

Carer's Leave Bill to become law

Millions of people care for loved ones, doing everything from day-to-day physical caring, washing, dressing and feeding for those who cannot care for themselves, to things like shopping for a housebound elderly relative.

Yet far too many unpaid carers go without adequate support and struggle to balance caring responsibilities and work.

The Carer's Leave Bill is a first step to providing greater support. It will allow carers to take time off work to manage caring responsibilities.

Passing this Bill will be a really critical step forward for unpaid

carers juggling work and care and it would benefit employers as well. ”

Helen Walker, Chief Executive of Carers UK

The Bill will give an estimated 2.4 million carers across the UK a statutory right to take five days of unpaid leave per year, helping carers to better balance work and care.

The Bill was introduced by Liberal Democrat MP Wendy Chamberlain last June and has been shepherded through the House of Lords by Lib Dem Chris Fox.

Today the Bill passed it’s final parliamentary stage and will soon become law.

The law will have benefits for employers too. Many businesses already provide a version of Carer’s Leave to their staff and report reduced recruitment costs, and improved retention and wellbeing.

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Author:

[“Saying sorry is not enough”: Greens call for water companies to be brought into public ownership](#)



Green Party

18 May 2023

The Green Party has reiterated its call for water companies to be brought into public ownership after Water UK apologised for presiding over a rising tide of sewage discharges.

Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“Rivers and coastlines up and down the country have faced years of assault at the hands of the water companies and a government that has refused to act.

“Saying sorry is simply not enough – and suggesting that the public has to pay for any improvements, after £57bn has been paid out in payouts to shareholders over the last 30 years [1], just adds insult to injury.

“Currently water companies can, almost with impunity, dump sewage into our rivers, waterways and coastal waters with an appalling cost to public health and our wildlife. This situation cannot go on.

“For decades, money that should have been invested in improved infrastructure has been trousered by water company executives and shareholders.

“Only the Greens have the courage to challenge this failed experiment with privatisation and to say that a service as vital as water and sewage needs to be run by the public and for the public good.

“Shareholder payouts need to be halted with immediate effect and, ultimately, the water supply needs to be brought back into public ownership at the earliest practicable opportunity in order to end leaks, stop sewage discharges and cut bills.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/01/england-privatised-water-firms-dividends-shareholders>

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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[Greens call for halt to all new fossil fuel projects after 1.5C warning](#)



Green Party

17 May 2023

The Green Party has urged the UK government to halt all new fossil fuel projects with immediate effect after the World Meteorological Organisation said there was a 66% chance we will pass the 1.5C global warming threshold between now and 2027.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“Our climate and natural world is in breakdown and the reason for this is crystal clear – the burning of fossil fuels.

“Despite this, the UK government continues to drive us all into further climate chaos by opening new coal mines, offering new oil and gas licences and spending billions on building new roads.

“Let this be the moment which shows those in power that they need to be taking decisive action now. I am urging Rishi Sunak to do the right thing and cancel the Cumbria coal mine, stop the Rosebank oil field and drop all new climate-wrecking oil and gas licences immediately.

“It is only by keeping fossils in the ground and investing in measures which reduce our emissions and improve the quality of all of our lives that we will ever be able to address this climate and ecological emergency.”

ENDS

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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[Greens call for Renters' Reform Bill to go further and end spiralling rents](#)



Green Party

17 May 2023

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer has welcomed the government's plans to end no fault evictions in a bill to be introduced to Parliament today [1], but urged it to go much further to protect those facing unaffordable rent increases in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

Denyer said:

"Everyone deserves a place to call home, and so I welcome the government's plans to end no fault evictions, but this is an opportunity to go much further and help the thousands of people who are trapped in the private rental market by spiralling rents that bear no relationship to incomes.

"In the short term we need to see an immediate rent freeze, to go alongside an eviction ban, to prevent people being made homeless during this cost of living crisis.

"And then in the longer term, I want to see councils being given the power to bring in rent controls in areas where the housing market is overheated.

"At the same time, we need much stricter controls on the type of new homes being built to include more affordable and social housing for buying and renting."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65612842>

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International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Today is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

It gives us an important opportunity to acknowledge the violence and discrimination that too many LGBT+ people face, and reflect on what we can do to help change it.

I'm proud of the role Liberal Democrats have played in delivering that change over the years. From being the first party to openly oppose the abhorrent Section 28, to our tireless efforts in getting the Same Sex Marriage Act passed.

Milestones like these are not only important policies that take us closer to achieving equal rights. They help shift social attitudes, too. People are becoming more accepting of the LGBT+ community – which is vital for stamping out homophobia, transphobia and biphobia in all its forms.

My message to the LGBT+ community is clear. I support you. I stand with you.

Ed Davey

But we cannot get complacent.

Discrimination against LGBT+ people is still far too commonplace in the UK – particularly against the trans community. We're even seeing this at the hands of the Conservative Government, who have dithered and delayed on important progress like gender recognition reform and banning conversion therapy.

And with trans hate crimes on the rise, we are seeing too clearly the harmful

effects this rhetoric can have on our society.

LGBT+ rights mustn't be taken for granted. The fight for equality must go on.

So today, my message to the LGBT+ community is clear. I support you. I stand with you. And I will keep fighting for the rights of the entire LGBT+ community, until true equality is achieved.

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Author: