

Green Party condemns 'shameful' government legacy of destitution



Green Party

24 October 2023

- **Call to reform Universal Credit, scrap two-child benefit cap and introduce wealth tax to tackle 'inequality crisis'**

Following the publication of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's report into destitution in the UK [1], Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

"Thirteen years of Tory government has resulted in a catalogue of social, environmental and economic wreckage. And there can be no worse legacy than leaving almost four million people in destitution – a quarter of them children. This is an utterly shameful record for the sixth largest economy in the world and reveals that the UK faces a deep inequality crisis.

"But Labour is also failing to address inequality or offer hope to those struggling to meet their essential needs. Research shows that the two-child benefit cap impacts around 1.5 million children and their failure to commit to scrapping the policy leaves thousands of families impoverished. Likewise, their refusal to back a wealth tax will allow inequality to continue unchecked.

"Only the Greens offer the bold common-sense policies to transform our economy and people's lives. We have long called for restoring the £20 Covid uplift to Universal Credit and doubling it to £40 per week, with equivalent increases for those on legacy benefits. This would raise the current rate from £85 per week to £125.

"The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is right: every family needs to be protected and to be able to afford essentials such as food and household bills. Ultimately, the Green Party supports the introduction of a no-strings-attached Universal Basic Income, funded through a more progressive tax system, including a wealth tax on the super-rich."

Notes

1. <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk-2023>

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jul/16/two-child-benefit-cap-explainer>

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Green Party statement in response to Storm Babet



Green Party

23 October 2023

- **Green Party parliamentary candidate for Waveney Valley, Adrian Ramsay:**
“We need to shout from the rooftops about the impacts of climate change and water privatisation on flooding.”

Adrian Ramsay, co-leader of the Green Party and parliamentary candidate for Waveney Valley spent the weekend talking to people affected by the flooding in Eye, Suffolk. He said:

“The scenes and stories of flooding I’ve been seeing and hearing from Suffolk and Norfolk residents have been deeply shocking. This is not the first time East Anglia has been flooded, and it certainly won’t be the last. Climate change experts are shouting from the rooftops that these so-called ‘once in a generation’ events will become increasingly frequent.

“The Conservative government is letting us down badly. Not only are they not taking the issue of climate change seriously – reigning in on existing commitments – but they, and private water companies, are also failing appallingly when it comes to flood risk management.

“Before privatisation, public water bodies were responsible for flood defences. Now defences are at best piecemeal. This is another good reason to take our water industry back into public control.

“We urgently need a long term and coordinated approach. This can only be achieved with a water industry focussed on investing in plugging leaks and

protecting communities, not on syphoning off millions of pounds in dividends to shareholders. And rather than bulldozing planning laws, as Labour proposes, we need to reassess planning regulations which still allow for new buildings on flood plains.

“It is clear we will need Green MPs in parliament after the next general election making the case for climate action and protecting communities.”

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[Non-fatal strangulation TV campaign gets underway](#)

An impactful Department of Justice campaign to raise awareness of the crime of non-fatal strangulation will appear on television screens from Monday 23 October 2023.

[Wera Hobhouse passes new law to protect people from workplace harassment](#)

Lib Dem MP, Wera Hobhouse’s Worker Protection Bill cleared its final legislative hurdle today and is set to receive Royal Assent. The new law will give protections to employees from sexual harassment in the workplace.

Harassment in the workplace is a blight on society. It is widespread, it ruins lives and impacts effective working relationships in all walks of life. Not a week goes by without revelations of inappropriate behaviour in an organisation somewhere in the UK.

The Bill makes employers liable to their employees if they have not taken reasonable steps to prevent harassment. Shocking figures from the House of Commons Library have revealed that **one in five people have experience sexual harassment in the workplace every year.**

The Bill presents an opportunity to shift the culture in our workplaces where harassment is no longer tolerated. It will create a duty on employers to prevent harassment from happening and should bring about a long-term change in attitudes.

I am proud to have worked alongside brilliant organisations such as the Fawcett Society and the wider Alliance for Women, who continue to support this Bill because of the substantial difference it will make to workers' lives. I am also grateful to the Minister for Women for her support, and to Baroness Burt, who worked tirelessly to steer this Bill through the Lords."

Wera Hobhouse

Employees should not have to wait any longer for safe and respectful workplaces. The passage of this Bill will send a clear signal that such behaviour is unacceptable, and that we take the protections of employees seriously.

Read the Bill

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

Publication of 'DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – September 2023'

The 'DVA Monthly Tests Conducted Statistics – September 2023' report, containing statistics up to September 2023, is now available.