

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss, writes for The...

The young are freedom-loving capitalists

We need to double down on the values which have made Britain great and Labour wants to crush

LIZ TRUSS

From the coffee bars of Camden to the gan joints of Norfolk – across Britain a revolution is brewing. And no, it's not John McDonnell's latest socialist boosh. It's a generation growing up with an entirely different view of the world – free-thinking, optimistic and hungry for success.

The under-30s are the risk takers, inventors and free thinkers, with unprecedented freedom to start a business, broadcast their views to the world, or travel anywhere they like at the push of a button. Far from the hat-wearing, big-state-loving Marxists often portrayed in the media, they are the most freedom-loving, enterprising generation ever. And they are changing attitudes and industries – in

big and small ways – day in, day out. That's possible because we live in a society that has cherished and encouraged personal freedom, and put the individual before the state while making sure the boat will off always have a safety net. But those ideas are under threat now that they ever have been. Not by some encroaching overseas titan, but by a UK party that wants to be in government.

Jeremy Corbyn and Mr McDonnell have made no secret of their desire to stamp out individualism and enterprise. They call business the "real enemy". Their supporters brand dissenters and label them "traitors". And they openly call for government to take more control over the economy and our lives. We can already see their controlling ways in councils across the country: anyone sensible abused until they are booted out or quit, services like Airbnb and Uber banned, new schemes dreamt up for hiking tax.

This assault on freedom wouldn't just damage the economy, it would erode the economic freedoms which give power to the people. The free market is fundamentally humane and democratic, driven by ideas and millions of individual choices about what to do with our money which defy those who benefit from the status quo.

If Labour took away that freedom to innovate and spend our money how we want, they would take away our power over the powerful. If Mr McDonnell nationalised whole industries, they would be quickly taken over by bureaucrats more concerned about their careers than about customers. Except this time, there will be no choice and nowhere to turn when things go wrong.

Imagine what it would be like living in such a country. Where you are frowned upon for making money, or branded a traitor for criticising the politicians who control an increasing share of our lives. I don't think that's a society any of us want, especially those just starting out. They are snipe-hating, pop-up-shopping, online-trading freedom fighters. They don't want po-faced, humourless socialists banning fun and controlling every part of our lives.

We are motivated by making money – and that's a good thing. It's the rich and established who benefit when people from ordinary backgrounds can't make it big. So instead of focusing on success and promising endless handouts, we should give young people the freedom to succeed and channel their go-getting attitude to tackle the big issues we face.

Refresh is a new initiative by young people, for young people, to provide a free-market response to Britain's biggest issues. Find us on Facebook and @Teletelish

In housing, for example, where the answer is more market, not less. More land to build on and more small construction firms competing with established players will push down prices and make ownership a reality for millions. The same goes for energy, where we need a shake-up that delivers more competition. And to turbocharge those changes, we need to unleash the energy, audacity and disruptive thinking of the next generation.

So I welcome the Telegraph's Refresh campaign, which will engage young people and bring energy and urgency to developing radical, free-market solutions to challenges like housing and equality of opportunity.

And on the eve of the local elections, I urge everyone to pick up their flat whites, don their blue and fight for the values of freedom, individual endeavour and opportunity that got us where we are today – a freer and more prosperous society than we have ever been. Because if we can double down on those values as we leave the EU, we can build a richer, more self-confident, lean-in Britain where everyone, regardless of background, has the opportunity to change the world.

Liz Truss is Chief Secretary to the Treasury

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Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss, writes for The Telegraph's new Refresh initiative: "The young are born disruptors, but they need freedom, not socialist strictures, to succeed"

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/25/young-born-disruptors-need-freedom-not-socialist-strictures/>

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Treasury minister John Glen outlines

the package of measures...

Treasury minister John Glen outlines the package of measures Conservatives in government are taking to tackle unlawful lending and increase the amount of money seized from loan sharks to support vulnerable victims.

Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, writes for today's...

I want to build more beautiful houses

Affordable housing does not have to be poorly made – and it must take local communities into account

SAJID JAVID

Whether they're buying or renting, living in the private sector or in social housing, everyone cares about what their home and local neighbourhood look like and how they make us feel. Looks matter. As Winston Churchill once said: "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us."

Design quality is not just something that is nice to have if you can afford it and know your Le Corbusier. From your Ebenezer Howard it is fundamental to everyone's quality of life. So when it comes to delivering the homes our country desperately needs, I don't believe there should be a trade-off between quality, quantity and affordability. That's why we are holding a design conference today that will bring together more than 400 experts from across the industry to ensure that, when we build more homes, we also build better homes.

From the elegant squares and crescents of the Georgian period to modern town homes, via Victorian terraces and the garden suburbs of the 20th century, Britain is a world leader in housing and design. Now we have to consider how we can leave the current generation with a strong legacy and an inspiring vision of what we want our villages, towns and cities to look and feel like in years to come. Today's new build is, potentially, tomorrow's period property.

With that in mind, it is even more important that the industry has a chance to showcase great examples of well-designed development, not just focusing on trying to meet short-term housing targets but aiming to become a much loved part of the fabric of local areas. These include *Beauty In My Backyard*, from the Prince's Foundation – or *Nirby*. A more positive variation on *Nirby*, it really sums up what we all want from new homes, which is ultimately somewhere we are proud to live in and next door to. This is essentially what good design comes down to.

With fresh generations of first-time buyers expecting the highest-quality homes before parting with their hard-earned deposits, and developers wanting to win over communities ahead of building the homes our country needs, better quality design has never been so important.

This is about much more than just considering whether high-rise blocks are "cities in the sky". It's about whether development is in keeping with, and supported by, local communities, and ensuring that it has real character. No one wants to live in or live next door to brick boxes that could be anywhere, and there is no reason why they should have to.

Britain has always been a trailblazer for world class design. And now there is new technology that could help us build more homes faster, while also keeping quality high and offering people choice, including through modern methods of construction such as modular homes.

As we consider what our legacy to the 21st century should be, we have to take into account the wants and needs not just of the next generation but future generations. Is it a legacy that allows our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same opportunities to prosper and put down roots as we did?

Are we being as bold and ambitious as we should be in meeting the challenges of our age?

The Government is playing its part. Last month, the Prime Minister and I announced planning reforms that strengthened the expectations for design quality and community engagement. This means that any plans for new housing developments need to give much more consideration to the character of the local area, so that what is being proposed complements what is already there and meets the needs and expectations of that community.

And the Government is backing this with £5 billion in funding to ensure that, ahead of building the homes, the existing community and potential new residents know roads, schools and other facilities will also be built.

We want to build on this work and encourage stronger collaboration across the industry, so that high-quality design is the norm, rather than the exception. But we recognise that this is an issue that is bigger than government and the housing sector. It is about how, in shaping the places where we live, we shape lives.

Sajid Javid is Secretary of State for Housing

Secretary of State for Housing, Sajid Javid, writes for today's Daily Telegraph: "Affordable housing does not have to be poorly made – and it must take local communities into account"

Chairman: Brandon Lewis: Spring Forum 2018

Thank you, Rob, for those warm words.

But thank you, above all, for your leadership of the National Convention.

And for all that you do,
day in and day out, for our Party.

And – I know from all your
phone calls and emails – night in, night out...

RENEWAL

I can't tell you how *proud* I am to be standing here today as
the Chairman of our great Party...

Over the last couple of
months, I've travelled right across our country, *meeting* and *listening* to
so many members...

I even had to battle through the Beast from the
East... (And I don't mean Dennis Skinner...!)

So I'm rather pleased that
in three days, it'll officially be the beginning of spring – despite what the
weather may tell us...

There cannot be a better
time for us to launch our plan for renewal and our roadmap for the future.

Ours is a party that's
always seeking to improve – to raise our game, politically and
organisationally;

That's *how* we've kept going all these years.

That's *why* we're the oldest political party in the world.

And not just the oldest: *also*
the most successful.

And we must – and will – do
it again!

I want to thank my
predecessor, Sir Patrick McLoughlin, for his leadership in steering the
Party over the last year.

And I want to pay tribute
to my *extraordinary* team.

Our new Deputy Chairman and
Vice Chairman have hit the ground running, whilst our hardworking staff at
CCHQ, led by Sir Mick Davis, have *thrown*
themselves into building our election machine with energy and dedication.

To all of them – and to all our staff across the country who go that extra mile – I want to say thank you.

And so today, I want to tell you about my priorities as your Chairman.

Priorities that have been shaped by more than twenty years of political life:

- By the politics I learnt in Brentwood and Sherwood, in Great Yarmouth and Great Britain;
- And by my experience as an activist, as a councillor, as a parliamentary candidate and as an MP.

1.
I'm going to talk about our membership,

2.
I'm going to talk about how we are changing the way we campaign across our country and on social media...

3.
And I want to talk to you about the steps we are taking to ensure that we develop a more diverse pool of candidates...

So that – across *all* of these key issues – we can continue to build upon our recent successes, and deliver a Conservative campaign machine that is *fighting fit* for the next general election.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

A lot of our success is down to the help and support of all of you.

At last year's General Election, I know many of you worked *relentlessly, tirelessly, selflessly*... to try to secure the result we all wanted.

We have learnt lessons, and I want to thank Sir Eric Pickles for his review and Sir Mick Davis for his business plan setting out how to ensure our team that is fighting fit for the next election.

I just wonder... How many of

you thought about how much time and energy you put into the campaign?

Do you know how many calls
you made?

(Don't worry...the
interactive part comes later!)

But let me tell you: it was *one
hundred and thirty-six thousand*.

And do you know how many
leaflets we delivered between us?

It was 50 million!

And you talked, too, to
millions of voters on the doorstep.

For all of this, and for
all you continue to do as we look towards the local elections, I want to say
thank you.

But right now, let's think
for a moment about why we are proud to be Conservatives.

Let me tell you a story...

It's the story of Jack.

Jack is born in a
hospital with extra doctors and extra nurses taking care of him thanks to our
investment in the NHS.

When Jack's ready for
nursery, his mum – if she wants to – can
go back to work because we've introduced free childcare.

Along with nearly 2
million extra other kids, he'll go on to get a good or outstanding education
because of the conservative government's reforms

And Jack can go to a
well-funded university or he may decide that academia is not for him, and
because
we've introduced apprenticeships, he'll have the skills to get a great job in
the workplace – one of the thousands of jobs created since 2010.

And if Jack falls in
love...

And he might fall in
love with somebody of the same sex...

Thanks to the legislation that we as Conservatives introduced, he will be able to get married.

And Jack will be able to get on the housing ladder

and he'll get a deposit using Help to Buy,

and he'll live in a house built by the Conservatives.

And as Jack gets on in life, he'll have confidence that there's a well-funded NHS to look after him, and a pension that's sustainable thanks to our reforms.

And that's why, although over the past 8 years we have had to make difficult choices, I am proud of – we should all be proud – what the Conservative government has achieved.

And by the way, Jack's story is also Jane's... and Rashid's and Aisha's.

This is a Conservative government that works for everyone.

MEMBERSHIP

We know that we can't continue to improve the lives of people in this country unless we *win* elections.

And to *win* elections we must have an effective campaigning force.

Our members *lie at the heart* of our ability to do this.

As members and supporters, you are the backbone of this Party.

I'm in politics to make a difference.

My guess is that that's why *you're* in politics, too.

And believe me, you do make a difference.

Every door you knock on...

Every one of those 50
million leaflets you pushed through a letterbox...

(And the ones I hope you'll
be delivering in the weeks ahead of the local elections)...

Every post you share
online...

It makes a difference:

- A *difference* to the debate;
- A *difference* to our democracy;
- A *difference* to our party's chances of victory and of government.

We will be going out there
to make a difference as a *family* of
members that is *growing* in numbers...

You know, in recent years
there has been much speculation about the number of members we have.

Apparently we have 100,000...70,000... or 30,000 members.

None of these figures were
correct.

It is time to end that
speculation.

I can tell you, that as of
today, we have 124,000 members.

And *thousands* have joined since the general
election – and in fact we have 6,000
new members since January.

But it could, and should,
be higher still.

And let's not forget that
the *Conservative family* extends way
beyond our party membership...:

...The *thousands of* activists, who aren't full members...

...The 350,000 members of Conservative Clubs, many of whom go out at the
weekend to make the case for us on the doorstep.

I want us to find ways of

making sure that *everyone—all 500,000—*
in our Conservative family feel like they are part of the team.

We can do this by bringing forward a vision
of *modern* Conservative membership.

And one of the most important things we *need* to do – as part of that
modernisation process – is to start administering our membership centrally.

Members will *always* belong to constituency associations.

The constituency
association is the *rock on which* the
Conservative party is founded.

It is *fundamental* to our internal culture, *fundamental* to our approach to
politics and *fundamental* to our success.

CANDIDATES

On which note, I want to
make clear that local associations will *always*
have the *right* to choose their own
parliamentary candidates.

I want to make sure that we
have the best pool of candidates for you to choose from...

And I believe that we can
have the very best candidates without using shortlists and quotas, which do
not
get to the root of the problem.

There is one area, in
particular, that we should be focusing on as a Party: *women*.

It's *why* the Prime Minister co-founded Women2Win and *why* we are working with
CWO to reach out to women up and down
the country.

There are so many talented
women in this country who would make excellent Conservative candidates.

And we need to go out and find
more of them to join our already inspiring group of Conservative female MPs.

Just for the record, at CCHQ, we are leading by example:

We are today publishing gender pay figures that
demonstrate across CCHQ – whether that's at director level, executive
officers

or managers – we are giving our male and female staff equal pay for equal work.

We must and can do more – in particular, we need more women in CCHQ.

This is a challenge *across* parties, politics and our society....

We need to create an environment in which we proactively reach out and encourage women to join our Party, run for local council, stand for Parliament and work for our Party.

CAMPAIGNING AND DIGITAL

And finally, as Party Chairman, I will be doing everything I can to renew our party machine and to build on our successes.

For example, we have now hired 81 new campaign managers and ramped up our digital operations since the election.

We're producing far more online content and we're doing it every single day.

But what we do at CCHQ is only part of the battle:

I need you to get involved!

To spread the message:

- On Facebook, engaging with friend and political foe, alike... but *nicely*...
- On Twitter, re-tweeting positive news and supporting your local candidates...
- And on Instagram, sharing pictures of yourselves and your fellow campaigners, taking the fight to Labour...

CONCLUSION

The point is that we all have a part to play...

And you are as important in

helping us as I am.

We are only six weeks to
our next electoral test.

There is so much at stake.

Because the consequences of
inaction are just so serious...

In some of your areas, the
difference between winning and losing is a handful of votes.

That *extra hour* we put in could be the thing that makes the difference.

That *extra hour* that means we win one extra seat, in one extra ward,
that gives us the right to govern....

So I would ask all of you –
our Conservative family:

To let us go from here...

To take the fight to Labour...

In every town, on every street, on every doorstep...

*To earn the right to build a Britain that is fit for the
future!*

Thank you.