

[Black History Month 2024 – a message from Christine Jardine MP](#)

October is Black History Month – a chance to celebrate the Black British community, acknowledge their contributions and discover their stories.

It feels particularly timely given this year's theme of 'Reclaiming Narratives', which encourages us to challenge how we perceive history and the world around us. We owe an enormous amount to the Black British community for their contributions to our society – not least the Windrush generation's key role in building the NHS.

But here in the UK, far too many people's lives are still blighted by prejudice, discrimination, and inequality. As we saw in the riots this summer, racism is still far too prevalent in our society. We all have a responsibility to recognise this reality – but also the role that we can play in challenging this injustice.

I'm proud that Liberal Democrats are committed to fighting for racial equality. That means unequivocally condemning racism in all its forms and tackling injustice wherever we see it.

Take the Windrush scandal, for example. The previous Conservative government utterly failed to deliver the justice that Windrush victims so deeply deserve. They dithered and delayed with implementing the recommendations of the Lessons Learned review, and just last month the Parliamentary Ombudsman found that the Home Office was wrongly denying compensation payments to victims.

Liberal Democrats will keep pushing to right these wrongs – including by urgently implementing the Lessons Learned review in full, and making the compensation scheme independent from the Home Office.

And we will strive to put racial equality at the heart of everything we do. Whether that's bringing forward a specific plan to reduce the disproportionately high maternal mortality rates for Black women, or improving diversity in the workplace and public life.

As we honour the stories of so many Black pioneers this month, we owe it to them to stand up to hate and injustice wherever we see it.

Christine Jardine MP

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Labour must “ramp up investment in better rail connections across the North of England” say Greens

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Responding to the news that Labour is planning to build HS2 from London to Crewe ([LBC](#)), Green Party Transport Spokesperson, Matt Edwards, said,

“A high-speed rail line connecting only the suburbs of London to Birmingham was the worst of all worlds. The Green Party welcomes the investment in our railways, but this is just one part of the puzzle, and the Labour government needs to ramp up investment in better rail connections across the North of England and connect the cities across the North of England to high-speed rail.”

“Transport is still one of the biggest sources of emissions in the UK and high-speed rail is vital if we want to achieve Net Zero because it will free up overcrowded rail lines like the West Coast Mainline for more local services. But it needs to be done in the right way to protect the local environment.”

17 October 2024 / 17 October 2024 by [Green Party](#)

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Greens say “no more incineration” of waste

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Responding to the news that putting household rubbish in giant incinerators to make electricity is now the dirtiest way the UK generates power ([BBC](#)), Green Party Peer Baroness Jenny Jones said,

“I highlighted the issue of incineration stopping councils from recycling back in 2010 when I was on the London Assembly. This became a national issue about 10 years ago when local authorities

across the country started to treat waste as a fuel, rather than a valuable source that could be reused or recycled.

“Unless we have a complete moratorium on new incinerators and start to close down existing ones, we will not meet either of the government’s big targets. You can’t burn oil in the form of plastic and meet the target of Net Zero emissions in 2050; nor can you sign up local authorities to 20 year contracts to burn waste and expect them to recycle 65% of waste by 2030. The last government was finally waking up to the direct contradiction between environment and incineration, I hope this government will say no more incineration and put this big mistake into reverse.”

15 October 2024 by [Steve Hynd](#)

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[Greens warn that when government “cuts red tape” this too often means harming environmental standards and workers’ rights](#)

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Green Party MP for North Herefordshire, Ellie Chowns said: “Starmer’s pledge to investors that he will “cut red tape” is a tired cliché that, in practice, too often means harming environmental standards and workers’ rights. We’ve had fourteen years of successive Conservative governments promising to “cut red tape,” and all we have to show for it is a flatlining economy and falling living standards. If Starmer is serious about attracting investment to the UK, he will need a bolder approach that delivers on the “change” he promised in his election campaign. He could start by re-evaluating our relationship with our biggest trading partner, the European Union.”

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Labour's approach to Middle East conflict "failing" as civilian death toll mounts

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Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer said, "The reports over the weekend that no food has entered Northern Gaza since the 1st of October, of Israel's attack on al-Aqsa Hospital, of chemical weapons being used to attack UNIFIL peacekeepers, of mass civilian casualties in Gaza's Jabalia Refugee Camp and of increased rocket fire into Israel from Hezbollah are extremely disturbing. The huge numbers of civilian deaths and the prospect of widespread starvation in Northern Gaza are intolerable.

The Labour government must recognise that violence in the Middle East is escalating rapidly and that their current approach is failing. The Government needs to consider far more direct measures to incentivise a ceasefire including an end to arms sales, the introduction of divestments, boycotts and sanctions, prosecutions for all those who have committed war crimes and a plan for a viable Palestinian state."

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