

OPEN BRITAIN

Fighting Against a Hard Brexit

The Campaign so far...

Over recent months, Open Britain campaigners have led the way in campaigning against a hard Brexit. We set out from the beginning that we would not oppose the result of the referendum, but that no one voted to be poorer.

We have campaigned for membership of the Single Market, protection of EU citizens' rights, and a voice for younger people in the negotiations. All of these issues transcend the Remain / Leave debate from the Referendum. We believe the best strategy is to reach out to people who voted Leave as well as Remain and to show the Government that the majority did not vote to leave the Single Market and risk being poorer.

There was no mandate for a hard Brexit.

The Government have made a choice. This was not an inevitability. They have made political decisions to take the hardest of hard lines on immigration and the European Court of Justice; to take us out of the Single Market and the Customs Union while pretending we can enjoy the 'exact same benefits'; to squander good will among EU leaders and instead put all our eggs in the basket of a special relationship with Donald Trump. The Government have opted for a hard Brexit, with no mandate to do so. And at each turn they have refused to be subject to democratic oversight.

What will Open Britain be campaigning for?

Many of you have been in touch and asked us what Open Britain will do next. We have considered the position taken by the Government and we are determined to carry on the fight against hard Brexit.

Open Britain will continue to campaign for Britain to be open and inclusive, open for business, open to trade and investment, open to talent and hard work, open to Europe and to the world. Open Britain believe the best deal in the negotiations would be one which protects our prosperity, people, and partnerships across the continent. Hard Brexit puts these all at risk. We will campaign on the following:

Protect our prosperity by highlighting the benefits of Single Market and the Customs Union and campaigning against defaulting to World Trade Organisation rules. We will urge the Government to reverse their position.

Protect people by supporting Europe-wide reform of the free movement of labour and by ensuring the rights of EU nationals in the UK and Brits in the EU are fully guaranteed.

Protect our partnerships by working closely with Europe on security, science and the environment; and by promoting our common values of tolerance, openness and inclusiveness.

Open Britain will campaign for the Government to provide the country with more than just a ‘bad deal or no deal’ offer to Parliament.

It is unacceptable for the Government to try and side-line our sovereign parliament. If the deal is not good enough, the Government should go back to the negotiating table. The Government, on their own, cannot take Britain out of the EU with no deal at all. We cannot be offered an ultimatum at the end of the Article 50 process between a bad deal and no deal – the hardest and most destructive Brexit of all. The country should be entitled, in some form, to make a real judgement about the deal on offer.

How will we campaign?

We believe the only way to successfully persuade the Government and Parliament to stop a destructive hard Brexit is to demonstrate popular support against it from all sections of society and from both Leave and Remain voters at the Referendum.

On the Ground...

Street Stalls / Surveying

We aim to continue our successful street stall campaigns. Not only are they great for visibility and promoting the Open Britain campaign, they are an invaluable way to collect information from the public through surveys. We can collate the results of the surveys and send them through to politicians in Westminster. MPs must be shown the strength of feeling in their local areas about the importance of remaining as close to possible to Europe and getting the best deal for Britain.

Delivering Leaflets

Delivering our message to Cities, towns and villages across the country. We can spread the message and counter directly some of the arguments put forward by the hard Brextremists. Delivering leaflets is also a great way to recruit new activists and supporters.

We understand that there is no ‘one size fits all’ campaign that works across the UK. Different communities have different campaign issues and the more local our campaigns the more likely we are to be successful. That’s why we have developed the ‘OB One-Stop-Shop’ for you to produce local campaign materials for your community quickly and easily. Only Open Britain has this facility.

Letter writing to MPs

Getting people from all backgrounds and all walks of life to contact their MP about particular issues will be a key element to winning this campaign. Our new, online tool is designed to make it as simple as possible for people to write to their MP and to share their concerns and views.

Social Media

Open Britain has the largest social media presence of all the pro-EU campaigns and we intend to use this to promote our campaigns, attract new supporters and promote the work of our hardworking activist teams around the country.

In Parliament...

Open Britain prides itself on continuing the cross-party culture that developed during the referendum campaign. Our extensive network of MPs from across the political divide will be crucial in deciding this debate. Our All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) will listen to the advice of a range of sectors affected by Brexit and present this information to ministers.

In the Media...

Open Britain has the highest profile of all the Pro-EU campaign groups in the national media. As well as coverage in the national newspapers our spokespeople and political champions are regularly invited to give the pro-EU views across BBC outlets, ITV and Sky News, as well as many more national, regional and local media outlets. We intend to use the media to highlight the work of our Open Britain volunteer teams and our local community campaigns.

Collaborating with other Groups...

Open Britain has a track record of working with other organisations on key campaign issues where we share the same objectives. We intend to carry on partnering with these groups – and others – and supporting them where we can achieve a common goal. Those of us on the pro-European side of the argument need to work together whenever we can, as our opponents remain well-organised, well-funded and set on a hard and destructive Brexit.

What does success look like?

There will be a vote in Parliament to approve or reject the final deal. This vote will take place in the next two years.

Our first priority is to persuade MPs, Parliament and the Government to respect the fact that there is no mandate for a hard Brexit and that the deal should be one that the whole country can get behind.

Our job over the next two years is to persuade MPs to work for and to finally vote on a good deal that keeps Britain an open and inclusive country, protects jobs, people's rights, and future prospects for the next generation; whilst working and voting against a hard Brexit which will leave us poorer and with fewer opportunities for our children.

Success will be a final deal that reflects the open, prosperous and inclusive society we are campaigning for. If the Government fails to secure this deal, then through our grassroots campaigns, will have demonstrated enough public support for MPs to have a mandate to vote against the deal and ask the Government to find a new way forward.