

George Floyd cannot be just another name

In the week since the death of George Floyd in the United States, the grief and anger of black communities in the US and closer to home has been clear.

The Liberal Democrats extend our solidarity to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Protests against the killing of black people by police have erupted everywhere from Floyd's home state of Minneapolis, USA, to the UK, Japan, and New Zealand. **The world knows George Floyd's name, and his death has fuelled a movement to end police violence against black people.**

The Liberal Democrats exist to fight for justice, liberty and equality. We are living through a moment in history where our values are challenged, and as liberals we stand on the side of social justice. We must stand in solidarity with black communities in the US and around the world.

Just as we have a moral obligation to speak out against the injustice we're witnessing in the US, we also can't ignore the failings here in the UK. In the UK 26% of instances of police using firearms are against black people, despite black people making up only 3.3% of the population. 51% of young men in custody in the UK are from black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, despite these groups making up only 14% of the UK population. The 2017 Lammy Report concluded that "BAME individuals still face bias, including overt discrimination, in parts of the justice system". More recently, we've seen that BAME people are 54% more likely than white people to be fined under the new coronavirus lockdown laws.

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Black people are suffering at the hands of institutions systematically biased against them. **It's unjust. It's unfair. It's racist.** The Liberal Democrats extend our solidarity to the Black Lives Matter movement. We fully support black communities in the UK and abroad, and stand with them against the injustice they face.

George Floyd cannot be just another name. This fight needs to make a real change, and the Liberal Democrats will support the movement to bring justice and equality for black communities. Black Lives Matter.

The Black Lives Matters protests will hopefully bring about change, but will

also inevitably bring trauma, grief and hurt. The social media feeds we're all becoming so reliant on in coronavirus lockdown are flooded with videos and stories of police brutality against black people. These are hard to witness, especially for other black people, and it might feel like there is no escape. These feelings are completely valid, and there are mental health resources out there to help:

[Free therapy from the Black, African and Asian Therapy Network](#)

[Mental health charity, MIND's resources](#)

[NHS Mental Health resources](#)

[Access to the Samaritans](#)

Join the Liberal Democrat Campaign for Race Equality here:

<https://ldcre.org.uk/en/>

Follow them on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LDCRE1>

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[England Coronavirus leaflets bulk-buy deal FAQs](#)

With social-distancing rules relaxing in England we are able to start delivering leaflets again, and we want to help people do that.

That's why the LDHQ Campaigns & Elections Team have now produced a Coronavirus Focus template for seats in England – find the answer to all your questions below.

If you would like to take advantage of the bulk buy print deal or the Royal Mail paid delivery option, you need to complete [this form](#) by 5pm, Friday 5th June.

Print deal – Indicative Quotes,

Deadlines & FAQs

5,000 x 1 kind	£ 190.00
10,000 x 1 kind	£ 330.00
15,000 x 1 kind	£ 440.00
20,000 x 1 kind	£ 550.00
30,000 x 1 kind	£ 750.00
40,000 x 1 kind	£ 970.00
50,000 x 1 kind	£ 1250.00
60,000 x 1 kind	£ 1450.00
70,000 x 1 kind	£ 1650.00
80,000 x 1 kind	£ 1850.00
220,000 x 1 kind	£5,300.00
300,000 x 1 kind	£6,950.00

No VAT is applicable to these prices.

There will be an additional cost for delivering to RM Door to Door of £50.00 on volumes below 40k. £ 75.00 on volumes between 40k and 80k. £ 125.00 on volumes 220k and 300k.

Who will design my leaflet? You will need to adapt the template yourself

When do I need to submit my Artwork by? Monday 8th June, 5pm

How do I submit my Artwork? We are using Park Communications that use an online platform for submission –

<https://transfer.parkcom.co.uk>

Login ID: ftp-libdem

Password: cx6pwyod

You must ensure your PDF size is 303mm deep x 426mm wide which will ensure the correct bleed.

Royal Mail paid delivery deal –

Indicative Quotes, Deadlines & FAQs

Volumes of up to 25,000: flat rate of £69.99 per '000

Volumes between 25,001 and 100,000: flat rate of £63.68 per '000

Volume between 100,001 and 200,000: flat rate of £59.48 per '000

Volumes between 200,001 and 500,000 the Door to Door price is calculated based on the household density of each post sector, but as an average it works out at approx. £57.39 per '000

What's Royal Mail Door to Door? It's an unaddressed delivery service provided by Royal Mail, find out more here:

<https://www.royalmail.com/business/marketing/mail/door-to-door>

When do I need to submit my Postcode Sectors by? Monday 8th June, 5pm

When do I need to complete the booking form and make payment by? Friday 12th June, 3pm

Who is the Royal Mail contact? Stefan Mills – stefan.mills@marketreach.co.uk – you will need to request a booking form from him – he will guide you through the process and ensure you get the best deal.

How do I find Postcode Sectors?

A Postcode Sector consists of the first part of a postcode, and the number at the front of the second part of a post code. For example, the postcode "SW1A 0AA", is in the postcode sector "SW1A 0."

If you want a list in Connect of only individuals of a certain Postcode Sector, you can go to the "Addresses" field of Create a List, and type the Postcode Sector into the "Postcode" field.

Alternatively, you can add the Postal Sector as a field on a Standard Text export in Connect by selecting "Customize Export" when exporting a list, to see all Postcode sectors contained in a mailing list.

Anything I should be aware of? Please note the prices quoted are for standard postcode-sectors, if you require bespoke measures to ward level or to an exact constituency, the price will increase significantly as some items would be addressed.

Literature will begin to land in seats from Monday 22nd June for Royal Mail and Friday 19th June for hand-delivery.

Once you have completed your order you will be sent an email with more information about next steps, including artwork upload.

If you have any further questions please contact campaigners@libdems.org.uk

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Author:

[We must oppose Beijing's power grab.](#)

We cannot allow coronavirus to blind us to the injustice that is unfolding on Hong Kong.

Beijing's new national security law is a naked power-grab. It bypasses Hong Kong local law-making processes and demonstrates a complete lack of respect for the Joint Declaration. Clearly China no longer cares for the 'one country, two systems' agreement made between the UK and China during the Handover.

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Author:

[Eid Mubarak to all those celebrating!](#)

I would like to send warm wishes to Muslims in the UK and around the world celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

Eid marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan – a month of prayer, personal reflection, and self-denial.

I'm sure that this Ramadan must have felt unusual and I know that **observing a socially distanced Eid will not be easy either.**

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This year, I joined some of our MPs and party members in fasting for one day of Ramadan and this culminated in a Lib Dem Iftar – the first for our party. The fast was challenging at times, but **I'm so proud that we were able to do this one small act as a symbol of our solidarity with British Muslims at this time.**

I want to thank the doctors and nurses who have sacrificed their lives in the battle against COVID-19. We will always remember them, and we must never forget that many of them were British Muslims. A thorough investigation into why BAME communities have been disproportionately impacted by this virus is needed now more than ever.

Of course, Eid is known as "the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast". It's

usually a time to come together with loved ones to enjoy festive meals and share gifts but instead, people will remain isolated in their homes, going out only for essential food and brief periods of exercise. Though this will be tough, **I'm sure that the sacrifices we all make now will reduce the impact of this virus.**

So to everyone celebrating Eid, **I wish you joy and peace. Eid Mubarak!**

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Author:

Government must increase support for asylum seekers

The latest Immigration Statistics, published this morning, show that 51,906 people are waiting for an initial decision on their asylum claims, an increase of 33% since last year. 31,516 have been waiting for more than six months, a 68% increase.

People who've come to the UK having fled war or persecution should be welcomed, not trapped for months on just £5.39 a day

Currently, asylum seekers are banned from working while they wait for a decision and **forced to rely on asylum support payments of only £37.75 a week – just £5.39 a day.**

All of our MPs have written jointly to the Home Secretary urging her to increase asylum support by £20 a week during the coronavirus crisis – in line with the increase to Universal Credit. This matches calls from charities Refugee Action, the Salvation Army and others.

In the letter, we also called for asylum seekers to be given the right to work if they are waiting for a decision for more than three months.

This would allow them to fill essential roles during the pandemic, as well as to support themselves, integrate in their communities and contribute through taxation.

Our Home Affairs Spokesperson, Christine Jardine said:

“The coronavirus crisis is leaving the most vulnerable in our society at risk. We must ensure no one is left behind.

People who've come to the UK having fled war or persecution should

welcomed with compassion and enabled to contribute to our society, not trapped for months on just £5.39 a day – especially now during this pandemic.

The way the Home Office is treating these vulnerable people is appalling and unacceptable. The Government must urgently increase support for asylum seekers in line with the emergency increase for people on Universal Credit.

Ministers should also finally give asylum seekers the right to work, allowing them to fill essential roles during the pandemic, as well as giving them a sense of dignity, more money and the ability to contribute to the economy.”

Christine A. Jardine MP
Edinburgh West



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

7th May 2020

Dear Priti,

Support for asylum seekers during the coronavirus crisis

We the undersigned are writing to urge you to provide further support to those seeking asylum during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

During this difficult and unprecedented time, it is important that the most vulnerable members of our society are protected and supported. This includes those seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

When people come to the UK having fled war or persecution, we should welcome them with compassion and enable them to contribute to our society. Instead, those seeking asylum face long waiting times for decisions on their application, they are unable to work, living in crowded conditions and reliant on a handout of less than £40 a week.

Numerous charities have raised concerns that those seeking asylum are being made to live in conditions that make observing official social distancing guidelines impossible. The Public Law Project has said that failure to move individuals who have been granted Section 95 support to alternative living arrangements is unlawful as it falls far short of compliance with social distancing regulations set out in current guidance. The Home Office must urgently make sure that people can properly self-isolate, socially distance and maintain their hygiene in line with vital government advice.

The charity Refugee Action has found that at this time people are struggling even more to get by on inadequate asylum support payments. The already substantial challenge of living on £5.39 per day is made more acute; ASPEN cards are only uploaded with subsistence support weekly, making it very difficult for people in the asylum system to buy food and other essentials in sufficient quantity to minimise trips or prepare for self-isolation. Those seeking asylum may be housed a significant distance from large supermarkets and local

shops, requiring the expense of a long journey for each shopping trip. With support services on which people usually rely closed, people seeking asylum are having to make choices between food and medicine.

In the context of the current pandemic, the Home Office must urgently ensure that asylum support rates also receive the same £20 COVID-related uplift as other mainstream benefits.

Furthermore, as a permanent solution, asylum seekers must be allowed to work after three months. This would vastly improve integration, help people rebuild their lives, and save the taxpayer millions in support payments. These policies will help people seeking asylum to meet their needs both during this pandemic and beyond.

We look forward to receiving your response. We must all work together to ensure that people seeking asylum can avoid danger and destitution during the coronavirus crisis and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Jardine MP

Alistair Carmichael MP
Wendy Chamberlain MP
Daisy Cooper MP
Ed Davey MP

Tim Farron MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Layla Moran MP
Sarah Olney MP

Jamie Stone MP
Munira Wilson MP

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