

The climate crisis and preventing identity-based violence abroad: why is no party connecting the dots?

The climate crisis is addressed by all the parties. Never before has climate change and the environment featured so much in a general election. And yet no party identifies in their manifesto the growing threats climate change and its consequences pose to the security of populations and identity groups around the world. Likewise, no party commits to a conflict-sensitive or identity-based violence-sensitive approach to climate.

The Green Party offer the most comprehensive approach to tackling the climate crisis including a vision of 'renewing almost every aspect of life in the UK'. They propose a 'Green New Deal' that builds on the party's commitment to global justice; hope to 'help the majority of the world' adapt to climate change and support human well-being.

However, the Greens fall short of explicitly connecting the consequences of climate change with the increased immediate and long-term risks of identity-based violence, including mass atrocities, violent extremism, terrorism, and conflict. As a result they do not commit to integrating an approach of identity-based violence prevention to their climate policy.

Labour also promises a Green New Deal and describes the impact of climate change on the Global South as the 'greatest injustice of today'. Despite committing to prioritise climate diplomacy in their foreign policy by promoting policies to tackle the crisis at global institutions such as the UN and the Commonwealth, Labour do not set out an intersectional approach that would connect cross-cutting agendas.

The SNP and Liberal Democrats acknowledge the climate crisis will disproportionately impact the world's poorest. The Liberal Democrats plan to increase the proportion of the aid budget committed to tackling climate change and environmental degradation. They also hope to help countries limit the impact of climate change and to support climate refugees.

However, while the SNP and Liberal Democrats acknowledge the impact of climate change on marginalised groups, neither party set out how their approach to the crisis would be conflict or identity-based violence sensitive.

The Conservative manifesto highlights UK leadership on international development and fighting climate change as two issues on which the Conservative Party and Conservative Governments have driven the agenda forward. However, despite committing to fight climate change and protect the environment as international issues, they do not set out how they would integrate this policy across other agenda or how they would apply a conflict or identity-based violence sensitive approach to its implementation.

The Brexit Party and Plaid Cymru make environmental and climate commitments but do not connect the agenda with international development, conflict and atrocity prevention, or the impact the climate crisis has on vulnerable identity-groups.