# GENERAL ELECTION 2024: HOW DOES EACH PARTY'S MANIFESTO MEET OUR PRIORITIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?



Ahead of the general election, the End Violence Against Women Coalition and 70 other leading organisations published <u>a joint manifesto</u> calling on all political parties to adopt its recommendations for ending this abuse.

The manifesto sets out our priorities for the next government; calling for a comprehensive, whole-society approach to tackling VAWG. We framed this manifesto around ten key areas:

- 1. Rights and inequalities
- 2. Prevention
- 3. Funding and commissioning of specialist VAWG services, including 'by and for' provision
- 4. Economic barriers
- 5. Partnerships and multi-agency working
- 6. Health and adult social care
- 7. Housing
- 8. Family courts and children's social care
- 9. Criminal justice reform
- 10. Perpetrators

After a disappointing round of political debates in which VAWG was glaringly absent, EVAW wrote to political party leaders setting out our key priorities for ending VAWG. We now review: How do the political party manifestos of 2024 match up with our own?

Our polling found that 76% of people do not trust politicians generally to tackle violence against women and girls, and it is up to political party leaders to change this.

We encourage you to review the manifesto pledges around VAWG and ask your parliamentary candidates three key questions:

- 1. How is your party prioritising the prevention of VAWG?
- 2. Will your party fund specialist VAWG support services, including 'by and for' services?
- 3. How will your party uphold the human rights of all survivors, recognising inequalities for Black and minoritised, migrant, deaf and disabled and LGBT+ groups?

# **Conservative Party**

The content of the Conservative Party's manifesto mainly lists the actions it has carried out in government on VAWG, such as¹ introducing the Domestic Abuse Act and making VAWG a strategic policing requirement. As shown below, most of the new pledges fall under the criminal justice system and response to perpetrators. There is no commitment to trying to stop VAWG happening in the first place, however there are a few welcome policies to address economic barriers for working families such as looking at reform of the Child Maintenance Service for victims of domestic or economic abuse, 30 hours free childcare a week and family hubs in every local authority. Its pledges within schools reflect a controversial approach; banning the use of mobile phones, focusing on parental rights to view school content (particularly sex education) and excluding gender identity from being taught (EVAW has shared our views on this approach taken to the RSHE guidance <a href="here">here</a>).

Under rights and equalities, besides delivering on the disability action plan (which was itself criticised as 'weak' by disabled people's organisations), the manifesto points to a regression in human rights and equalities protections. This includes more police powers limiting the right to protest, a commitment to the Rwanda Plan and a punitive approach to migration; accompanied by worrying language alluding to the potential for withdrawal from the European Court of Human Rights.

# **Labour Party**

The Labour Party has set an ambitious goal of halving VAWG within a decade - firmly under the banner of prevention, accompanied by a welcome, though vague commitment to tackle misogyny in schools. As a whole, the contents of its manifesto connected to VAWG mainly reflect actions within the criminal justice system. Our VAWG manifesto calls for a 'whole-society approach to tackling VAWG that looks beyond the criminal justice system and centres those who face the greatest barriers to support and protection'. Within the criminal justice commitments are some much-needed provisions such as legal advocates for survivors (something EVAW and partners have long called for, though we'll want to ensure this is funded by central government as we proposed), and barring police officers with a history of VAWG.

Under 'rights and inequalities', Labour's manifesto reflects a worryingly similar punitive approach to migration which does not reflect the VAWG manifestos asks for migrant survivors. In the absence of creating safe and legal routes or dismantling the hostile environment, it promises instead to invest in new border security, a new returns and enforcement unit and to negotiate additional returns arrangements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/dpos-verdict-on-disability-action-plan-weak-grudging-and-just-a-list-of-empty-promises/

### **Liberal Democrats**

The Liberal Democrats manifesto does well to reflect a 'whole-society approach' to VAWG, with a full section devoted to 'rights and equalities' in line with our VAWG manifesto. This includes full implementation of the Istanbul Convention, upholding the Equality Act, ending the hostile environment and incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into UK law.

Its ambitions to tackle gender inequality and homelessness would also fall under both 'prevention' and 'housing' asks, when compared with our VAWG manifesto. Positively, the Liberal Democrats manifesto commits to funding support services - including expanding refuges and rape crisis centres to meet demand, alongside sustainable funding services for domestic abuse, with a focus on community-based services and specialist 'by and for' services.

### **Green Party**

The Green Party manifesto similarly aligns with a 'whole-society' approach to VAWG, with a range of pledges connected to rights and inequalities and economic barriers in particular, including an end to the hostile environment and a promise to abolish the No Recourse to Public Funds condition, which currently entraps migrant survivors in abuse.

Its VAWG specific policies include developing and implementing a new UK-wide strategy to tackle gender-based violence; and criminal justice policies including making misogyny a hate crime, police force training on domestic abuse and the decriminalisation of sex work. The manifesto commits to fund local authorities so that domestic violence, rape crisis and other provision can meet local needs.

# **Scottish National Party**

The Scottish National Party <u>manifesto</u> includes many welcome pledges connected to rights and inequalities and economic barriers, including increasing maternity pay (under prevention) and opposing no recourse to public funds. The SNP manifesto doesn't appear to contain any VAWG specific policies, nor actions under key areas outlined in the VAWG manifesto like response to perpetrators nor family courts and children's social care.

# Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru's manifesto addresses many of the key areas in our VAWG manifesto, across rights and inequalities, economic barriers and housing. Many of its commitments within criminal justice and perpetrator work are conditional on the creation of a Victims Commissioner for Wales, to deliver pledges such as ensuring laws relating to sexual images are always based on consent rather than intent, which EVAW has supported. Its criminal justice pledges also positively include actions to tackle the criminalisation of women. It is missing root cause preventative action on VAWG.

# **COMMITMENTS IN PARTY MANIFESTOS**

# **Conservative Party**

### No VAWG actions under:

X Funding and commissioning of specialist services

X Partnerships and multiagency working

X Health and adult social care

# **Rights and inequalities**

- Deliver on the Disability Action Plan
- Primary legislation to clarify that the protected characteristic of sex in the Equality Act means biological sex and an individual can only have one sex in eyes of the law
- Strengthen police powers to prevent protests or marches that pose a risk of serious disorder
- Commitment to Rwanda Plan, with accompanying rhetoric around willingness to distance from the ECtHR
- Introduce a legal cap on migration to guarantee that numbers will fall every year
- Work with other countries to rewrite asylum treaties
- Require migrants to undergo a health check in advance of travel and increasing their Immigration Health Surcharge or requiring them to buy health insurance 'if they are likely to be a burden on the NHS'.
- Increase all visa fees and remove the student discount to the Immigration Health Surcharge

### Prevention

- Ensure parents have the right to see what their children are being taught in school and "contested concept" of gender identity not taught
- Protect children by requiring schools to ban the use of mobile phones during the school day and ensuring parents can see what their children are being taught, especially on sensitive matters like sex education.
- Legislate to create a register of children not in school
- Consider the recommendations of Baroness Bertin's Independent Review of Pornography and ensure safeguards to 'protect against any harmful impacts of the industry.

### **Economic barriers**

- Give working parents 30 hours of free childcare a week from when their child is nine months old to when they start school
- Deliver a Family Hub in every local authority in England
- Move all of those remaining on legacy benefits onto Universal Credit
- Tougher sanctions rules so 'people who refuse to take up suitable jobs after 12 months on benefits can have their cases closed and their benefits removed entirely.'
- Reform the Child Maintenance Service to prevent noncompliance and new laws to help crack down on non-payment. Look at how the Service can better support victims of domestic or economic abuse, building on recommendations from Dr Samantha Callan's 2023 Independent Review

### Health and adult social care

• Overhaul the fit note process with a new system which moves the responsibility for issuing fit notes from GPs towards specialist work and health professionals. This will be tested with integration with a WorkWell service to provide tailored support to help people stay in or get back to work.

# Housing

- Abolish Stamp Duty for homes up to £425,000 for first time buyers and introduce a new Help to Buy scheme.
- Deliver a record number of homes each year on brownfield land in urban areas
- Renew the Affordable Homes Programme

# Family courts and children's social care

- Expand the Pathfinder Courts pilot in family court proceedings
- Continue mediation vouchers to 'help more families resolve private law child arrangements without an acrimonious court battle'

# **Criminal justice reform**

- Create new offences for spiking, the creation of sexualised deepfake images and taking intimate images without consent
- Match fund 100 criminal law pupillages to speed up justice for victims
- Empower judges to require offenders to attend hearings or face an increased sentence.
- License police officers for specialist roles, as we do for firearms officers.
- Legislate to ensure officers are appropriately vetted during their service and those who fail can be sacked.
- Design a redress scheme for the victims of child sexual abuse in institutional settings
- Recruit 8,000 more full-time, fully warranted police officers
- Rolling out Hotspot Policing, expanding community payback and legislating to evict social tenants who repeatedly disrupt their neighbours

### **Perpetrators**

- 25-year prison term for domestic murders, regardless of whether a weapon is used.
- New aggravating factor for murders that happen in the context of 'rough sex', so it is never used as an excuse to get a lighter sentence.
- Make life imprisonment without parole mandatory for 'more of the most heinous murderers and require rapists and other serious sexual offenders to spend the whole of their sentences behind bars.'
- Turn criminals away from the cycle of reoffending, investing in rehabilitative services such as drug treatment, education and employment
- Restricting sex offenders from changing their names.
- Bring the mandatory reporting provisions of the Criminal Justice Bill into force as soon as possible.

### **Labour Party**

### No VAWG actions under:

X Funding for specialist services

X Partnerships and multi-agency working

X Family courts and children's social care

# **Rights and inequalities**

- Strengthen the rights and protections available to women in co-habiting couples, as well as for whistleblowers in the workplace, including on sexual harassment.
- Protections from maternity and menopause discrimination and sexual harassment
- Race Equality Act to enshrine full right to equal pay for minoritised people, and strengthened protection against dual discrimination
- Ban gender conversion therapy and modernise gender recognition laws
- New legal safeguards around strip-searching children and young people.
- Create a new Border Security Command, with hundreds of new investigators, intelligence officers, and cross-border police officers.
- Hire additional caseworkers to clear the Conservatives' backlog and end asylum hotels
- Set up a new returns and enforcement unit, with an additional 1,000 staff, to fast-track removals
- Negotiate additional returns arrangements to speed up returns and increase the number of safe countries that failed asylum seekers can swiftly be sent back to.

### Prevention

- Halve violence against women and girls in a decade
- Tackle misogyny in schools by teaching young people about healthy relationships and consent

### **Economic barriers**

- Strengthen the right to equal pay for women
- Free breakfast clubs in every primary school
- Make Work Pay ban zero hour contracts, introduce basic rights such as parental leave and sick pay

### Health and adult social care

• 8.500 additional mental health staff

# Housing

- Update the National Policy Planning Framework to undo Conservative changes, including restoring mandatory housing targets
- Require all Combined and Mayoral Authorities to strategically plan for housing growth in their areas.
- Make changes to the Affordable Homes Programme to ensure that it delivers more homes from existing funding
- Deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation

# **Criminal justice system**

- A legal advocate in every police force area to advise victims from the moment of report to trial
- Specialist rape and sexual offences teams in every police force.
- Fast-track rape cases, with specialist courts at every Crown Court location in England and Wales.
- Introduce domestic abuse experts in 999 control rooms
- Introduce a new offence of criminal exploitation of children

# For policing:

- Ensure police forces have the powers they need to track and tackle misogyny
- Introduce mandatory professional standards on vetting, checks and misconduct for individual officers
- Introduce stronger police training on racism and violence against women and girls.
- Give His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services new powers to intervene with failing forces.
- Anyone with a history of violence against women and girls will be barred from the service
- Introduce automatic suspensions if officers are investigated for domestic abuse and sexual offences.

### **Perpetrators**

• The most prolific and harmful perpetrators will be relentlessly targeted, using tactics normally reserved for terrorists and organised crime

### **Liberal Democrats**

### No VAWG actions under:

X Partnerships and multi-agency working

### **Rights and inequalities**

- Full implementation of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, with protections for all survivors regardless of nationality or immigration status.
- Upholding the UK's commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights and resisting any attempts to withdraw from it.
- Establishing a new right to affordable, reasonable legal assistance, and making the Legal Aid system simpler, fairer and more generous.
- Uphold the Equality Act 2010, and make caring and care experience protected characteristics.
- Extend limited legal rights to cohabiting couples, to give them greater protection in the event of separation or bereavement.
- Protect everyone's right to make independent decisions over their reproductive health without interference by the state and ensure access to high-quality reproductive healthcare, including enforcing safe access zones around abortion clinics and hospitals.
- Reform the gender recognition process to remove the requirement for medical reports, recognise non-binary identities in law, and remove the spousal veto.
- Implement a comprehensive Race Equality Strategy, including:
- Ending the Conservatives' Hostile Environment, implementing the Windrush Lessons Learned Review and repealing the Conservatives' discriminatory 'Right to Rent' law.
- Make it easier for disabled people to access public life, including the world of work, including by
- Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into UK law.
- End the disproportionate use of Stop and Search.
- Transfer policy-making over work visas and overseas students out of the Home Office and into other departments
- Scrap the Conservatives' Illegal Migration Act and their Rwanda scheme, uphold the Refugee Convention, and provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for refugees, helping to prevent dangerous Channel crossings.
- Lift the ban on asylum seekers working if they have been waiting for a decision for more than three months
- Reduce the fee for registering a child as a British citizen from £1,214 to the cost of administration
- Overhaul the Immigration Rules to make them simpler, clearer and fairer, and ensure greater parliamentary scrutiny of future changes.
- Tackle modern slavery and human trafficking by:
- Reversing the Conservatives' rollbacks of modern slavery protections.

- Establishing a powerful new Worker Protection Enforcement Authority to protect people in precarious work, with proactive intelligence-led enforcement of labour market standards and a firewall with immigration enforcement.
- Transferring responsibility for identifying modern slavery victims from the Home Office to local safeguarding agencies.
- Creating a financial deterrent by establishing a civil remedy for survivors seeking redress from their traffickers.

### Prevention

- Introduce a Digital Bill of Rights to protect everyone's rights online, including the rights to privacy, free expression, and participation without being subjected to harassment and abuse.
- Require social media companies to publish reports setting out the action they have taken to address online abuse against women and girls, and other groups who share a protected characteristic.
- Set up an independent advocacy body for children's safety online.
- Investing in youth services that are genuinely engaging and reach more young people.

# **Funding for specialist services**

- Expand the number of refuges and rape crisis centres to meet demand.
- Ensure sustainable funding for services to support survivors of domestic abuse, with a particular focus on community-based and specialist 'by and for' services.

### **Economic barriers**

- Remove the two-child limit and the benefit cap
- Set a target of ending deep poverty within a decade, and establish an independent commission to recommend further annual increases in Universal Credit to ensure that support covers life's essentials, such as food and bills
- Reduce the wait for the first payment of Universal Credit from five weeks to five days
- Scrap the bedroom tax
- Expand access to flexible, affordable childcare
- Double Statutory Maternity Pay and expanding shared parental leave
- Fully review and reform the Child Maintenance Service to ensure it works for all children and parents, including removing the Collect and Pay charge for receiving parents and ensuring that payments cannot be used as a form of coercive control over domestic abuse survivors.
- Tackle the specific economic barriers facing women by:
- Ending the gender price gap so that women are not charged more than men for practically identical products or services marketed at them.
- Ending period poverty by introducing a right for anyone who needs them to access free period products.

### Health and adult social care

Improve early access to mental health services through:

- Opening walk-in hubs for children and young people in every community.
- Offering regular mental health check-ups at key points in people's lives when they are most vulnerable to mental ill-health.
- A dedicated, qualified mental health professional in every school
- The end of out-of-area mental health placements by increasing capacity and coordination between services, so that no one is treated far from home.
- Extension of young people's mental health services up to the age of 25 to end the drop-off experienced by young people transitioning to adult services.
- Increased access to clinically effective talking therapies.
- Investing in improving public health, expanding early access to health services, and fixing social care.
- Address the underfunding and neglect of children's mental health services, youth services and youth justice services.

# Housing

- End rough sleeping within the next Parliament by:
- Urgently publishing a cross-Whitehall plan to end all forms of homelessness.
- Exempting groups of homeless people, and those at risk of homelessness, from the Shared Accommodation Rate.
- Introducing a 'somewhere safe to stay' legal duty to ensure that everyone who is at risk of sleeping rough is provided with emergency accommodation and an assessment of their needs.
- Ensuring sufficient financial resources for local authorities to deliver the Homelessness Reduction Act and provide accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse.

# Family courts and children's social care

• Tackle the backlogs in the family courts that leave children and families waiting nearly a year for cases to be resolved, by making the legal aid system simpler, fairer and more generous

# **Criminal justice system**

- Embed domestic abuse specialists in every police force and 999 operator assistance centre to ensure that reports from survivors are handled effectively and sensitively.
- Address the delays in domestic abuse referrals from the police to the CPS and subsequent decision making by the CPS, acknowledging the unique risk these delays can pose to women's safety.
- Tackle the backlogs in the criminal courts and reduce the number of people in prison on remand by:
- Set a clear target of halving the time from offence to sentencing for all criminals, and implementing a properly funded strategy across the criminal justice system to achieve it.

- Implementing a new data strategy across the criminal justice system to ensure that capacity meets demand, and to understand the needs of all users, especially victims, vulnerable people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Develop a workforce strategy to ensure there are enough criminal barristers, judges and court staff.
- Improve transparency throughout the criminal justice process by enabling all victims to request a transcript of court proceedings free of charge.
- Establish a Women's Justice Board and providing specialist training for all staff in contact with women in the criminal justice system.
- Create a new Online Crime Agency to effectively tackle illegal content and activity online, such as personal fraud, revenge porn and threats and incitement to violence on social media.
- Require the Home Secretary, the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to draw up an urgent plan to implement the recommendations of the Baroness Casey Review and tackle sexism, racism and homophobia, while encouraging other police forces to do so where appropriate.
- Scrap Police and Crime Commissioners and replacing them with local Police Boards made up of councillors and representatives from relevant local groups, while investing the savings in frontline policing.
- Introduce the Hillsborough Law: a statutory duty of candour on police officers and all public officials

### **Perpetrators**

- Improve access to restorative justice services.
- Introduce a National Resettlement Plan to improve the rehabilitation of people leaving prison and cut reoffending.
- Improve and properly fund the supervision of offenders in the community, with far greater coordination between the prison service, probation service providers, the voluntary and private sectors and local authorities, achieving savings in the high costs of reoffending.

### **Green Party**

No VAWG actions under:

X Partnerships and multi-agency working

X Perpetrators

### **Rights and inequalities**

- Defend the Human Rights Act, the UK's membership of the European Convention on Human Rights and continued direct access to Convention rights in the domestic courts.
- Scrap the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act, the Public Order Act and other legislation that erodes the right to protest and free expression.
- Campaign for the right of self-identification for trans and non-binary people.
- Scrap the Prevent programme and tackle hate crime, misogyny, Islamophobia and antisemitism
- An end to the hostile environment
- An end to the minimum income requirements for spouses of those holding work visas.
- Safe routes to sanctuary for those fleeing persecution.
- An end to immigration detention for all migrants unless they are a danger to public safety.
- Abolition of the 'no recourse to public funds' condition that exacerbates social, economic, and racial inequalities.
- Those seeking asylum and protection tobe permitted to work while their application is being decided.

### Prevention

• Develop and implement a new UK-wide strategy to tackle gender-based violence, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and trafficking.

# **Funding for specialist services**

• Fund local authorities so that domestic violence, rape crisis and other provision can meet local needs.

### **Economic barriers**

- Increase the minimum wage to £15 an hour, no matter your age, with the costs to small businesses offset by reducing their National Insurance payments.
- Equal employment rights for all workers from their first day of employment, including those working in the 'gig economy' and on zero-hours contracts. Gig employers that repeatedly break employment, data protection or tax law will be denied licences to operate.

- Increase Universal Credit and legacy benefits by £40 a week.
- Abolish the two-child benefit cap
- End the 'bedroom tax'
- Restore the value of disability benefits, with an immediate uplift of 5%

### Health and adult social care

- Restoring public health budgets to 2015/16 levels with an immediate annual increase of £1.5bn. Smoking cessation, drug and alcohol treatment and sexual health services all need to be properly funded.
- Increased funding for mental health care, putting it on an equal footing with physical health care and enabling people to access evidence-based mental health therapies within 28 days.
- A trained and paid counsellor in every school and sixth-form college.
- Readily available tailored provision to meet the needs of communities of colour, children and adolescents, older people and LGBTIQA+ communities.

# Housing

• Housing policies including 150,000 new social homes a year and ending the so-called 'right to buy', empower local authorities to introduce rent controls and ending no-fault evictions.

# Family courts and children's social care

• An additional £3bn to enable local authorities to provide high-quality children's social care.

# **Criminal justice system**

- Make misogyny a hate crime across the UK and increase the police's capacity to deal with domestic violence.
- Ensure that domestic abuse and gender-based violence is a key measurable priority for all police forces and that all police officers are trained to recognise and tackle domestic violence.
- Invest £11bn in restoring the Ministry of Justice budget over the course of the next parliament. This would be used to restore legal aid budgets, to ensure that the Criminal Bar is sufficiently well funded and to repair court buildings.
- Push to recruit more judges and to ensure that they are representative of wider society.
- Decriminalise sex work.

# **Scottish National Party**

# No VAWG actions under:

X Funding for specialist services

X Partnerships and multi-agency working

X Family courts and children's social care

X Criminal justice system

X Perpetrators

# **Rights and inequalities**

- Protect the right to abortion
- Seek to strengthen human rights protections for all strongly oppose any attempts by the UK government to withdraw the UK from the ECHR or change the Human Rights Act
- Protect and enhance the rights of LGBTI community
- Strongly oppose no recourse to public funds
- Urge the UK Government to grant asylum seekers the right to work and fundamentally change their approach to housing asylum seekers, ensuring accommodation is safe, suitable and dignified.
- Devolve powers to create a bespoke migration system for Scotland that values those who decide to work, live, study and invest in Scotland
- Scrap the Rwanda scheme and stand firm against the demonisation of migrants.

### Prevention

• Full enforcement of the Online Safety Act and prompt strengthening of these laws when required.

### **Economic barriers**

- Scrap the two child benefit cap and 'associated rape clause'
- End the young parent penalty in Universal Credit
- Legislate for an essentials guarantee ensuring that everyone can afford basic necessities like food and utilities.
- Scrap exploitative zero hours contracts, banning callous 'fire and rehire' practices and repealing the Minimum Service Bill.
- Increase maternity pay by bringing the UK into line with other European countries and promoting shared parental leave.

### Health and adult social care

• Demand that the UK government boost NHS spending by a minimum of £10bn extra each year to address rampant inflationary pressures and improve performance

### Housing

- Push for an annual uplift of Local Housing Allowance, whilst ensuring rental costs are taken into account
- Reintroduce a simplified Help to Buy ISA scheme to help first time buyers

# **Plaid Cymru**

### No VAWG actions under:

X Funding for specialist services

X Partnerships and multi-agency working

X Family courts and children's social care

# **Rights and inequalities**

- Repeal powers at Westminster which unfairly restrict opportunities for non-violent protest, including the relevant parts of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023
- Supports the UK remaining a member of the European Court of Human Rights and we support maintaining the human rights
- Adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People into UK law to assure accessibility for all.
- End so-called conversion therapy practices related to sexuality and gender identity.
- Seek the powers to present the Senedd with a proposal for simplified, demedicalised gender self-identification system.
- Support the repeal of previous punitive legislation which is part of the hostile environment, including the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and the Illegal Migration Act 2023.
- Support ending of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' clause and restrictions on employment while awaiting decisions

### **Economic barriers**

- Support pilots of universal basic income
- Push to increase this roll-out of Free School Meals to also include secondary schools across Wales.
- Increase Child Benefit by £20 per week
- Scrap the Conservative policy of the 'two-child' limit on universal credit payments
- End the benefit cap

• Support an Essentials Guarantee level to ensure that all individuals and families receive at least the minimum required for their daily life

### Health and adult social care

- Support multi-annual funding settlements for third sector organisations in health and social care where this is possible and appropriate, to allow these organisations to better plan their activities
- Restore funding for GPs to 8.7% of the Welsh health budget, and by recruiting an additional 500 GPs across the country
- Support research into the barriers that communities face in accessing healthcare and how to combat these, addressing structural and institutional racial discrimination and Islamophobia where present
- Press Welsh Government to make necessary amendments to the Mental Health Act Code of Practice in Wales
- Pay social care workers at least £1 above the Real Living Wage

# Housing

- Ensure that the Local Housing Allowance is retained at the 30th percentile of market rents in each Broad Market Rental Area.
- Develop a plan to deliver this significant expansion to meet local housing need in all parts of the country, accessing a mixture of public and private funding streams and working with communities to provide the correct mix of housing across Wales.
- Using the Housing First model and rapid rehousing, look to end homelessness, recognising that much of the challenge is not just those sleeping on the streets or in allocated temporary accommodation, but those people who are staying with friends and family.
- Right to Adequate Housing Bill in Wales would include powers to introduce rent controls and other market interventions to make housing more affordable.

# **Criminal justice system**

- Create a Victims Commissioner for Wales who would:
  - Create a Domestic Abuse Register to protect women is a means of preventing death and injury because it enables the early identification of abusive men.
  - Following the recommendation of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust that there are specialist stalking training requirements for all professionals dealing with stalking cases, and a unified recording system to be used by the Police, the CPS, the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and National Probation Service to follow the journey of a victim of stalking through the criminal justice system.
  - Ensure that laws relating to sexual images are always based on consent rather than intent to close loopholes that see perpetrators get away with abuse
- Work with Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales to further develop specialist training and support for officers around the issues of coercive control, stalking and an improved understanding of homicide risk.
- Establish four community based women's centres across Wales to support female offenders.
- Focus on reducing crime through identifying the underlying reasons why women are involved in criminal behaviour and working with partners to resolve those issues, and review the effectiveness of short prison sentences for female offenders.
- Support NAPO's calls for a strategic reduction programme, with safe workloads and a case allocation system

- Provide additional help to prevent these legal aid 'deserts' which means that individuals are prevented from accessing timely advice and support
- Pilot a courts in the community scheme which visit areas of the country with an appropriate timetable to resolve local justice needs.
- Review the operation of criminal justice governance in Wales, and remove the role of elected Police and Crime Commissioners, as it would be the Minister for Justice who would be held accountable

# **Response to perpetrators**

- Create a Victims Commissioner for Wales who would increase sentences for domestic violence and stalking offences.
- Victims Commissioner for Wales would stop abusers further harassing their victims through court proceedings and strengthen restraining orders and sanctions for breaching them.