

All Hong Kongers must be offered a pathway to UK citizenship

If ever there was a time for us to act in support of Hong Kongers, it is now.

Many Hong Kongers have suffered grave persecution at the hands of the Chinese Regime.

With repeated reports of police brutality, the UK has a moral and legal duty to stand with Hong Kongers and ensure no one is left behind to suffer under the Chinese Communist Party.

My Bill to grant all Hong Kong Citizens a pathway to UK citizenship **was due to have its second reading today** but unfortunately we ran out of time. It has now been postponed to 15 January 2021 – just two weeks before the government's recently announced (but still not detailed) visa scheme is due to come into force.

This issue may have been postponed but it will not go away until we win justice for Hong Kongers with BNO Passports.

By expanding British National Overseas (BNO) status to all Hong Kongers, the Bill goes well beyond the Conservative Government's current citizenship commitments, which extend only to specific groups currently eligible to claim BNO status.

This clear route to citizenship for all Hong Kongers will strengthen the UK's historic bond with the people of Hong Kong and show our continued commitment to the Joint Declaration, **something that the Chinese regime has utterly betrayed.**

We also need to make sure that the citizenship offer is **affordable.**

The Home Office's claim that it will only cost £250 is deceptive given the upfront costs of the Immigration Health Surcharge.

The UK has a moral duty to act.

We urge the Conservatives to do the right thing for all of the people of Hong Kong and back this Bill.

In addition, we need to see measures to put in place an international lifeboat system as a matter of urgency, should the situation deteriorate further.

In recent months it has become politically fashionable to stand

with the people of Hong Kong, but people fighting for their rights and for democracy need more than words. I was proud to introduce the Hong Kong Bill this year – time for the government to take it up and act. <https://t.co/CclzGyPpog>

– Alistair Carmichael (@amcarmichaelMP) [October 13, 2020](#)

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[The Government is failing to protect jobs and livelihoods](#)

Despite the massive effort people have made to fight coronavirus it's clear that the road to recovery is going to be rockier than we first feared.

With millions of workers worried about their livelihoods, **the British people deserve a Government that listens to their concerns and does everything in its power to protect them.** Sadly, this isn't the case.

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[The Government must protect British farmers](#)

The Conservatives have continually promised to back British farmers

throughout the Brexit process, but their failure last week to uphold our high food standards reveals just how hollow those promises were.

Our high agricultural standards must be protected in international trade deals and after the transition period.

Farmers across the country are incredibly worried about the future – they're worried that the UK is about to be flooded with poor quality food and drink, undercutting their high quality produce.

The Conservative voted against protecting our farmers and food standards last week, bringing us a step closer to this worrying reality.

The Liberal Democrats will continue to stand up for our farmers. If the Government doesn't protect our food standards, they will only sow more uncertainty and worry for our farming industry.

We strongly believe that our high agricultural standards must be protected in international trade deals and after the transition period.

That's why today, our Liberal Democrat Peers will be fighting to stop the Government from undermining British Farmers.

Our Lords will be fighting for a National Food Strategy, better climate policies and to give the Trade Commission teeth with statutory footing and the ability to report on the agricultural and food impacts of every international trade agreement.

By voting against food standards and animal welfare in the [#AgricultureBill](#), the Tories have sold out British farmers – all so that they can secure easier trade deals post-Brexit.

Liberal Democrats stand with farmers across the UK and will continue fighting to protect them. pic.twitter.com/HoyZR7NuwA

– Liberal Democrats (@LibDems) [October 13, 2020](#)

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[The Tories are risking a new Windrush-](#)

[style scandal](#)

Conservative MPs have rejected all 10 cross-party amendments to the Government's Immigration Bill passed by the House of Lords earlier this month, including three from the Liberal Democrats.

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