

Standing Tall: Liberal Values in a Dangerous World

In a world fraught with uncertainty and conflict, with war raging on our continent, the UK needs to take decisive action to uphold peace, security, and democratic principles throughout the world.

Yet, under the current Conservative Government, our once-strong standing on the world stage has sadly diminished.

Our country's reputation has suffered – inward-looking political chaos and disregard for our allies have tarnished our image. The Conservatives have neglected national security, prioritising soundbites and flash announcements over keeping our country safe. The result is low morale amongst service personnel, failing equipment, and an Army which is being cut by 10,000. Our status as an international development superpower has also been lost – thanks to Rishi Sunak's shortsighted and cruel aid cut, which is not in the UK's national interest.

That's why today, Liberal Democrats have laid out a comprehensive plan to restore the UK's diplomatic credibility, promote security, and uphold liberal values on the global stage:

- **Supporting democracies:** We stand with [Ukraine](#), supporting democratic nations in their time of need. We will begin to seize Russian assets to support Ukraine.
- **Investing in development:** Liberal Democrats will return international development spending to 0.7% of national income, restoring our status as a development superpower and saving lives around the world.
- **Defeating people traffickers and providing sanctuary:** Adopting a [fair and humane approach](#) to global refugees and asylum seekers, creating safe and legal routes for sanctuary in the UK and curbing the demand for people smugglers.
- **Supporting our Armed Forces:** Meeting all of our NATO commitments and reversing the cut of 10,000 soldiers from our Army. We are committed to delivering a [fair deal for our armed forces community](#).
- **Cooperating with our neighbours:** Signing a comprehensive security treaty with the EU and collaborating with European and NATO partners on new defence technologies to bolster stability in the region.
- **Tackling Organised Crime and Terrorism:** Properly resourcing the National Crime Agency, working with Europol and Eurojust, and ensuring the independence of the Intelligence and Security Committee from government interference.
- **Promoting Soft Power:** Protecting the BBC and Channel 4, ensuring they remain pillars of our soft power, and properly funding the BBC World Service to reach audiences globally.

Read our new policy

Liberal Democrats are unwavering in our commitment to liberal values and international cooperation. We believe in a United Kingdom that stands tall on the world stage, promoting peace, security, and democracy.

It's time to reclaim our place as a global leader, grounded in the values of fairness, compassion, and respect for human rights.

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Author:

[Boosting Cancer Survival](#)

One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime and nearly every family has a cancer story: dealing with diagnosis, struggling through treatment, supporting loved ones, losing a loved one, fearing that cancer may come back. And cancer isn't just physical – it's impacts can reach into every part of our lives.

At our 2023 Autumn Conference, Ed Davey shared his story.

There is good news: **Twice as many people survive cancer** today compared to the 1970s. More than a million lives have been saved from cancer across the UK since the 1980s thanks to progress made in prevention, diagnosis and treatment. However, there is still huge room for improvement.

Targets for starting cancer treatment have not been met since 2015. The current Conservative Government broke its promise to produce a 10 year cancer plan that would have made a real difference to patients. Cancer should be a top priority for any Government but far too many patients have been let down and forgotten.

Last year, **nearly 100,000 patients in England waited longer than the NHS target of 62 days to start cancer treatment.** These failures have an impact – every four-week delay to starting cancer treatment is associated with a 10% decrease in survival. And now the UK ranks one of the lowest globally for five-year survival for the less survivable cancers.

We can and must do better. Cancer **should** be a top priority for any

Government. All cancer patients in the UK **should** be confident that they will receive the best treatment for them quickly. The UK **should** be a global leader in cancer research and outcomes

That's why, today, Liberal Democrats have passed new policy with a comprehensive plan aimed at boosting cancer survival rates and improving the quality of life for patients and their families:

- **Two-month cancer treatment guarantee.** A new target for 100% of patients to start treatment for cancer within 62 days from urgent referral, with this right written into law. Currently this is only a government pledge, and 40% of patients wait longer than 62 days.
- **Boost access to radiotherapy.** Replace ageing radiotherapy machines and increase their number, as well as widening access so that no one has to travel too far for treatment.
- **Halve the time for new treatments to reach patients.** It takes an average of 11 months for a new medicine or medical technology to be approved and available to patients in England, compared to just 4 months in Germany. We will expand the MHRA's capacity to speed up that process.
- **Pass a Cancer Survival Research Act.** New legislation modelled on the US law signed by President Obama in 2013. It would require the Government to coordinate and ensure funding for research into the cancers with the lowest survival rates, including lung, liver, brain and pancreatic cancer.
- **Save the National Cancer Research Institute.** The Government is presiding over the closure of the National Cancer Research Institute, which was established in 2001 and plays a vital role in coordinating cancer research, due to uncertainty over research funding. Its closure has been described by one oncology professor as like "turning off air traffic control and hoping the planes will be fine".

Improve support for patients and their families. Recruit more cancer nurses so that every patient has a dedicated specialist supporting them throughout their treatment. Ensure patients and their families are given information about charities, patient support groups and financial support at every key stage: referral, diagnosis and starting treatment.

[Read our new policy](#)

Our plan is a commitment to patients and their families, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to navigate the complexities of cancer treatment. By investing in research, improving access to care, and prioritising patient well-being, we aim to transform the landscape of cancer care in the UK.

Back Our Cancer Care Plan

Ed Davey has announced a new five-year plan to boost cancer survival rates.

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Author:

[Sport for the People](#)

The Lionesses winning Euro 2022. Sir Andy Murray winning Wimbledon. The London Olympics' Super Saturday.

Great sporting moments bring us together. Millions of people glued to their TVs, gripping the edge of the sofa.

But increasingly, sport is shut off and hidden from view, only broadcast on pay-to-view channels.

While certain sporting events like the Men's and Women's FIFA World Cups, the Olympics and the Paralympics are protected for free-to-air broadcasting, too many iconic events like the Ashes and the Six Nations are not.

Women's sport

In 2022, the average viewing time per person for women's sports more than doubled and the number of people watching domestic women's sports has grown to 33 million.

More than 17 million of us watched Chloe Kelly's winner in July 2022. And last year, we tuned in again to watch the Lionesses' journey to the final.

But the list of events protected for free-to-air broadcasting is skewed towards men's events. Expanding the list of protected events to include more women's sports increases exposure and breaks down gender barriers.

Football

Football, in particular, holds a special place in the hearts of so many of us. And it remains the most popular sport in the UK.

This season, not a single English Premier League football game will be aired live on free-to-air channels. And it's the same for the lower leagues (though maybe it's for the best I don't get to watch Rovers grind out yet another draw) and the Scottish Premiership.

With matches split between multiple pay-to-view providers, fans are left to

fork out £870 a year in subscriptions to Sky Sports, TNT Sports and Amazon Prime Video if they want to see premier league games. That's 50% more than the average season ticket.

Giving sport back to the people

We need to tear down the paywall and give sports back to the country. Greedy broadcasters are ripping off fans and preventing young boys and girls from being inspired to take up the sport.

That's why today, Liberal Democrats have passed new policy to increase the availability of sport on free-to-air TV.

- Review the list of sporting fixtures which must have live coverage made available to free-to-air channels to include:
 - At least 10 Premier League matches and 10 Scottish Premiership matches every season
 - At least 20 games from the English Football League and 10 from the Scottish Championship
 - The men's and women's Six Nations
 - The Ryder Cup and the Solheim Cup
 - The England men's Ashes Test at Lords, and the England women's Ashes fixture at Lords
 - At least one cricket test match and one day international per summer
 - The entirety of the Wimbledon Championships
- Ensure that the list of women's sporting fixtures made available to free-to-air channels mirrors men's.
- Maintain protections for key national sporting events, such as the Summer and Winter Olympics and Paralympic games.
- Ensure more disability sports are televised.
- Provide councils with support to enhance community sporting facilities.

Read our new policy here

The Government is missing an open goal by failing to protect more of the treasured sporting events which bring people together. Liberal Democrats will give sport back to the people.

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Author:

Greens react to government extremism definition



Green Party

14 March 2024

Reacting to Michael Gove's statement on a new definition of extremism, deputy leader of the Green Party, Zack Polanski, said:

"Is this government seriously asking us to trust them to define extremism? In a week when they failed to condemn blatant racism and a death threat from a major Conservative Party donor? In a month when they are pushing through the Rwanda Bill which demonises the most vulnerable people seeking refuge, asylum and safety in this country? And after years attacking civil liberties and undermining our democracy?"

"Our fundamental and democratic rights *are* under threat from extremists. The problem is, they're running the country."

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

Good Relations Indicators 2022 Report

The Good Relations Indicator report published by The Executive Office today presents a range of statistics relating to community relations, including numbers of hate crimes, attitudinal data on Protestant/Catholic relations and attitudes towards mixing in schools, neighbourhoods and the workplace.