

Too many homeless people are dying on our streets

This morning, the Office for National Statistics published a shocking set of figures. They show that 726 homeless people died in 2018 – a 22% increase since 2017.

This is an epidemic that is claiming far too many lives, and the Conservative Government is completely failing to get to grips with it.

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We must protect the most vulnerable people in our society, but instead **the Tories are sitting on their hands.**

Their “out of sight, out of mind” mentality needs to stop now. People are dying, and we need to take a more compassionate approach to end this homelessness crisis.

The Liberal Democrats demand better.

We need to scrap the Vagrancy Act. It’s a cruel, Dickensian law that criminalises people just for sleeping rough.

That’s why I have brought forward a Private Members’ Bill that would repeal it.

The Vagrancy Act is a cruel, Dickensian law

Last night [@LaylaMoran](#) gave a passionate speech in Parliament on why the cruel Vagrancy Act should be repealed. The act currently criminalises those that sleep or beg on the streets.

pic.twitter.com/hYFDhJuaJN

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [January 30, 2019](#)

The Government should be helping vulnerable people out of homelessness, not fining them and locking them up.

The Liberal Democrats will build the social housing and provide the support people need. That’s how we can prevent rough sleeping and stop people dying on our streets.

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[Black History Month](#)

Black History Month is a time to focus our national attention on the history and legacy of black British communities. **Each year it is an opportunity to acknowledge the central role that black people have played in transforming the social, political and economic landscape of our country.**

Let us empower the next generation of activists and trailblazers and do all we can to ensure that their achievements will never be absent from the history books.

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[Rosh Hashanah](#)

At sunset today, Jewish communities in the UK will come together to celebrate **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish new year. For the millions observing, this is a time of self-examination, reflection and personal change.

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For decades, British Jewish communities have profoundly shaped our culture and national way of life. Our country wouldn't be the success it is today without their ongoing and immeasurable contributions.

Sadly, the pervasiveness of anti-Semitic sentiments is something we cannot ignore. And it is particularly concerning when these attitudes seep into the political mainstream, as witnessed recently. It is our duty to stand up to those who seek to foment and provoke division of any kind. **We each have a responsibility to be custodians of kindness and compassion and we must vow to always stand up to the forces of bigotry and hate.**

To those celebrating, I wish you a happy and healthy new year. **Shana Tova!**

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[Luciana Berger's running to be the next Lib Dem MP for Finchley and Golder's Green](#)

We've got some great news – **Luciana Berger will be standing to be the next Liberal Democrat MP for Finchley and Golder's Green!**

Luciana had this to say:

“It has been an enormous privilege to have served as the MP for Liverpool Wavertree for almost ten years.

I cannot thank my constituents enough for the relationship we have grown over the last decade and what we have achieved together.”

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[What's next](#)

We've done it. **Parliament is open again.**

At the Supreme Court, we defeated Boris Johnson's illegal attempt to silence the will of the people.

The message is clear. **Boris Johnson cannot undo democracy.**

We need to do this because we can't trust the Prime Minister to obey the law.

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