide universal care, we'll reintegrate the NHS, reverse the Health and Social Care Act, fight fire sales of hospital assets and end Tory privatisation.

Cutting beds, closing services and rationing treatments because of underfunding is not sustainable transformation. So we would stop the STPs and integrate health and social care.

I also want a new approach to public health that protects people's wellbeing for years to come.

To prevent disease, to reduce the toll from cancer, stroke and diabetes it's time to start tackling the causes of ill health too. We need to end the dismantling of our public health services, we need to tackle social isolation, build decent homes and improve the quality of the air we breathe.

We have seen an increase in hospital admissions for malnutrition, and a stalling in the improvement in life expectancy for the first time in 100 years. We know a child born into poverty is likely to suffer far worse health outcomes in life.

It was once said "there can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". This Party has long been committed to abolishing child poverty, so I can tell you today that the next Labour Government will commit to an all-out assault on child ill health too.

No longer will we let squalor impair the health of our children.

We'll recruit more health visitors for our communities. We'll invest in dentistry and, to tackle child obesity, we'll give every infant a free school meal and ban junk food advertising on family night-time television.

And we'll end the disgraceful cuts to child and adolescent mental health budgets, end the scandal of children being treated on adult wards, and finally deliver true parity of esteem.

I want to mention one other area. This year £43 million will be slashed from alcohol and drug addiction treatment services. Recently, I chose to speak out very personally about my own circumstances, growing up with a dad who had a drink problem. He was an alcoholic.

His drinking hung over my childhood with the fridge empty other than bottles of drink. His drinking became so bad in his final years he couldn't bring himself to come to my wedding because he felt too embarrassed.

I tell this story not for your indulgence or sympathy. But because 2 million children grow up with an alcoholic parent, 335,000 children grow up with a parent with drug abuse issues.

So as part of our assault on child ill health, I will put in place the first ever national strategy to support children of

alcoholics

and drug users and we'll invest in addiction treatment and prevention as well.

So conference, a

fully funded public National Health Service; fair pay for our staff; an end to

Tory privatisation; an assault on health inequalities. The very best quality of

care for all, free at the point of use, there when you need it.

This is what we

strive for. We settle for nothing less. It's the demand of a civilised society.

So today we pledge ourselves to united effort: and

resolve that the next Labour Government will rebuild our NHS.

ends

[Author Naomi Klein speech to Labour Party Conference](#)

Author

Naomi Klein, speaking

at Labour Party Conference, said:

*****CHECK**

AGAINST DELIVERY***

Thank you

Kate for that lovely introduction and all the work that you do to put social justice on the world agenda.

It's been

such a privilege to be part of this historic convention. To feel its energy and optimism.

Because

friends, it's bleak out there. How do I begin to describe a world upside down?

From heads of state tweeting threats of nuclear annihilation, to whole regions

rocked by climate chaos, to thousands of migrants drowning off the coasts of Europe, to openly racist parties gaining ground, most recently and alarmingly

in Germany.

Most days

there is simply too much to take in. So I want to start with an example that might seem small against such a vast backdrop. The Caribbean and Southern United States are in the midst of an unprecedented hurricane season: pounded by storm after record-breaking storm.

As we

meet, Puerto Rico – hit by Irma, then Maria – is without power and could be for months. It's water and communication systems are also severely compromised. Three and half million US citizens on that island are in desperate need of their government's help.

But just like

during Hurricane Katrina, the cavalry is missing in action. Donald Trump is too busy trying to get Black athletes fired – smearing them for daring to shine a spotlight on racist violence.

Amazingly

a real federal aid package for Puerto Rico has not yet been announced.

By some

reports, more money has been spent securing presidential trips to Mar-a-Lago.

As if all

this weren't enough, the vultures are now buzzing. The business press is filled with articles about how the only way for Puerto Rico to get the lights back on is to sell off its electricity utility. Maybe its roads and bridges too.

This is a

phenomenon I have called The Shock Doctrine – the exploitation of wrenching crises to smuggle through policies that devour the public sphere and further enrich a small elite.

We see

this dismal cycle repeat again and again. We saw it after the 2008 financial crash. We are already seeing it in how the Tories are planning to exploit Brexit to push through disastrous pro-corporate trade deals without debate.

The

reason I am highlighting Puerto Rico is because the situation is so urgent.

But

also because it's a microcosm of a much larger global crisis, one that contains many of the same overlapping elements: accelerating climate chaos; militarism; histories

of colonialism; a weak and neglected public sphere; a totally dysfunctional democracy.

And
overlaying it all: the seemingly bottomless capacity to discount the lives of huge numbers of Black and brown people.

Ours is
an age when it is impossible to pry one crisis apart from all the others. They
have all merged, reinforcing and deepening each other.... like one shambling, multi-headed beast.

I think
it's helpful to think of the current US president in much the same way.

It's
tough to know how to adequately sum him up. So let me try a local example.

You know
that horrible thing currently clogging up the London sewers. I believe you call
it the fatberg?

Well
Trump, he's the political equivalent of that.

A merger
of all that is noxious in the culture, economy and body politic, all kind of glommed together in a self-adhesive mass. And we're finding it very, very hard
to dislodge.

It gets
so grim that we have to laugh. But make no mistake: whether it's climate change
or the nuclear threat, Trump represents a crisis that could echo through geologic time.

But here
is my message to you today:

Moments
of crisis do not have to go the Shock Doctrine route – they do not need to become
opportunities for the already obscenely wealthy to grab still more.

They can
also go the opposite way.

They can
be moments when we find our best selves.... when we locate reserves of strength and focus we never knew we had.

We see it
at the grassroots level every time disaster strikes.

We all
witnessed it in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower catastrophe.

When the
people responsible were MIA..... the community came together..... Held one
another in their care, organized the donations and advocated for the living –
and for the dead.

And they
are doing it still, more than 100 days after the fire.

When
there is still no justice and, scandalously, only a handful of survivors have
been rehoused.

And it's
not only at the grassroots level that we see disaster awaken something
remarkable in us.

There is
also a long and proud history of crises sparking progressive transformation
on
a society-wide scale.

Think of
the victories won by working people for social housing and old age pensions
during the Great Depression.... Or for the NHS after the horrors of the Second
World War.

This
should remind us that moments of great crisis and peril do not necessarily
need
to knock us backwards.

They can
also catapult us forward.

Our
progressive ancestors achieved that at key moments in history, in your
country
and in mine.

And we
can do it again – in this moment when everything is on the line.

But what
we know from the Great Depression and the post-war period, is that we never
win
these transformative victories by simply resisting.... by simply saying “no”
to the latest outrage.

To win in
a moment of true crisis, we also need a bold and forward-looking “yes”
– a plan
for how to rebuild and respond to the underlying causes.

And that
plan needs to be convincing, credible and, most of all, captivating.

We have
to help a weary and wary public to imagine itself into that better world.

And that
is why I am so honoured to be standing with you today.

With the
transformed Labour Party in 2017.

And with
the next Prime Minister of Britain,

Jeremy
Corbyn.

Because
in the last election, that’s exactly what you did.

Theresa
May ran a cynical campaign based on exploiting fear and shock to grab more
power for herself – first the fear of a bad Brexit deal, then the fear
following the horrific terror attacks in Manchester and London.

Your
party and your leader responded by focusing on root causes: a failed “war on
terror”... economic inequality and weakened democracy.

But you
did more than that.

You
presented voters with a bold and detailed Manifesto.

One that
laid out a plan for millions of people to have tangibly better lives:

free
tuition,

fully
funded health care,

aggressive
climate action.

After decades
of lowered expectations and asphyxiated political imagination, finally voters
had something hopeful and exciting to say “yes” to.

And so
many of them did just that, upending the projections of the entire expert
class.

You
proved that the era of triangulation and tinkering is over.

The
public is hungry for deep change – they are crying out for it.

The
trouble is, in far too many countries, it’s only the far right that is
offering
it, or seeming to, with that toxic combination of fake economic populism and
very real racism.

You
showed us another way.

One that
speaks the language of decency and fairness, that names the true forces most
responsible for this mess – no matter how powerful.

And that
is unafraid of some of the ideas we were told were gone for good.

Like
wealth redistribution.

And
nationalising essential public services.

Now,
thanks to all of your boldness, we know that this isn’t just a moral
strategy.

It’s a
winning strategy.

It fires up
the base, and it activates constituencies that long ago stopped voting
altogether.

If you
can keep doing that between now and the next election, you will be
unbeatable.

You
showed us something else in the last election too, and it’s just as

important.

You showed that political parties don't need to fear the creativity and independence of social movements – and social movements, likewise, have a huge amount to gain from engaging with electoral politics.

That's a very big deal.

Because let's be honest: political parties tend to be a bit freakish about control.

And real grassroots movements... we cherish our independence – and we're pretty much impossible to control.

But what we are seeing with the remarkable relationship between Labour and Momentum, and with other wonderful campaign organizations, is that it is possible to combine the best of both worlds.

If we listen and learn from each other, we can create a force that is both stronger and more nimble than anything either parties or movements can pull off on their own.

I want you to know that what you have done here is reverberating around the world – so many of us are watching your ongoing experiment in this new kind of politics with rapt attention.

And of course what happened here is itself part of a global phenomenon.

It's a wave led by young people who came into adulthood just as the global financial system was collapsing and just as climate disruption was banging down the door.

Many come out of social movements like Occupy Wall Street, and Spain's Indignados.

They began by saying no – to austerity, to bank

bailouts,

to
fracking and pipelines.

But they
came to understand that the biggest challenge is overcoming the way
neoliberalism
has waged war on our collective imagination, on our ability to truly believe
in
anything outside of its bleak borders.

And so
these movements started to dream together, laying out bold and different
visions of the future... and credible pathways out of crisis.

And most
importantly they began engaging with political parties, to try to win power.

We saw it
in Bernie Sanders' historic campaign in the US primaries... which was powered
by millennials who know that safe centrist politics offers them no kind of
safe
future.

By the
way... Bernie, is the most popular politician in the United States today.

We see
something similar with Spain's still-young Podemos party, which built in the
power of mass movements from Day One.

In all of
these cases, electoral campaigns caught fire with stunning speed.

And they
got close to taking power – closer than any genuinely transformative
political
program has in either Europe or North America in my lifetime.

But
still, in each case, not close enough.

So in
this time between elections, it's worth thinking about how to make absolutely
sure that next time, all of our movements go all the way.

A big
part of the answer is: Keeping it up.

Keep
building that yes.

But take
it even further.

Outside
the heat of a campaign, there is more time to deepen the relationships
between
issues and movements, so that our solutions address multiple crises at once.

In all of
our countries, we can and must do more to connect the dots between economic
injustice, racial injustice and gender injustice.

We need
to understand and explain how all of those ugly systems that place one group
in
a position of dominance over another – based on skin colour, religious faith,
gender and sexual orientation – consistently serve the interests of power and
money and always have.

They do
it by keeping us divided.

And
keeping themselves protected.

And we
have to do more to keep it front of mind... that we are in a state of climate
emergency... the roots of which are found
in the same system of bottomless greed that underlies our economic emergency.

But
states of emergency, let's recall, can be catalysts for deep progressive
victories.

So let's
draw out the connections between the gig economy – that treats human beings
like a raw resource from which to extract wealth and then discard – and the dig
economy, in which the extractive companies treats the Earth in precisely the
same careless way.

And let's
show exactly how we can move from that gig and dig economy to a society based
on principles of care – caring for the planet and for one another. Where the
work of our caregivers and of our land and water protectors, is respected and
valued. A world where no one and nowhere is thrown away – whether in fire-
trap
housing estates or on hurricane-ravaged islands.

I applaud
the clear stand Labour has taken against fracking and for clean energy. Now
we
need to up our ambition and show exactly how battling climate change is a

once-in-a-century chance to build a fairer and more democratic economy.

Because

as we rapidly transition off fossil fuels, we cannot replicate the wealth concentration and the injustices of the oil and coal economy, in which hundreds of billions in profits have been privatized and the tremendous risks are socialized.

We can

and must design a system in which the polluters pay a very large share of the cost of transitioning off fossil fuels. And where we keep green energy in public and community hands. That way revenues stay in your communities, to pay for childcare and firefighters and other crucial services. And it's the only way to make sure that the green jobs that are created are union jobs that pay a living wage.

The motto

needs to be: leave the oil and gas in the ground, but leave no worker behind. And the best part, you don't need to wait until you get to Westminster to start this great transition. You can use the levers you have right now.

You can

take a page from Barcelona and turn your Labour-controlled cities into beacons for the world transformed.

A good

start would be divesting your pensions from fossil fuels and investing that money in low carbon social housing and green energy cooperatives.

That way people

can begin to experience the benefits of the next economy before the next election – and know in their bones that yes, there is, and always has been, an alternative.

In

closing....

I want to

stress, as your international speaker, that none of this can be about turning any one nation into a progressive museum.

In

wealthy countries like yours and mine, we need migration policies and levels of international financing that reflect what we owe to the global south – our historic role in destabilizing the economies and ecologies of poorer nations

for a great many years.

For instance, during this epic hurricane season, we've heard a lot of talk of "the British Virgin Islands," the "French Virgin Islands" and so on.

Rarely was it seen as relevant to observe that these are not reflections of where Europeans like to holiday.

They are reflections of the fact that so much of the vast wealth of empire was extracted from these Islands in bonded human flesh.

Wealth that supercharged Europe's and North America's industrial revolution, positioning us as the super-polluters we are today.

And that is intimately connected to the fact that the future and security of island nations are now at grave risk from superstorms storms, sea level rise, and dying coral reefs.

What should this painful history mean to us today?

It means welcoming migrants and refugees.

And it means paying our fair share to help many more countries ramp up justice-based green transitions of their own.

Trump going rogue is no excuse to demand less of ourselves in the UK and Canada or anywhere else for that matter.

It means the opposite -that we have to demand more of ourselves.

To pick up the slack until the United States manages to get its sewer system unclogged.

I firmly believe that all of this work, challenging as it is, is a crucial part of the path to victory.

That the more ambitious, consistent and holistic you can be in painting a picture of

the
world transformed, the more credible a Labour government will become.

Because
you went and showed us all that you can win.

Now you
have to win.

We all
do.

Winning
is a moral imperative.

The
stakes are too high, and time is too short, to settle for anything less.

Thank you