



Statement from The Labour Party on preventing mass atrocities

International peace and security will be a primary objective of a Labour government's foreign policy. Internationalism is at the core of the Labour movement. We recognise our responsibility to confront injustices we see today and to correct the injustices of the past.

We are determined to work at the heart of the United Nations and the Commonwealth to prevent atrocities and promote conflict resolution and human rights and that means building support for democratic reform in the UN in particular.

The threats to global security in the 21st century including the climate and environmental crisis and the conflicts it can trigger as well as the huge scale of global inequality and the movements of people across the world, with more refugees and displaced people than at any time since the Second World War demand a new response.

To help settle conflict and promote human rights in our trade and aid policy as well as foreign policy and deliver ambitious global climate agreements. Labour's new internationalism means we will create a peace and conflict prevention fund

This Fund will, above all else, focus on projects that uphold human rights, promote international law, protect civilians and secure peace. It will include support for programmes in the following areas (but not limited to); civilian protection in conflict, expanding civil society space in contexts at risk of conflict; broadening the range of stakeholders involved in peace-building efforts in conflict settings; supporting human rights defenders; trainings for security forces in human rights, civil liberties and international law and initiatives stemming trade in conflict commodities, such as timber and diamonds

We will also invest an extra £400 million to expand our diplomatic capacity and increase oversight of arms exports to ensure we're not fuelling conflicts, as in Yemen and in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The Labour Party celebrates also diversity. Whether at home, or abroad, we must acknowledge that the rich variety of cultures, faiths, colours, and perspectives that make up our world must come together against discrimination and prejudice in order to thrive.

The responsibility to prevent from all kinds of discrimination and identity-based violence is, and must always be, a shared one that stretches from our local communities to the other side of the world. And effective prevention of identity-based mass violence requires consistent and constant effort.

That is why we commit to integrating the prevention of identity-based violence not only to our international development and foreign policies but also to our arms sales, our migration and refugee policies, and our work to combat climate change.

We will assess the feasibility of a cross-departmental prevention analysis unit to ensure a more joined up approach and consistent implementation of British contributions to prevent conflicts around the world. Building upon the cross-cutting national approach to preventing mass atrocities, we will implement a whole of Whitehall strategy and put prevention at the heart of decision making.

Defending the rights of the world's most vulnerable has long been a priority of the Labour Party but it is responsibility that crosses state borders and party lines. We look forward to working in the next parliament to build a cross-party commitment to enhance British contributions to the prevention of mass atrocities and we will work with Protection Approaches and the UK Atrocity Prevention Working Group towards a national enquiry on the UK's capabilities and responsibilities to prevent identity-based violence and mass atrocities.

*Response to an open letter to Party Leaders from the
UK Civil Society Atrocity Prevention Working Group,
coordinated by Protection Approaches*