

CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE

LATEST MANIFESTO

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Introduction

In this manifesto we want to start by asking what we should do now that Britain has voted to leave the EU?

Our position is that there is no need to invoke section 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. It is better if we repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and trade under the World Trade Organisation Rules while we negotiate new trading terms around the globe. If we do this we will be negotiating from strength not from weakness as the EU sells us £28bn of goods per year £7bn more than the £21bn we sell them so they won't want tariffs applied to all their goods.

The EU will never negotiate good terms for our withdrawal while we are inside the EU as they won't want other members to leave on the same terms. The EU will have to give us the worst terms possible.

Once we've left we can apply whatever economic policies we want and invoke any border controls we want without the EU having a say. We will also have an immediate net saving of £7 to £10 billion if we maintain all EU grants and take them over from the UK.

Our EU manifesto 2014 laid out the following:-

All major industries including the car industry should be offered capital injections to help increase efficiency and increase production. We must not go back to producing cheap subsidised products that have no future. Companies like McLaren must be our standard, producing the best possible product in their field and increasing the range of products so the man in the street can benefit from world leading technology. We will again be proud of our industry. We want to see capital injections into our steel industry, into our shipbuilding industry into energy industries to rebuild them into the powerhouses they once were. This approach is completely banned by the EU rules.

Our farmers must be given immediate support but by way of capital injection into the farms for new livestock and efficiency drives so our food production is greatly increased and our dependence on imports greatly reduced. Government subsidies should be kept to an absolute minimum. The focus will be on capital injection to improve efficiency. The Common Agricultural Policy has been a massively expensive disaster for our farmers.

At the time of joining the EU Britain had 80% of the EU's fish stocks. The Common Fisheries Policy has been the biggest disaster imaginable for our fishing industry. Our fishermen were shamelessly abandoned. We will immediately reassert our international fishing rights where British boats will be allowed to fish exclusively. We will focus on regulating the size of nets fishermen use so small immature fish can escape and thus preserve fish stocks rather than trying to use fish quotas as the EU is doing with disastrous consequences. We will subsidise the building of new efficient fishing boats and if necessary provide training for new fishermen.

We will rebuild favourable trading relationships with any country in the world which wants to join with us in doing so to our mutual benefit provided they do not have an unacceptable human rights record. Prior to our membership of the EEC this was granted to Commonwealth countries and they will probably be the core of these new arrangements but not necessarily so. The reality is that before we joined the EEC, or the EU as it now is, we had a small trading surplus with the other EEC nations. After we joined that quickly became a large deficit. That means that our membership of the EU has been more beneficial to other EU nations than it has been to the British. We want to be a country that plays its full part in the world and seeks trade agreements with the new economic powerhouses of China, Russia, India and Brazil as well as the emerging powerhouse of Africa. Trade with Europe may initially be diminished if we leave the EU but we will then be in a stronger position to increase our trade with the rest of the world, especially the Commonwealth. Over time there is no reason why we should not develop mutually beneficial trading relations with the EU as indeed Switzerland and Norway have done both of whom have stayed outside the EU.

The increased wealth which will come through these measures must be spread throughout society. Bonuses must be paid to everyone in a company proportionate to their basic salary. If bonuses are paid only to executives then they will be heavily taxed. Company shares must be allocated on the same basis to all employees and those who acquire shares through being employees of a company must have much greater voting right than investors from outside so there is a much greater sense of employees having a say in how their company is run. Executives should be rated as Companies are rated for their credit worthiness by credit rating agencies. This will end the absurd position where Executives are valued according to how much they are paid and extreme salaries are the result. Ours is not the policy of envy; it is the policy of efficiency and fairness. Wealth creation must seek to lead to full employment using all measures to improve our education system to make as many people in the country as possible employable. We must also constantly improve schemes to help people to find work. There must be a safety net but that will be a last resort not a first resort.

Taxation will be fair according to what is required. It is anticipated that with greatly reduced red tape and reduced regulation the public sector as a whole can be reduced so easing the burden on the need to tax heavily. Every organisation which receives Government money such as quangos will be reviewed.

Our aim is to balance the budget over time and live within our means and reduce tax. This will happen as the results of capital investment yield their results and new jobs come on stream.

As a transitional measure all existing regulations must stay in force but we will immediately move from rigorous implementation of regulations to a light touch in every business sector. At the same time a new regulatory review body will be set up to go through the process of reviewing all regulations. Any business or individual will be able to appeal to this body if they feel that regulations are being imposed on them that in practice are harmful. Over time when this body has completed its work we will move back to rigorous implementation of a much simplified and reduced regulatory system but will maintain the right of appeal.

With this vision we are committed to holding the British Isles together as one nation. Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland will be central to all our policies. Scotland in particular will benefit enormously from being free from EU rules on fishing. Before a referendum on EU membership Scotland will have a vote on whether to be independent from the United Kingdom but remain in the EU. This will mean that the EU will continue to control all Scotland's fishing and the EU will control the oil pumped from its shores. It could no more be called "Scottish oil", as Alec Salmond likes to claim it would be if Scotland separated from the UK, than it is now. The real independence for the Scottish people will come when Britain leaves the EU. We will also work with the Republic of Ireland to greatly improve relations with them whatever they decide to do as a sovereign nation.

There is no question that outside the EU we can be and will be a more prosperous, juster and fairer nation if the transition is handled correctly.

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC POLICIES.

First of all it should be noted that the pound has been remarkably stable ever since in September 1992 we left the ERM and instead of linking the economy to European currencies a new policy of an inflation target was introduced and the exchange rate was allowed to float. We still have the same policy today and it has served us very well. It has meant we have also had a very stable inflation rate in historic terms. Hardly surprising that what was initially called "Black Wednesday" in economic circles now is known as "White Wednesday".

When the Labour Party was running Britain they decided to allow public spending to expand at a very rapid rate much faster than economic growth. Spending on public services increased by an average of 4.4% a year in real terms under Labour. (1) At the same time by allowing a policy of unlimited immigration they increased the size of the population which made the growth figures look good but also greatly increased the demand for public services. With deficits increasing and increasing (see Appendix 2) it was inevitable that the bust had to come. It came with a bang in 2007 and the Labour Government really didn't know what to do. They decided the only option was carry on regardless which they did and the deficits increased sharply while growth came to a complete halt. They now claim they did the right thing but have left a terrible legacy.(2)

Almost inevitably a different Government was elected with a policy of cutting public spending in order to reduce the deficit. So arrived the Conservative/Liberal coalition. From day 1 they announced some quite severe cuts in the Civil Service and in public spending amounting to £6.2billion (3). Labour shouted "foul" and demanded the country go back to their policies which they termed "plan B" when growth figures remained flat in this early period. Now however, the calls for a "plan B" have fallen silent amid strong economic growth.

However cutting public spending wasn't the only economic policy of the coalition. (4) They had some initial bad news with spending cuts and raising VAT January 2011 from 17.5% to 20% but then they

launched a policy of increasing the 0% tax band or the tax threshold. This started to put money back into people's pockets who were working. They reduced corporation tax steadily from 28% to 20%. In the budget in 2012 they reduced the top rate of tax from 50% to 45%. Labour claimed this was to help the rich. Actually it was a policy to attract wealthy businessmen to Britain and by having corporation tax rates so much lower than the USA (40%) and below France (33%) and Germany (30%) and even below China (25%) and India (34%) it made Britain an attractive place to do business and for wealthy people to come. The same policy made Poland (19%) a very attractive place for German businesses to relocate and has helped transform their economy. Ireland has two rates of corporation tax, 12.5% for trading income, 25% for non-trading income and a special rate of 10% for companies involved in manufacturing. This has helped the Irish economy no end. Labour simply thought this was helping the rich. They were wrong.

Labour simply had no understanding of the Government's economic policy nor why we then had the highest growth in Europe. They vociferously opposed all the Government's cuts but then in a cloud of confusion say they will not reverse them but eliminate the deficit in the lifetime of one parliament. This last statement had no credibility. Today the Labour party is in a mire of confusion. However it has spoken out strongly many times against "austerity" and said it wants an increase in corporation tax and widespread renationalisation especially of the railways. Those policies would take us back to the massive debt and stagnation, where we were in 2010, and would be disastrous. Nationalisation achieves nothing, increases inefficiency and costs an enormous amount of money to do.

So where are we now? Capital spending averaged £43.6bn over the five years of the coalition government, the National Audit Office figures show. (5) That amount maintained what was being spent before while revenue spending was being cut. It is now projected to grow by £6bn over the life of the current Parliament to 2020, this includes Annual Managed Expenditure (AME) and Department Expenditure Limits (DEL) that are allocated to capital spending.

In the Autumn 2015 spending review the first of the new Conservative Government the following measures were announced:-

- 1) Protect the UK's national security by investing in defence, policing, intelligence, counter terrorism, cyber security and international aid, protecting British citizens at home and projecting British influence abroad.
- 2) Provide opportunity for families through higher wages, lower taxes and lower welfare, saving £12 billion on welfare bills by 2019-20
- 3) Prioritise the integration of the National Health Service and social care, spending £120 billion a year by 2020-21 to create a 7 day NHS and introducing a new social care precept
- 4) Invest in Britain's future by providing education from childcare to college, with real terms protection for schools funding and paying for apprentices through an apprenticeship levy
- 5) Deliver a devolution revolution by returning power to the UK's nations, cities and councils and rebalancing our economy, giving people greater control over the decisions that affect their lives.
- 6) Double investment in housing to support home ownership, while also investing in the transport, science, energy and culture that are vital for the country's long term economic future reform and modernise public services, from prisons and court rooms to the UK tax system, making citizens' lives easier and offering a better deal for taxpayers. (6)

The Christian Peoples Alliance Response:-

- 1) There is a commitment to spend £45.6bn per year on defence of which £15bn is to be spent on Trident up front. Trident will cost a further £60bn to run over its 30 year life. The CPA would not renew Trident. Our detailed defence policy is explained elsewhere but we would be looking to make immediate savings of £10bn per year on defence. We would want to maintain our international Aid budget but refocus it on helping refugees and to ensure people don't become refugees. This is discussed in full page 21
- 2) We would put the £12bn back into the welfare budget. Care for the poor is a fundamental value of ours. This is discussed in full page 12
- 3) Spending on the NHS is now £142.7bn a year and we will maintain this budget. An enormous amount of work has been done to make it more efficient but there is still much more to be done. The CPA believes health springs from a stable well balanced life. We believe that our programme described elsewhere to restore the importance of marriage and having children within wedlock and thus normally growing up with their 2 birth parents will help reduce the demands on the NHS. This is discussed in full page 15 with policy on marriage discussed page 8
- 4) The total cost of education is now £85.2billion a budget we will maintain. We believe stability is vital in this field and we would not be making major changes to the structure of our education system while ensuring religion and ethics are taught with the Christian viewpoint clearly and accurately presented. This is discussed in full page 13
- 5) We support devolution where it can be shown to be beneficial to communities.
- 6) Address the underlying reason for increased housing demand and also build a substantial number of new homes. Full policy page 23.

In addition we would take steps to

1. Make taxation more fair.
2. Review and Substantially increase the public sector infrastructure programme
3. Encourage wealth to be distributed more fairly. and
4. Reform the Banking System.

Our overall position is that debt must be reduced but that will only happen painlessly if the economy grows and public spending overall is kept under control at the same time. By being business friendly and increasing capital spending on wealth producing objectives the economy we believe will come back into balance.

Taxation Must be Fair

Concretely the Christian Peoples Alliance is committed to seeking to balance the Government's books over the medium term. To this end it will be necessary to review the regulatory system and quangos. All the current measures will need to remain in force when we leave the EU but we do not have to keep any of them. We will need to keep what is working and repeal what is not useful. The Christian Peoples Alliance wants a much reduced regulatory system in every industry which we believe can lead to lower taxation, but this review has to be conducted in an orderly and thorough fashion and there has to be an appeals system both for and against regulations that is thorough and robust.

In the meantime there is an anomaly in the tax system which must be corrected. In 2016/17 the taxation is as follows:-

Tax 0% £10,600 Nat Ins 0% £8,060

Tax 20% £42,600 Nat Ins Employee 12% to £43,004 Employer 14%
Tax 40% £42,600 to £160,600 Nat. Ins Employee 2% Employer 14%
Tax 45% over £160,600 Nat. Ins 2% Employer 14%.

(Normally when the Government gives the rates it gives them as the rate above the tax threshold so gives a 20% rate of up to £32,000 of additional income and 45% rate over £150,000. We have given the rate on total earnings)

For self employed people there is a standing class 2 National Insurance payment to make of £2.80 a week and 9% on profits up to £43,000 2% above that. Tax is the same.

From this it can be seen that as soon as the tax rate climbs from 20% to 40% the National Insurance reduces so the marginal increase is 10% not 20%.

We propose as follows:-

Tax 0% £10,600 Nat Ins 0% £10,600
Tax 20% £42,600 Nat Ins Employee 12% , Employer 14%
Tax 30% £42,600 to £100,600 Nat. Ins Employee 12% Employer 14%
Tax 40% over £100,600 Nat. Ins 12% Employer 14%.

For self employed people we propose a standing class 2 payment to make of £2.80 and 9% on all profits above £10,600.

The effect of this will be that everyone earning less than £100,000 will be £507 per year better off, a high percentage of those earning £5,000 to £10,000 per year. People earning between £100,000 and £160,000 will be up to £5,500 per year worse off and people earning over £160,000 will be £5,500 worse off plus 5% of their remaining salary. For self employed people the new 30% band will mean those earning between £41,865 and £100,000 will be up to £1,744.05 better off but those earning above £100,000 will progressively lose this benefit and start to pay more at a rate of 7% of their earnings.

This measure will take a big step towards combining tax and national insurance and so making tax simpler. It will also make the real tax rate paid much more transparent. It will give the greatest help to the lowest paid. If at the same time we are able to reduce tax rates we will.

We will review the effectiveness of the Government's reduction in Corporation Tax. If it has indeed been effective in getting businesses to relocate to the UK we will do nothing to stop that process. If not then large businesses should not avoid paying their fair share. We will introduce a reduced rate of half the normal rate for companies involved in manufacturing as the Irish have done to great positive effect. We desperately need to encourage the growth of manufacturing in the UK and this measure will do a lot to encourage large manufacturing companies to base themselves here.

Stamp duty changed from 1 April 2016 very much along the lines we proposed in our 2015 manifesto. It wasn't in the Conservative Party manifesto. It is welcome that they implemented our manifesto on this issue rather than theirs.

We are not in favour of a mansion tax which will adversely affect people who may be income poor but happen to live in a large house and it is a very cumbersome and expensive tax to administer as numerous valuations have to be done and updated. However we do believe that at the point of

purchase the wealthy should pay a high premium as at that point they can clearly afford it. The only change we would make therefore is to introduce another rate above £4,000,000 to 20%. Most people buying at this level are from abroad and should pay a premium for the historical democratic benefits they are buying into which have been fought for at very great cost. If Companies are buying residential property then above £500,000 the rate will be 20%. An exception to this will be if it can be shown that the only reason for the purchase is because it is part of an industrial expansion program which has been given planning permission.

We will review the inheritance tax levels to see if they are working effectively. Rather than a flat 40% rate we favour a scaled increase starting at 20% and then rising to 30% and 40% for larger inheritances. We would seek to maintain the overall revenue from inheritance tax and possibly increase it if we can.

The Government has also introduced the tax we proposed in our 2015 manifesto on drinks which contain sugar. We welcome that and will keep its effectiveness under review

We are appalled by the scandal of tax evasion and fraud that has reared its ugly head. It is now clear that the HSBC tax scandal involves 30,000 people and the Government were first informed of it in 2009. Then there is the Missing Trader Intra Community (MTIC) Tax fraud which has been going on unchecked for over 15 years and involves HMRC giving over a £1bn in VAT refunds to fraudsters. We have come to the conclusion that for these scandals to be effective and go on so long there has to be collusion from inside HMRC. We are therefore demanding a full public inquiry into these scandals with prosecutions to the guilty. The cost of the enquiry will be nothing compare to the money that can be regained. Labour's call to ask HMRC to clamp down has not worked and will not work.

Review and Substantially increase the Public Spending Infrastructure Program

Our approach is to extend this program to industry and not focus primarily on transport as it is now. In August 2014 John Longworth, director general of the British Chambers Of Commerce, said: " We need to invest and export more, innovate, and build." Our European manifesto 2014 remained our policy in 2015. We said:-

1. All major industries including the car industry should be given capital injections to help increase efficiency and increase production. We must not go back to producing cheap subsidised products that have no future. Companies like McLaren must be our standard, producing the best possible product in their field and increasing the range of products so the man in the street can benefit from world leading technology. We will again be proud of our industry. We want to see capital injections into our shipbuilding industry into energy industries to rebuild them into the powerhouses they once were.
2. Our farmers must be given immediate support but by way of capital injection into the farms for new livestock and efficiency drives so our food production is greatly increased and our dependence on imports greatly reduced. Government subsidies should be kept to an absolute minimum. The focus will be on capital injection to improve efficiency. The Common Agricultural Policy has been a massively expensive disaster for our farmers.
3. At the time of joining the EU Britain had 80% of the EU's fish stocks. The Common Fisheries Policy has been the biggest disaster imaginable for our fishing industry. Our fishermen were shamelessly abandoned. We will subsidise the building of new efficient fishing boats and if necessary provide training for new fishermen.

4. Our steel industry must be given to the capital injection to make it the most efficient in the world. The world needs steel and we can and will produce it efficiently. It is in our national interest to maintain this capacity.

We would add to this scientific research which must be maintained and expanded so Britain is at the forefront of modern development. This, however, will be done ethically. We will oppose GM crops and anything we consider abuse of nature.

There is no doubt that capital spending on the economy is the right approach to bring the nation back towards full employment and to give us the resources we need to create a more fair and just society.

Whenever the Government put money into an industry it will do it alongside the private sector by giving capital grants and taking a share in the industry in proportion to the investment made. It is not our aim for the State to take over industries but to support and help them grow and give them a boost. We anticipate that taking this approach the Government will be increasing wealth for itself as well as for the country as a whole.

Encourage Wealth to be distributed more Fairly.

The CPA would take the following measures.

1. Force companies to pay bonuses to all employees pro rata. If a Company has done well then all employees have played a part in that not just a few managers. If bonuses are paid to all employees then they will be taxed at the marginal rate of tax with no national insurance payment being added. If they are not applied to all employees then the taxation rate will be double the marginal rate meaning a tax of 80% for top earners under the CPA new tax regime mentioned earlier.
2. Where shares are allocated to Company employees these must also be allocated pro rata to all employees for tax benefits. If the shares thus allocated are retained for a minimum period of 3 years then the profits will be free of capital gains tax. If the shares are allocated to a few employees and not to all then their value at the time they are given will incur double capital gains tax on their sale with no threshold allowable for these sales. We will also consult on ways to change the shareholding system so that shares held by employees have greater voting rights than shares held by institutions. We want all employees to have a greater say in the running of their company.
3. We will clamp down on tax avoidance by making it illegal to offset losses from one company against the profit of another. In future each company will have to be stand alone and if necessary loss making companies will have to close down. At the moment some people have created loss making companies as a way of tax avoidance. We also want a full independent public enquiry into 1) why HMRC failed to prevent systematic tax evasion through HSBC, 2) Failed to prevent MTIC fraud over a period of 15 years or more. The cost of the enquiry will be dwarfed by the benefit to the Treasury of stopping tax evasion and fraud.
4. We will also undertake international discussions on preventing companies sending profits abroad to avoid tax. We will consult on introducing a turnover tax on companies such as a 5% company VAT payment so that every company that trades in the UK pays some tax and multi nationals that have the highest turnover pay most tax. This turnover tax would apply to all trade with no exception. For small companies we would allow that payment to be offset against Corporation tax. The purpose of it is to make sure every Company pays tax and it is not possible

to avoid all tax by sending profits abroad. A turnover tax would stop this. Increased revenue will be used for capital investment.

5. In the public sector we will undertake a review of pay rates to seek to reduce the pay differentials. We see no need at all for large salaries to be paid to public servants.
6. We will consult internationally on introducing a new rating scheme for executives along the lines of the Standard & Poors rating of Companies. At the moment executives are valued according to how much they are paid which has led to obscene salaries. We believe if a proper rating scheme is introduced this can become the measure of excellence, not the amount of pay. This measure can help reduce differentials and help employees to relate better to senior executives.
7. Company pension schemes will continue to be given tax relief and encouraged but a threshold will be placed on the amount of tax free benefit that can be paid into a Company pension scheme for an employee at £30,000 per tax year without incurring corporation tax. Sometimes these benefits have been used to make enormous payments to executives tax free. If those executives are over 55 they can effectively be receiving a massive tax free payment as 25% of the fund could immediately be drawn tax free. The idea of promoting Company pensions is to help those in retirement across the board not as a tax loophole.

Reform the Banking System

Having debt based economic growth is bad for society. Debt is getting out of hand at all levels and measures must be taken to deal with it at all levels. See Appendix 2 for full statistics.

The Christian Peoples Alliance proposes:-

1. End the right for the banks to create money. All money loaned out must either come from repaid mortgages, savings or loans from the Bank of England.
2. We will consult on how we can put a limit on the amount of interest that can be charged on loans. For instance we could outlaw interest rates above five times the bank of England Base rate (currently 0.25%) or 10% whichever is the higher. This level to be subject to review. An institution that routinely charges the maximum level would be subject to scrutiny with the power of the Regulatory Authorities to close it down. The aim of this is to tackle rogue lenders not good banks.
3. Separate the banking roles between saving and lending and riskier investment banks.
4. Restore maximum multipliers to mortgage loans of 4 times income to control debt levels.
5. We will consult on how the Bank of England can be made much more transparent in its dealings and how measures can be introduced to bring it under greater democratic control. One suggestion is a supervisory board independent of Government that has the power to see any Bank of England Documents and demand the reconsideration of a decision. The supervisory board would also have the power to interview Bank of England Officials over any matter and veto appointments. The Supervisory Board could be called to account in the Administrative Court if it in turn overstepped its power. This accountability can and should be completely separate from the Government and at least some members should be elected. Others could be appointed by regulators

2 Paragraphs deleted here

Moral Issues

Whilst there is a need to address all the economic issues we have addressed above there is also an overwhelming need to address moral issues. It is written, "Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people" Prov 14:34. For the Christian Peoples Alliance the Moral Issues below are absolutely central to what we stand for.

The importance of marriage

Marriage remains the fundamental building block for healthy society, and the safest environment for the bringing of children into the world. Statistically, very few horror stories of child abuse come from married households (Robert Whelan's Broken Homes & Battered Children, 1994, Family Education Trust). The Christian Peoples Alliance has detailed proposals to strengthen marriage and encourage its stability. Failure to do so cheapens lives, removes the sacred. Even financially, defending marriage makes sense, as Government figures show that marriage breakdowns cost the country almost £50 billion each year. What seems lacking is the political will to call marriage right, and interpersonal sex outside marriage as wrong in itself, unsanctified, and damaging.

Research shows that many couples are unprepared for marriage and parenting. We therefore have detailed proposals to strengthen marriage and encourage its stability and improve parenting.

First we want a grant (initially set at £10,000 per couple) to be made available to all couples on the occasion of their first marriage provided that they go for at least 3 sessions of marital awareness training.

Second we want a grant (initially set at £5,000) to be made available to couples who have their first child within wedlock again provided they go for at least 3 sessions of training in child raising. This training will also be made available to all parents, including single parents, because the child is the priority.

Third, we want the tax threshold to be fully transferable from husband to wife if there is a child under 5 in the family so that there is a tax benefit for one parent to stay at home with young children. Equally there will be an incentive for the other parent to look for work when the youngest child reaches age 5. As resources make it possible we will extend this age limit preferable right up to age 12.

Fourth we will allow married couples to name 2 properties as their main home, one each, to end the Capital Gains tax anomaly where unmarried couples are better off.

The reason for these measures is that research has shown that too many couples are sliding into marriage without properly thinking about what they are doing. Equally many parents receive little or no training and so do not cater for the needs of their children as they should. The whole of society will benefit from a change of culture which these measures will bring about.

One Christian leader stated regarding marriage, "Marriage is like a structural wall in a building. If we destroy marriage the whole of society can come crashing down." (Jonathan Olyede of the Global Day of Prayer) Another said, "at stake is the identity and survival of the family: father, mother and children. At stake are the lives of many children who will be discriminated against in advance, and deprived of their human development given by a father and a mother and willed by God. At stake is the total rejection of God's law engraved in our hearts." (Pope Francis 2010)

For a Christian marriage is a covenant that is between a man and a woman for life according to God's commands and is for our benefit. We call this "Holy Matrimony" and is not primarily a matter for the State. Holy matrimony can only be between one man and one woman; it is based on the biological fact of the complementarity of the sexes. Our concern should be focused on the needs of children and we

should be doing all we can to rebuild a society where children live with their natural parents. Of course we must give help and support to lone parents but not at the expense of seeking to solve the reason why families are breaking down in the first place.

There can and should be state recognition for relationships where 2 people have lived together for a long time, including siblings so that inheritance can be passed between them and they can be named "next of kin". We have opposed all attempts to redefine the meaning of marriage and will be working to repeal all laws which have already attempted to do this.

Schools should not be used as an apparatus for social engineering and promoting the secular liberal agenda. They should respect the views of parents and the cultural background of pupils. Schools must not be able to take action against teachers who support real marriage and neither should any employer, government or otherwise be able to take action on this basis.

Further Family Support

In order to give additional support to the family we will:-

1. Restore Sunday as a day of rest and family time. We will make it obligatory to close most retail outlets by limiting the numbers that can be employed on any premises to 5 people on a Sunday, at Easter and at Christmas. We will also make it obligatory for government and local authority workers to be given the day off on Sunday if they want it and we will normally make it illegal to include compulsory Sunday working in any contract of employment.
2. Make available free of charge counselling for drug addiction and alcohol addiction to help individuals and families cope with the terrible pressures that come through drug misuse.
3. Tackle child poverty by introducing new child tax allowances of £2,373 per child to all parents up to 5 per family. The cost of this has been estimated at £4 billion.
4. Allow parents who stay at home to receive enhanced child benefit in the early years to encourage parents to spend more time with very young children.

The sanctity of life from conception to natural death.

No life is unimportant or not worth living. . The abortion statistics in the UK are a national tragedy. Over 7 million unborn children have lost their lives to abortion since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. In 2011 alone, for women resident in England and Wales, the total number of abortions was 189,931. The Christian Peoples Alliance is unashamed to declare its commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so every citizen from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. The language of human rights is often heard in both our national and the European Parliament, but rarely that of the most basic human need – to be born, nurtured and protected without fear of death in utero. Abortion leads to increased exploitation of women, not their 'liberation'. Abortion violates the dignity and integrity of women. It leaves a trail of anger, guilt, resentment, depression and loss of self-respect. Whenever we act or speak, we pledge to do so, however, without judging or condemning any individual, especially any woman who has been involved in abortion.

This compassionate Christian approach also requires that we speak up for those who, because of age or infirmity, are perceived in many European states to be a burden on others, and will strongly oppose the growing euthanasia culture. EU member states which proclaim their commitment to equal opportunities for disabled adults often ignore their duty to afford equal protection to disabled pre-born human beings. They have adopted a double standard. We will use our voice in Parliament to challenge these primitive

prejudices and fears concerning disability. Negative and defeatist, deeply insulting to the born disabled, eugenic abortion also causes severe trauma to the mother.

CPA members will wake up this country to the reality of the demographic consequences of an anti-life culture. With birth-rates falling dangerously below replacement levels, we now face major economic and social problems associated with an ageing population. The issue of live birth-rate in turn has implications for the question of migration. States which kill their unborn and do not support marriage and family life, are having to replace this missing workforce through liberalising the numbers of people they admit, with inevitable issues relating to integration.

Much western aid to developing countries is ruthlessly anti-life, with tens of millions of taxpayers' money being spent on promoting abortion and sterilisation in China, Bangladesh and elsewhere. The CPA deplores such 'aid' programmes: they do not provide solutions to poverty but merely export our 'culture of death' to countries struggling to develop their economies.

In Parliament, we pledge ourselves to a nation in which all citizens enjoy equal status, in which the extended family is reinforced as the bedrock of social structure, where motherhood is once again respected, and where we use with wisdom the fruits of new scientific discoveries.

MPs for the CPA therefore pledge to:

- Step by step repeal the 1967 Abortion Act.
Challenge the culture of death by seeking legislation which confers the full protection of the law on all human life from conception until natural death.
- Ensure recognition for the millions of women who have been violated. Post-abortion trauma must now be recognised as a women's disease in all member states.
- End the practises of cloning, embryo experimentation and all reproductive technologies which lead to the intentional destruction of human life.
- Support legislation to prevent the patenting of natural genetic material, modifications to the human germline and the trade in sperm, ova and human beings at the embryonic stage of development.
- Outlaw voluntary, non-voluntary and involuntary euthanasia by omission or by direct act, including neonatal euthanasia and euthanasia of patients in a 'persistent vegetative state'.
- Seek the nationwide provision of pro-life pregnancy care services, including provision of accommodation for women made homeless by pregnancy, pregnant women with special needs and one-parent families. We also want post- abortion counselling, hospices (capital and running costs) which provide terminal or palliative and respite care for adults, children and infants.
- International aid will be ended to any agency or government which promotes abortion, euthanasia or sterilisation programmes, coercive contraception or other violations of human rights (e.g. arbitrary imprisonment or deportation, slavery, or sale of women or children).

Adoptive families:

The CPA believes adoptive parents make a highly significant contribution to the lives of the children they adopt and to the community as a whole. They provide a home for a child (or children) in need and may end a cycle of abuse and/or neglect within families. Potentially they save a lot of social work costs and so they need and deserve support from government at all levels.

The CPA believes every effort should be made to ensure that once a child is placed with adoptive parents the placement succeeds. The cost of an adoption placement breakdown both in terms of emotional damage to the child and to the wider community should be avoided if at all possible.

Therefore we propose:-

1. When advertising for new adoptive parents it should be recognised by government at all levels that a child's problems (such as learning difficulties, Attachment Disorder, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, foetal alcohol syndrome or the effects of physical or sexual abuse) do not disappear because the child is moved into an adoptive family.

2. Post-adoption support staff should be actively encouraged to assist adoptive parents in matters such as school placements, even when this requires them to openly disagree with their employers.

3. Every school should be encouraged to have a specific policy with regard to 'looked after' and adopted children that recognises the unique needs of this group and sets out how these will be addressed in the school situation. (The views of agencies such as Adoption UK and similar groups may be considered when policies are made.) Reports by Ofsted on schools and other institutions should include an assessment of how well the body concerned meets the needs of 'looked after' and adopted children.

4. Civil servants who have contact with adoptive parents should recognise the contribution the parents have made not just to their children but to the community as a whole. This contribution is often made at a very real cost to the parents concerned. The notion of 'win/win' whereby the community is seen as benefiting from the child being moved out of 'care' and the adoptive parents as benefiting by getting the child they want should be actively challenged and dismissed.

5. Courses in colleges and Universities for the training of teachers, health professionals, social workers and others from the caring professionals should cover how to meet the unique needs of adopted children and their families. Wherever possible relevant agencies such as Adoption UK and similar should be included in the development of policies and training programmes.

6. Churches and other community groups should be encouraged to support adoptive families wherever possible.

7. Local authorities and other adoption agencies should be required to maintain a record of how many of the children they place with adoptive parents remain with those parents and how many are returned to 'care'.

When an adoption placement fails there should be a full investigation by the local authority. This investigation should lead to a report giving reasons for the placement failure and recommendations for future practice. It should be submitted to the department of the relevant minister of state. A summary of these reports should be presented annually to parliament along with recommendations for any legislative or other changes that may be considered necessary. If the adoptive parents are not satisfied with the investigation then they should have the right to appeal to an independent inspector appointed by central government giving their reasons

Care for the poor and Elderly

It is obviously desirable to get people off benefit into work if at all possible. However we will exempt from this drive:-

1. Anyone who is physically disabled to the extent that they need assistance to move around.
2. Anyone who is registered mentally disabled and has not been completely discharged.

We will remove the test of being “able to do any work” and replace it with the test “able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform.” If it is deemed by a doctor that an applicant previously able to receive benefits is now “able to work in an occupation which the applicant is suited to perform” then we will not cease benefits until a job offer is actually made or until the applicant misses 3 interviews for jobs or at a job centre.

In addition we will introduce a new rule that anyone who applies for benefits is given immediate help if there is a reasonable prospect that their application will be successful. This help will only be required to be paid back if it is shown that there has been serious dishonesty in the application and the authorities were misled. This should mean that the days when job centres are sending applicants to food banks are over.

We will fund these changes by restoring the £12 billion cut in benefits.

It is easy to assume that things cannot change for the British workforce. But it is possible, relatively quickly, to change the work patterns of substantial numbers of people for the better. Working with business organisations, unions and employers forums, the Christian Peoples Alliance will seek to increase the income those in the poorest sectors of society get. It will also identify ways of overcoming problems related to over-work, so that time is released for people to spend in rest and recreation and in developing relationships, especially with older relatives and with children.

1. We will review the minimum wage set at £7.20 per hour from April 2016 for adults over 25. The CPA aims to increase this to £9 per hour as soon as practically possible following consultation. London will need to be higher as the cost of living is greater. We believe this is a key factor in our drive to care for the poor and reduce poverty. (ref 16 deleted)
2. We will make zero hours contracts illegal except for employees under 21 or over 65. These distort the workforce by tying someone to a job from which they may be receiving no income at all and makes it very hard for them to find other work. Agencies are available for employers to get workers at short notice. The only reason for zero hours contracts is to have a reserve of cheap labour. It must stop. Where 0Hrs contracts do continue for the under 21s or over 65s anyone called in must be paid for at least 2 hours work.
3. Where benefits are used to avoid taking responsibility and finding work then they can be counter productive to the community but we will always make sure that the poorest are cared for.

Christians have long been involved in many initiatives ‘on the ground’ in their communities, including foodbanks, debt counselling, and practical care for people on the streets. Low wages are not the only cause of poverty and we will always look for ways to help people who need help for whatever reason. We don't just talk good policies we act then out whether or not we are elected to public office. In everything we do we will seek to support all initiatives that help the poorest in our society.

For the elderly and severely disabled we will make it mandatory for Local Authorities to keep a full record of elderly and disabled citizens in their borough and to make an assessment of their risk to floods, snow, extreme weather or to natural disasters. Support must be put in place to ensure that those least able to care for themselves are looked after in the community and that full support is given to carers, especially those who are close relatives and tend to be forgotten.

The full new State Pension will be £155.65 per week. (7)

The National Insurance record is used to calculate the new State Pension. 10 qualifying years are usually needed to get any new State Pension. The amount paid can be higher or lower depending on National Insurance records. It will only be higher if you have over a certain amount of Additional State Pension. We welcome these changes which finally put to bed all the argument over SERPS. We would aim to see a full State pension rising to £200 per week as soon as it is affordable and then this level to be maintained in real terms. It is essential the Government help raise pension incomes.

In general we consider the idea to allow people to cash in previously purchased annuities to be an ill thought out gimmick and do not support it. However there should be an exception for those who have annuities paying out small amounts, say less than £100 per month. Such amounts should not be offset against benefits.

Morally Framed Education.

A child's education is the prime responsibility of its parents which it is the duty of Government not to undermine. As Christian Democrats we oppose encroaching interference by the State in the content of the curriculum often in a very liberal and immoral way. As a result the content of the National Curriculum has become a key battle ground and it is set to become even more of a battle ground in the future.

The Christian Peoples Alliance says:-

1. Education means teaching all points of view, otherwise it becomes indoctrination, not education. Sadly today too much of our education is beginning to fall into the indoctrination category. It is not the aim of CPA to indoctrinate something different but to educate properly. This basic rule needs to be instilled into our children when teaching all subjects. Most notably:-
 - a) Religious Education must explain what both the adherents of the religion believe in a clear way and it is good practice for adherents of a religion to be invited into a school to explain their views. At the same time children should also be taught what critics of a religion teach and this must apply to all religions, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist etc.
 - b) Sex education should teach both Christian values of marriage between a man and a woman for life and the need to preserve one's sexual organs for marriage and also the secularist view of having sex when you want it but using condoms to prevent disease. All children approaching puberty should know about sexually transmitted diseases and how and when they can be caught. What other religions teach about marriage should also be explained. Children must be taught good and evil, right and wrong, morality and immorality and that "human rights" is a secularist concept not followed historically.
 - c) When teaching history great care should be taken to express history from different perspectives and also to teach history which is relevant to the child. For instance it is important that children learn about recent wars as well as British history from 1066. When talking about history children need to know the good and the bad and understand how the people at the time on different sides were feeling and what motivated them, not just the facts and the outcome.
 - d) The idea of macroevolution should be taught as the majority position of the scientific community. However, the strength of Intelligent Design, which caused the long term leading atheist Antony Flew to side with Einstein and Aristotle in acknowledging God as universal creator, should be outlined. Flew's book, There Is A God, should be strongly recommended to all entrusted to teach science.

Parents should always have the right to know the details of the curriculum in their children's school and to withdraw their children from certain classes if they wish. Teachers should be encouraged to teach from different perspectives not just their own but they should have the right to express their views as well as teaching the views of others. The idea that a Christian teacher cannot say that they are a Christian and why they are a Christian is wrong, but they have to understand and also teach the secular viewpoint. Equally a secularist or homosexual teacher should be able to say they are secular or homosexual but understand and teach the point of view of a Christian as expressed by Jesus in the Bible.

Christian worship in all schools was part of the 1944 Education Act. Today the CPA believes that all children should know what Christian worship is and the role it plays in our society. To get a full understanding they must participate in it and be encouraged to engage themselves if they wish to. However parents should equally always have the right to say they do not want their children to participate in Christian worship or Islamic worship or any other religious activity.

Christian schools should be encouraged and if appropriate state funded but every effort should be made to ensure a broad curriculum in these schools and that other points of view are taught. If this is not the case then State funding should be withdrawn. Schools set up with a clear Christian ethos should have the right to set their own admission policies. However if admission policies are set too narrowly then State funding may not be appropriate. Schools with another faith ethos such as Muslim schools need to be treated differently from Christian schools and be the subject of a review. Taken into account has to be support for violence, attitude towards women and attitude towards those of other faiths if their people wish to convert. Indoctrination should never be allowed to operate in British schools.

As far as school structures are concerned we will do all we can to provide a stable educational environment for children and where possible reduce class sizes. Stability is vital in education and constant changes leave children feeling insecure. Too many structural changes have been taking place over the past 20 or so years. At the same time the more individual attention children get, especially those with special needs, the better.

For Universities the CPA wants open debate on all issues and to encourage close relationships between Universities and the world of work. Our universities should increasingly become national debating centres and State funding should be given to encourage this process with certain debates and lectures being open to people from outside the University to come and participate. The CPA wants an open and free society where ideas can be expressed and no-one lives in fear of expressing them.

The CPA is in principle opposed to tuition fees which are saddling young people with debt from an early age. We will immediately consult on how we can increase funding for Universities and maintain and increase student numbers without tuition fees. Liberal Democrat betrayal of their voters on this issue is something which they deserved to be punished for and should never happen again. We urgently need to restore trust to politics.

Free Efficient Health Service

Supporting the family and following strong principles of good and evil, right and wrong will lead to healthy relationships and happy lives which in turn we believe means there will be less of a burden on the health service. However, there will always be some that need medical care and where that is required it should be of the highest order.

The CPA will end the culture of bureaucracy in the NHS and do all we can to assist doctors to be able to make the best clinical decisions and prescribe the best treatment in all cases starting with the GP.

As with education we want stability in the Health Service. We would

- a. Impose a moratorium on Accident & Emergency and hospital closures and re-configurations unless there are evidence-based, clinical reasons which have the support of the local population and the affected professional staff. There have been enough closures and changes.
- b. Encourage nursing training to contain an increased sense of vocation and enable nurses to be involved in the care of patients to a greater extent.
- c. Have national standards of healthcare rather than targets
- d. Restore a pro life ethic across the NHS so that every member of staff is doing their best to assist the healing of a patient and are not asking questions about whether their life is worth living.
- e. Provide the means for staff to identify and report their concerns about quality of care and patient safety without fear of recrimination for whistle blowing.
- f. Restore the voice of the patient and improve responsiveness to patients and public by improving the NHS complaints process and by instituting independent, accessible bodies with statutory powers to intervene and act on concerns expressed by patients and staff.
- g. Reduce the NHS and Department of Health dependence on management consultants; increase the influence of healthcare professional bodies, health staff and patient groups; and restore responsibility for health planning to public health and clinical leaders.
- h. Use the purchasing power of the NHS to get the best deals for all NHS supplies, equipment, and pharmaceuticals for the benefit of patients.
- i. Increase efficiency at all levels including dealing with engineering and repairs.
- j. In line with our sugar tax proposal we would put the symptoms of Type 1 diabetes in the red book given to new parents. A child is five times more likely to be diagnosed with type 1 diabetes than meningitis, yet the symptoms are not documented in the red baby book that every new parent is given. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/104934>

We will also ensure respect for older people and the long term ill by working towards state funded personal care for the elderly and disabled people. No-one should be forced to sell their home to pay for care. In addition home care services must be improved and the option of sheltered accommodation should be made available where it is the right solution for an elderly person. The CPA would also reward those who stay at home to look after an elderly parent by increasing the Carers Allowance substantially from £61.35 per week and not linking it to any other benefit. We would also make this available for all those caring for over 90s rising each year as the elderly person gets older. If an elderly person moves in with a relative then we want all costs of adapting the home to be paid for by the State. Elderly people must stay with relatives as long as possible. It is in the national interest to do this.

Greening the Economy

The Christian Peoples Alliance affirms that ecology is part of loving God, loving others, and loving our individual selves (Mk.12:30f.), and that ecology goes back to Genesis, a looking after God's garden which takes us above mere self-interest. "So close is the association between Yahweh and the land that an infraction against Yahweh has the effect of polluting or defiling the land" (Elmer Martens' God's Design, 1994:115). Humanity's sinful itch to exploit the earth's resources has led to global pollution. 'Mother Earth' too easily leads to deification of nature: gods created in man's image are demonic. Earth is more

sister than mother, part of God's creation which we have an obligation to. Yet even 'sister' is too strong, as Earth is not in God's likeness, while humanity is (Gen.9:6). Therefore ecology is right but is subject to human needs. The gospel has a green tinge.

Some have criticised Gen.1:26,28 as encouraging the destruction of nature.(8) Sadly all of western man has never been totally committed to Genesis, nor are all atheists eco-friendly. It is not the texts that are wrong, but those who ignore or abuse them. Being a Christian helps. Besides the context of being under the creator's authority, the picture is more of human priesthood in a garden temple, from which to man was to cultivate, guard, and preserve the wider world. It was man's subsequent fall into rebellion which has led to global compromise. "The dominion God gave man is a responsible stewardship which involves the husbanding of the earth's resources. The Creator does not encourage the destruction of what he has made" (John Stott's New Issues Facing Christians, 1999:139).

Practical steps include encouraging repentance of previous abuse, seeking God's blessing on the world, avoiding wastefulness of food, downplaying vanity values, and of vandalism, disposing of waste wisely, such as through recycling, transparent information of product eco-friendliness, and political pressure at national and global levels. Ecological balance is biblical, and a biblical balance is required for it to work well. So far as we are able, we aim to reverse many ecological trends that did not exist in biblical times, such as Global Warming. While wars and environmental calamities may signpost the return of Christ, we at least should discourage them.

Environmental concern is global, often reaches governmental level, and includes the issues of land contamination, endangered and depopulating species (such as bees), deforestation, changing climates, chemical emissions, rising oceans (which could lead to weakening of economies and national borders). We commit to a biblical scientific assessment of ecological research, to decrease the adverse impact of humanity on our world. We commit to encouraging a more sustainable Britain. The Christian Democratic approach is to promote the emergence of self-reliant local economies, democratically supported by devolved decision-making, preserving the beauty of creation entrusted to all the people of Britain. We believe that investing in the social ecology of human relationships, especially family life, will also help ensure wise stewardship of the natural ecology as we see privileges and obligations under God. We commit to challenging the unequal consumption of scarce resources, as it is people's lifestyles and consumer choices which make the difference to social justice and environmental protection. The CPA requires a shift away from the me-first values that hasten unnecessary consumption and which lie behind the destruction of nature. Our whole approach to government will develop this culture shift.

We shall encourage sustainable fuels, sustainable environment, and sustainable living. We favour a sustained programme of investment in energy conservation, localised energy generation, and renewable technologies, as the primary means to boost economic demand, rather than reliance on money/supply solutions. Green technologies and businesses will be given priority for Government investment. Every support will be given to technologies that lead to a reduction in carbon pollution. This will include full support to energy conservation and to alternative energy production.

We will also provide Government support to do further work in the development of hybrid cars and electric only cars.

We will give our full support to international agreements aimed at limiting CO2 and other greenhouse gases. We support the goal of 80% decarbonisation and will use all means at our disposal including investment in energy efficiency and renewables to achieve this.

Immigration

It is essential we have a mature and balanced approach to this problem and avoid emotional rhetoric that can lead to racism and hatred of others. The Christian position is based on a common humanity being in God's Image (Imago Dei). Neither nationalism nor ethnicism overrides the basic Imago Dei. However, nationalism and ethnicism belong to a fallen world, and can lead to social discord, whereas the new covenant urges social peace within the global gospel. Even as we have an obligation to UK politics, we have an obligation to UK society's harmony under God. Responses must not be anti-Christian.

The Christian position does not disallow identity change: certainly the UK has undergone many, such as Romanisation and Normanisation. However, it disallows identity change by foul means. Immigration should be fair.

Definitions

The term 'immigrant' defines someone who has permanently moved into a country, while migrant generally refers to someone who has entered an area (or country) from outside for a short term work or educational objective. There are numerous instances where official migrants remain without permission beyond their legal term and so become illegal immigrants. Unrestricted immigration is unfair, both on existing citizens and those who seek to settle here by legitimate and legal means; and it costs are considerable.

Our Christian duties.

God told His chosen people: "Don't mistreat or oppress an immigrant, because you were once immigrants in the land of Egypt" (CEB: Ex.22:21). This means that, once welcomed, immigrants are to be well treated as neighbours. This does not mean, however, that Ethnic Israel was to let mass immigration reculturate their land. Reculturation was forbidden. Whilst, in certain respects, Israel constitutes a special development in salvation history, it still offers wisdom for us today. If our immigration priorities are to provide a safe haven and to acquire into the country necessary skills, then immigration need not, and indeed should not, be at the expense of the values, freedoms and culture of our nation.

Statistical Reality

Population Density: England is the sixth most crowded country in the World. 1997-2010 showed a net immigration gain of about 2 million, with roughly 80% from non-EU countries, and figures project an extra net increase of 7 million by 2027, two-thirds of this by immigration. Approximately 45% of Londoners are now White British, down from 58% in 2001. (9) Far right politics have been a reaction to fears of overcrowding and significant changes in the ethnic makeup of our population. Christians, however, must take both a realistic and grateful view of the natural and human resources that God has provided, and must never be motivated to base citizenship rights on specifically racial grounds.

Asylum Seekers

The Convention on Refugees 1951 (globalised by the 1967 Protocol) states that countries should offer first port of call shelter for those perceived to be fleeing from unjust persecution. If Port 1 is overloaded, subsequent ports should be open for fair distribution. The wisdom and fairness of the UK Border Agency has long been suspect. Their policies and actions must be audited for just ethical standards, including a proper up-to-date awareness of worldwide human rights issues, such as the way conversion to Christianity and other faiths can lead to serious persecution, including a death sentence, in many

countries; for instance, in a number of Islamic nations such as Iran and Saudi Arabia. We will certainly give priority to those who have faced or may face persecution in such countries.

Economic/Educational Immigrants

The UK needs guest workers due to declining and ageing populations. But it is unjust to take migrant professionals from developing countries to meet our own skills shortages, whether nurses, doctors or IT specialists. This long term issue will be addressed by our policies to support marriage and family life to reverse the domestic de- population trend.

Until the declining birth rate is reversed, we favour a UK or EU version of the American Green Card system for determining who can come to work in Britain. The system is basically designed to assess how useful applicants are likely to be to the UK workforce, or how genuine their claim to student status is. Its Tier 3, designed to monitor low-skill short-term economic immigration, has never been used since the European Economic Area (EEA) visa-free door remains open to EU citizens, who can be tempted in by guaranteed benefits and even bogus offers of paid employment. EEA access should have a monitored condition which makes migrant workers and their sponsors responsible for housing and medical cover independent of the State. This will broaden accountability and encourage self-responsibility for those without current citizenship status, whilst reducing the burden on the taxpayer. After leaving the EU it is only fair that EEA migrants should also be subject to the same points system.

An official mechanism to help immigrants enslaved (trafficked) without passport protection, such as those groups like 'Hope for Justice' seek to help, should be widely publicised. Such agencies deserve State funding. Economic migrants can, by stolen passports, be enslaved, their wages stolen by traffickers, and also deprived of many of the protections relating to health, pay, housing, travel, and other welfare needs that many of us take for granted. They can end up homeless and completely disempowered. It is reported that about 20% of international students remain legally; the remaining 80% go largely unmonitored.(10)

It is crucially important that the citizenship status of both parties to a marriage should be checked, and both parties fully warned about the possibility of illegal immigrants being denied a right to remain, before any wedding is conducted. Marriage should not be abused merely as a way of gaining citizenship status.

Illegal Immigrants

There are an estimated 0.5 million illegal immigrants in the UK, mostly in London. The UK Border Agency is tasked with finding & deporting them: it is costly and time consuming. We should not be legitimising illegal immigration but ensuring that the system is fair for those who wish to live and work here legally, and for genuine asylum seekers

1. We reject a Qualified Amnesty. It may cause financial & social problems down the line. Crime should not pay. There inevitably has to be a time, however, when illegal immigrants have been here so long without committing any crime and without recourse to the State that they should be allowed to remain. We consider this point to be 10 years though there should be a further limit of 5 years for such people before State benefits can be claimed.

2. We will reward voluntary surrender by more sympathetic evaluation and free repatriation if required. We will punish concealment with tough penalties. Attrition through enforcement could make it harder to obtain benefits such as paid employment, medical care, and formal education, significantly reducing the size of the illegal population at reasonable cost by making emigration the best option. We will then pay for the air fares of those returning on the condition that it is understood they will never be allowed to visit the country again unless the cost is refunded.

3. We will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness in which our borders are managed. If we remain in the EU this will be managed within EU rules. Outside of the EU it can be much more effective and fairer to all non Britains wanting to come here.

Restorative Justice

For a real and lasting reduction in crime we need to tackle it's root causes. If Christian values of loving neighbours, loving enemies and forming lasting stable relationships are followed perfectly then real crime will cease. However simply by promoting those values crime will reduce. The by product of this will be safer streets, better parenting and a happier society. Our aim is to eliminate the yob culture and the "me first" society.

Relationships are absolutely key when we are talking about crime. Stable relationships of love and caring are needed in every society and are the fundamental basis of a Christian community. Of course everyone at some time in their life will make mistakes. When this happens as a society we should look first at restoration and only second at punishment. At the moment too easily we arrest people and bang them up in a police cell or jail without making any attempt to understand why the so called crime has been committed or what is happening. This frequently causes resentment and anger. The police approach is arrest first and ask questions later. This has got to change to a process of ask questions first and seek to resolve a problem and arrest only as a last resort.

Where the criminal justice system has to be involved the central goal of the Christian Peoples Alliance is to repair the relationship between the offender and victim. This process ensures that victims can tell offenders the real impact of their crime and hopefully receive an apology. Offenders have a chance to understand the real impact of what they've done and do something to repair the harm. They will also have a chance to explain their motive to the victim and explain why they did what they did while at the same time they are held to account. Notwithstanding this helping the victim is central to the process. There is research which shows that this is the best way to reduce crime and anti social behaviour, reduce re-offending rates and has the by product of cost savings and less fear of crime. This is not done in isolation and is not a soft option, people can still be set to jail, but we would make it a vital part of the criminal justice system.

We are very keen to re-energise Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and these will be properly funded. At the same time support for Street pastors and special constables will support the community approach. CPA policies are to invest in social institutions which encourage a law abiding lifestyle and especially to support the family.

At the moment half of all offenders go on to recommit crime so at the moment the prison system on its own simply isn't working. New initiatives are desperately needed. In addition to the restorative Justice system outlined above we will also:-

- 1) Launch a "pathway out of the life of crime" initiative to help parents whose children have been lured into crime. This will be linked in with our overall policy to support marriage and the family outlined above.
- 2) WE will take a stricter approach to drug use because of the clear link between drug use and crime.

- 3) WE will restore local authority licensing of the sale of alcohol and repeal the 24 hour licensing legislation to seek to reduce the number of alcohol related offences and the number of people who become alcoholics.
- 4) We will increase the resources being spent on vocational courses in prisons to give prisoners the best possible chance of working when they are released. Studies in America have shown that those who acquire vocational qualifications in prison are 33% less likely to offend.
- 5) The Gambling Act 2005 will be repealed and new controls put on Casinos with mandatory warnings having to be placed in all betting shops that gambling can cause serious poverty. We will ban the advertising of all gambling just as the advertising of smoking has been prohibited.
- 6) We will oppose any attempts to relax moral laws such as legalising brothels or legalising prostitution. This undermines the welfare of society as a whole by treating women as sexual playthings rather than objects of real love and affection which they are meant to be.
- 7) We want the recommendations of Ian Acheson on radicalisation in prisons implemented in full. This is a very serious problem which needs constant monitoring. The CPA will ensure that all prison governors not only get training to spot radicalisation. We will also train them in countering it through effective debate. (11)

We would also make 2 further proposals relating to extra Territorial Sovereignty

- 1) Anyone who harms a British Citizen abroad can be brought back to the UK for trial;
- 2) Any British Citizen who acts illegally abroad can be tried in UK (including considering by AG before CoA if sentence abroad was too light) - it is an utter nonsense that Gary Glitter convicted abroad of sex offences could not be made to sign the Sex Offenders Register on return.

We will address all issues relating to other religions by encouraging and sponsoring national debate on the rights and wrongs of different religions. We will encourage the best minds in the world to come and take part in televised debates and encourage those debates to continue in our schools and Universities. We believe that in this way Christianity will be shown to be the truth and other religions including Islam misguided. Under the Christian People Alliance there will be freedom to change religion for anyone at any time and freedom for anyone to express their views in a rational non violent way. We believe this is the process that will undermine and destroy Islamic radicalism more than any other. We will, however, at the same time keep a very careful eye on anyone individual or organisation that supports hatred and violence and if necessary proscribe the organisation as illegal in the UK.

Human trafficking is an issue that has arisen in recent year and the authorities have been very slow to get to grips with it. Also called "modern slavery" the CPA will increase resources to whatever is required to see it stamped out for good just as Christians took the lead in the past in stamping out slavery.

Youth policy

Britain's youth unemployment is around 13pc at the end of last year. Changes to the welfare state for unemployed under 25's is creating a sense of hopelessness among some who have nowhere to turn from age 18 to 25.

At the same time the cost of living has increased albeit at a slower rate, but it is still rising while a lack of discipline in society has led young people to resort to loan sharks as a first option to manage bills. At the

same time when the far right blames all societies problems on immigration it encourages racism and a class hatred among the youth and even a gang psychology.

There are alarming reports of children engaging in emotional and physical abuse towards their parents and society so that it seems the breakdown of moral signposts from a very young age has become a norm.

CPA proposes:-

1. Reinforce and strengthen programmes to ensure unemployment is not an option for any young person. WE want to see more resources allocated to encourage apprentice schemes and voluntary placements which can lead to full time employment after a period. These placements must not be motivated by greed for 'financial sweeteners' not cheap labour but the desire to give a young person a chance. Rogue employers will be weeded out.
2. We want young people to have community mentors who can help them make the right decisions. The ethos of loving our neighbour has almost become outdated whereby we may not even know who are living on our streets. If young people are engaged with their community then it encourages safer neighbourhoods and involvement with the elderly so they feel supported. We need more community spirit and less division. We want these community schemes to operate outside the police or social services.
3. We would provide more respite centres for families experiencing breakdown and easy access to counselling and training in child rearing free of charge to anyone who wants to commit to participating in it.

Defence and Foreign Policy.

"The Christian Peoples Alliance seeks international peace and security by multilateral security initiatives reducing the amount of armaments in the world and reducing the international arms trade starting with our own.

The danger of a nuclear weapons exchange by intention or accident remains a credible possibility and nuclear proliferation among nations and into terrorist groups must be prevented. Nuclear weapon states must take practical steps to nuclear disarmament and thereby prevent nuclear weapon proliferation in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The CPA believes that it would never be a Christian act to use weapons of mass destruction, nor ask others to do it on their behalf. We would like to see the cancellation of the Trident renewal programme.

We believe that the focus of our defence spending should be on developing defensive systems including missile shields round the UK. We must work with other countries in Europe to achieve an effective shield. Technology exists which is currently able to shoot down 95% of all incoming missiles, but this will improve to take its reliability nearer 100%. We must aim to be able to destroy incoming missiles as near as possible to the launch site so any country thinking of launching them will know they are endangering their own people. We also want to develop technology that can lock onto incoming missiles and redirect them into the sea.

Now nuclear weapons are in the hands of other states and there is a real risk they may proliferate further into non-state hands, the Mutually Assured Destruction idea doesn't work. We will still have much more focus on poverty alleviation and other life giving projects for the common good than spending on weapons."

We believe in fair trade worldwide so that developing economies in the world can grow without competing with cheap subsidies products from elsewhere. This will need in some circumstances to be supplemented by Overseas Aid. Grinding poverty still holds 2.8 billion people around the world in its grip. The Bible makes it clear with over 3,000 references to poverty that God hates injustice and that to love our neighbours as ourselves is a mandate that Britain should follow. For the Christian Peoples Alliance, poverty is not an accident. The CPA will therefore pursue policies that challenge its root causes, such as wars, generalised violence, persecution, human rights abuses, the arms trade, corrupt government, the crippling debt burden and unfair trade practices that distort the economies of poor countries. Tear Fund alone received £18.6million in 2012/13 in Government Grants according to their accounts (12) all of which is going to the poorest and most destitute in the world. Others would take all this away which is absolutely wrong.

We will refocus our international Aid budget on helping refugees and to ensure people don't become refugees. We will also ensure that the emphasis of our foreign aid is on development for the recipient's self-sufficiency, rather than rewarding inefficiency and corruption, or funding politically correct causes. We would restore to TEAR fund the grant they were given of £24.1m in 2011/12. The response to disasters such as that in the Philippines shows that the British people do care about those abroad that need help. We must be ready to extend a compassionate hand to anyone in our human family who needs it , wherever they are in the world.

We want a Britain that plays its full part in the world through the United Nations where we must maintain our permanent seat on the security Council. We must be involved and give support to international peace agreements and international trade agreements. We must re-establish a close relationship with the Commonwealth and maintain the special relationship with the USA.

We will rebuild favourable trading relationships with any country in the world which wants to join with us in doing so to our mutual benefit provided they do not have an unacceptable human rights record. Prior to our membership of the EEC this was granted to Commonwealth countries and they will probably be the core of these new arrangements but not necessarily so. The reality is that before we joined the EEC, or the EU as it now is, we had a small trading surplus with the other EEC nations. After we joined that quickly became a large deficit. That means that our membership of the EU has been more beneficial to other EU nations than it has been to the British. We want to be a country that plays its full part in the world and seeks trade agreements with the new economic powerhouses of China, Russia, India and Brazil as well as the emerging powerhouse of Africa. Trade with Europe may initially be diminished if we leave the EU but we will then be in a stronger position to increase our trade with the rest of the world, especially the Commonwealth. Over time there is no reason why we should not develop mutually beneficial trading relations with the EU as indeed Switzerland and Norway have done both of whom have stayed outside the EU.

While persecution of Christians is being carried out so obviously and clearly by Muslim Governments we would stop all state support for any Muslim organisations in the UK and seek international agreements for other Governments to do the same. We will give full support where we can to Christians and other faith groups who are being persecuted and offer them refuge wherever it is needed. We will seek

international agreements to aid in their protection. At this stage we would not go so far as Angola has in outlawing Islam because what the Qur'an teaches.

The persecution of Christians has come to the fore because of the actions of groups like Boko Haram and Islamic State. CPA policy is to give aid to displaced refugees and to provide safe havens for those who need them. At the moment the UK Government is giving £405million in aid to Pakistan. We believe this aid should be dependent on the Pakistani Government scrapping law 295C. Under this law if anyone criticises the prophet Muhammad or the Qur'an they have to be put to death. Thus Asia Bibi is on death row because she said, "Jesus Christ died for my sins, what has Muhammad ever done for you." This cannot continue. Only if Asia Bibi is released and if this law is scrapped can aid to Pakistan continue. We should also work with the US and other Western Countries to this end. All other direct aid to Governments should be conditional on Christians and other faith groups not being persecuted.

Israel is a small country in the heart of the Middle East surrounded by some very aggressive neighbours. Over the years these neighbours have 3 times tried to wipe them out in 1948, 1967 and 1973. There have been many attempts at peace most notably with Egypt and Jordan which have led to Israel returning land it has gained during wars in return for peace. They have also unilaterally withdrawn from the Gaza strip in an effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Despite all these efforts they have enemies committed to wiping them off the map.

1. We assert the right of the nation of Israel to exist in peace.
2. We assert the duty of all people within Israel and without to engage in a democratic process to help bring peace in the region.
3. We assert the duty of the international community to support Israel in promoting these rights and duties.

Housing and Development

The breakdown of families and marriage coupled with increased immigration has together put the need for housing in our society under increased strain.

The first resort is not just to build more houses but to address some of the underlying causes of the increased need. This we have done elsewhere in this manifesto. Coupled with this where wealth has increased there is also an increased likelihood that some people will own both a working home in a city and a rest home of some sort away from a city.

Despite this even while the underlying causes are being addressed there will still be a need for more houses to be built. The CPA proposes:-

- 1) The process of encouraging more new housing to be built in city centres will be increased. As shopping habits are changing and more people are either buying on line or going to out of town shopping centres, old city centres can be re-invigorated by building as much housing as possible in city centres which will include new shops with flats above them. This housing is useful for anyone who does not want a garden, particularly young people, and in many cases reduces travel requirements so easing congestion on road and rail. It also helps the shopping centres themselves by increasing the number of people who live nearby and does away with places that are dead at night.
- 2) Unused development areas will be identified and significant new sites will be made available for housing.

- 3) In an area where there are a significant number of empty houses if these cannot be brought back into use we will look at redevelopment to improve and invigorate an area. This will sometimes be painful in the short term but will always have long term benefits.
- 4) We will ensure that 90% of housing is CO2 neutral by 2050 through housing developments that are carbon neutral and by taking further measures to encourage the insulation of existing houses.
- 5) We will do our level best to avoid turning green sites into housing estates. This should only happen as an exception.
- 6) Second Homes to be a different use class in planning to main residence (to protect rural communities) with automatic planning permission for reversion from Second Home status to Main Residence status, but not the other way round. This will lead to an increase in current Second Home values faster than Main Residence values in the same area (as the supply of Second Homes is restricted), but that can be addressed, if need be, through Capital Gains Tax.

Transport

Enormous amounts of money have been spent on new roads and new railways over the past 5 years but the question of increasing the capacity of London's airports has been carefully sidestepped for mainly political reasons. This has now brought us to the place where there is an urgent need to do something.

The Christian Peoples Alliance believes the ideal solution is to build a new hub airport in the Thames Estuary as has been suggested by the Mayor of London. Money could be diverted from the HS2 railway proposals to build this and the economic benefits would be far greater.

If this possibility is not considered feasible then the only other option is to build an extended runway at Heathrow. London can only have one major hub airport and extending Gatwick or Stanstead is not an option in our view.

Costing.

It is very easy for an opposition party to make wild promises but we believe we are being responsible. The cost and benefit of our proposals we see as follows:-

1. Strengthening marriage. It is stated above that the breakdown of marriage is costing the country £50 billion this year. We expect to be able to change the whole culture of our society so substantial amounts of this money will be clawed back. In the short term our grants for marriage and child training will involve a cost but we feel it is legitimate to borrow money to finance these as the short term cost will be outweighed by the long term gain.
2. Changes we intend to make to Income tax, national insurance stamp duty and inheritance tax we anticipate will be neutral so that if additional money is being raised at the top end there is also a reduction at the bottom end in all cases.
3. By doing away with nuclear weapons we anticipate there will be a substantial savings which we would apply to our schemes for the youth outlined above, immediately £10bn per year.
4. This money will be paid back into the welfare budget where cuts will be restored in accordance with one of our major priorities, care for the poor.
5. The Company turnover tax will bring in a lot of money exactly how much we don't know but we would earmark this money for our capital investment schemes. We want to reduce debt but we will do this by investing first knowing once the investment is complete if it is done in the right

way then wealth creation is bound to follow which will create greater income for debt reduction and also more capital investment and so a virtuous cycle.

6. There would be an enormous cost to the complete removal of tuition fees but we believe the drive to bring Universities closer to business and enterprise needs to continue and be accelerated and through this means more private money can be brought into the University system so tuition fees are not needed.
7. If we immediately repeal the European Communities Act 1972 then we will stop all contributions to the EU. If the UK Government takes over and maintains all EU grants at least in the short term there will be a net gain of £7bn to £10bn per year. This money we will invest in capital projects.

It is important to remember that Government is the custodians of the people's money and that money should always be used wisely and prudently. It is not a fixed pot and economic decisions can cause very large fluctuations in the pot which is why specific costing is really meaningless. The most important thing is the right approach. Public spending in the United Kingdom has steadily increased from 12 percent of GDP in 1900 to 47 percent today. There were obviously war time peaks but other than that there was a peak of 45% in the early 1980s reduced to 35% by 1989. There were then some fluctuations until 2000 when it was 36% but then it rose rapidly to today's level.(13) We now desperately need to reduce the size of Government to restore wealth to the nation. We aim to do this in general by having fewer government rules and greater efficiency, not fewer Government benefits. It is by creating wealth that we will then have more money to help the poor.

Appendix 1

Government Help to Buy Schemes

Under the equity loan scheme, buyers are able to buy a new-build home with a deposit of just 5%, and can borrow up to 15% of the property's value from the government. The government then owns a stake in the property.

Under the mortgage guarantee scheme, buyers can purchase any home up to the value of £600,000, and up to 15% of their loan is underwritten by the Treasury.

As with the equity loan scheme, buyers need to put down a deposit of at least 5%. The English scheme began in April 2013, but the Scottish and Welsh schemes started later.

Options

Fears that the Help to Buy scheme has driven a surge in house prices has led to speculation that the Bank of England could seek to modify it.

Bank governor Mark Carney has warned of the dangers the booming housing market posed to long-term financial stability, and said the Bank was considering providing advice on "changing the terms" of the Help to Buy scheme.

One option for the Bank's Financial Policy Committee (FPC) is to recommend a change in the rules, so that only properties under the value of £300,000, for example, would qualify for the scheme.

Rob Wood, the chief UK economist with Berenberg Bank, believes the Bank should now try to cut the scheme back.

"We expect the Bank to recommend watering down the scheme in its annual review in September," he said.

However, others think it more likely that the FPC will recommend other measures to control the housing market - such as requiring lenders to hold more capital to protect themselves against risky loans - or limiting the amount they can lend in relation to a borrower's salary.

Lloyds has already announced that it will lend no more than four-times salary on mortgages above £500,000. We believe this level should be applied across the board(14)

Appendix 2

Debt levels

In 2005 the UK National Debt was less than £0.5 trillion. But then came the worldwide financial crisis of 2008 and subsequent recession. The National Debt increased rapidly and went over £1 trillion in 2011. At the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year National Debt went past £1.5trillion and is estimated to be £1.64trillion March 2017.

In terms of Gross Domestic Product the UK National Debt in 2005 was about 38 percent of GDP. But in the last ten years, in the wake of the Crash of 2008 and subsequent recession, the National has doubled to over 80 percent GDP, but now shows signs of leveling out as a percent of GDP. (15)

The dismal state of government borrowing means Chancellor George Osborne failed to achieve his target to see net debt, a different measure, falling as a percentage of the economy by 2015-16 but it has levelled off.

Under the EU rules countries should run a debt to GDP ratio of 60 per cent or less but the average in the euro area of the EU is currently 90.2% with Greece at 167.9%, Italy 132.7% which shows how bad the EU has been at enforcing its rules in this respect. (16)

The gap between government spending and what it raises through taxes peaked at £161billion in 2009, falling to £150 billion in 2010, £119billion in 2011 and £98billion in 2012decreasing to £74bn 2015/16. (17)

It means net borrowing as a percentage of GDP stood at just 6.8 per cent at the end of 2012, its lowest level since 2008 but has remained stubbornly around 6% since.

Christian Peoples Alliance Policy is to reduce debt levels to below 60% of GDP as soon as we can but do it by wealth creation and reduced regulation not by cutting essential services.

Notes

- 1) <http://www.ifs.org.uk/bns/bn92.pdf> p.2

- 2) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8688470.stm p.2
- 3) http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8700342.stm
- 4) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/203826/Spending_review_2010.pdf p.2
- 5) <http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2013/06/ministers-to-spend-300bn-on-transport-housing-and-energy> p.2
- 6) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015-documents/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015>. P.3
- 7) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/514293/your-state-pension-explained-apr-2016.pdf p.13
- 8) <http://www.religioustolerance.org/tomek30.htm> p.16
- 9) www.balancedmigration.org p.18
- 10) www.migrationwatchuk.com: Press Release 05062013 p.19
- 11) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/islamist-extremism-in-prisons-probation-and-youth-justice/government-response-to-the-review-of-islamist-extremism-in-prisons-probation-and-youth-justice> p.20
- 12) <http://www.tearfund.org/~media/files/main%20site/about%20us/tearfund%20annual%20report%20and%20financial%20statements%20year%20ended%20march%202013.pdf> p.22
- 13) http://www.ukpublicspending.co.uk/past_spending p.25
- 14) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-27608313>. BBC report 29/5/2014 p.26
- 15) http://www.ukpublicspending.co.uk/uk_national_debt_chart.html p.26
- 16) <http://www.statista.com/statistics/269684/national-debt-in-eu-countries-in-relation-to-gross-domestic-product-gdp/> p.27
- 17) <http://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/bulletins/publicsectorfinances/march2016> p.27