



**A Better Future
For Young People**

FOREWORD

I joined Labour in May 2010 when the Coalition took power, and for the last five years I have watched them destroy the services young people rely on in our everyday lives. I know what it's like to be one of the first group of students to pay £9,000 a year for university, or to need an NHS counsellor only to find out there is a three month waiting list for treatment.

Austerity is devastating for all of us, but particularly so for young people. We are three times as likely to be unemployed, more likely to have our benefits sanctioned, and some of us will graduate with more debt than our parents could ever imagine.

That's why I'm proud that Jeremy Corbyn has unveiled some of his proposals for young people, written with the help of young members up and down the country, to address the specific problems we all face.

From restoring the funding the Tories' have taken away from mental health services, to introducing controls to cap spiraling rents, to abolishing discrimination in wage and benefit payments for young people - Jeremy has set out a plan to finally end the generational inequality which Cameron has done so much to cause.

Jeremy understands the problems we face, which is why he has proposed policies that young people themselves have asked for. But we need your help too.

If you agree, please join our campaign to build a Britain that treats young people fairly.

James Elliott

INTRODUCTION TO MY PLEDGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people have faced more challenges under austerity than the generation before them. They are three times as likely to be unemployed, more likely to live in private rented housing, paying huge rents, and struggling with enormous tuition fee debts.

Below are my ideas to change all this. I have written this with the help of young people across Britain during this campaign. I want to strengthen young workers' rights, protect your benefits, control the spiraling cost of rents, make education free and properly fund an NHS that can care for young people's needs.

Jeremy Corbyn
August 2015

STANDING TO DELIVER

RIGHTS AT WORK

- Labour should introduce a statutory living wage for all workers, including apprentices, and abolish age-related tiers for the minimum wage.
- Labour should increase fines and penalties for companies who blacklist or pay below the minimum wage.
- Labour should offer equal rights at work regardless of age or time worked, with a ban on zero hour contracts, and place a weekly minimum for hours on contracts.

WELFARE

- Labour should abolish the different payments in benefits for under-25s, so all people seeking work can claim the same rate of Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Labour should end the failed 'workfare' experiment and abolish the present unfair sanctions system, which is more likely to affect young people.

HOUSING

- Labour should establish a Living Rent Commission to implement controls on spiraling rents and protect tenants in the private rented sector, capping rent increases.
- Labour should oppose the Tories' cut to housing benefit for under-21s, and restore equal access to it for under-21s in government.

EDUCATION

- Labour should [abolish all tuition fees](#) in further and higher education, and create a [National Education Service](#) free at the point of use.
- Labour must do more to increase and improve apprenticeships schemes. No more can we allow apprenticeships and traineeships to be used as a means of circumventing minimum wage legislation.
- Labour must end the exploitation of young people and replace the current £2.73 per hour apprenticeship rate with an equalisation of a higher, £10 living wage across the board.
- Labour should commit, under National Education Service plans, to colleges working in partnership with employers to mutually accredit apprenticeships and courses that offer high quality transferable skills. Councils and government agencies should also use public procurement contracts to guarantee good apprenticeships.
- Labour should restore student grants and reinstate vital support cut by the Tories, such as Education Maintenance Allowance for college students and the Disabled Students Allowance.
- Labour should end the failed academies and Free Schools projects, and promote comprehensive education, with schools placed under local authority control.
- Labour should reinstate the post-study work visa for international students.

HEALTH

- Labour should increase the funding to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and place a maximum waiting time of two weeks before young people can see a specialist regarding mental health conditions.
- Labour should make sex, consent and relationships education compulsory in all schools.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

- Labour should encourage and act to protect free expression and freedom of religion in universities, colleges and schools.
- Labour should end arbitrary 'stop and search' powers for police, which have disproportionately targeted black, Asian and minority ethnic young people.

YOUTH RIGHTS

- Labour should maintain the commitment to a statutory youth service, in order to offer young people the benefit of wide-ranging, advice, guidance and support to access further and higher education
- Labour should introduce votes at 16 to give more young people a say in who governs Britain.

YOUNG LABOUR

- Labour should increase the autonomy of Young Labour within the party, allowing young members to make their own policy and run their own campaigns, with fully-funded youth officers.

