

Here is a motion to propose at your local Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

Achieving social justice through social rights

This CLP notes

- The catastrophic impact of austerity policies imposed by the Conservative government, with child poverty expected to reach 40% by 2021, hundreds of thousands of people relying on foodbanks to eat, huge reductions in incomes of people with disabilities, and the inability of many schools to teach a full five-day week.
- The severe criticism of the Conservatives' austerity policies by the UN's expert on human rights and extreme poverty, who described the government's approach as "harsh and uncaring", "ideological", a "social calamity and an economic disaster rolled into one," as well as constituting a violation of Britain's human rights obligations.
- While the last Labour government introduced important protections against discrimination and abuse of our civil and political rights through the Human Rights Act and Equality Act, there are few such protections to guarantee our 'economic, social and cultural rights' such as our human rights to food, education, health, housing or work.
- That the UK government under Jim Callaghan ratified the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1971, but no government has since incorporated the necessary protections for these rights into domestic law
- The recommendations made by a wide range of UN bodies, civil society organisations and the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission to enshrine economic, social and cultural human rights into domestic law, and the experiences of many countries around the world from Finland to South Africa who have already done so.

This CLP believes

- Defending our human rights to food, education, health, housing and work are just as important as defending our human rights to free speech and a fair trial.
- If legal protections for these human rights had existed before 2010, many of the worst austerity policies could have been prevented, mitigated or stopped.
- Labour's commitment to rolling back austerity and rebuilding Britain could be deepened and made long-lasting by introducing new legal protections for our economic, social and cultural rights, providing obligations on public bodies to respect these rights.
- Labour should continue to defend the Human Rights Act and Equality Act as proud achievements, but can go further and ensure that all our human rights are protected in law.

This CLP resolves

- To notify the Labour Campaign for Human Rights of its support for its 'Campaign for Social Rights', calling on Labour to incorporate our economic, social and cultural rights into law.
- To write to our Member of Parliament, and the Labour Leader, calling on them to commit to

enshrining our economic, social and cultural human rights into domestic law, and to consult widely with Labour groups, trade unions and civil society in doing so.