

A Pensioners' Manifesto

Published by the
National Pensioners
Convention

“...Britain is not a great place in which to grow old - our state pension is inadequate, our social care system is in crisis and every year tens of thousands of pensioners die from the cold...”



In recent years, various politicians, think-tanks and media commentators have suggested that older people are the cause of many of the country's problems - from the shortage of housing to the lack of hospital beds.

Some argue that the older generation have escaped austerity whilst the young are taking the brunt. Such statements simply fund the generation divide. Older people are just as vulnerable to the effects of austerity as the young, and in addition they are concerned about the future of their children and grandchildren. Thus, plans to take away benefits such as the triple lock or the bus pass will not help younger people but would be used to roll back the welfare state for everyone. Today's generation is tomorrow's Pensioner.

In reality, Britain is not a great place in which to grow old. Our state pension is among one of the least adequate in the western world, our social care system is in crisis with 1.8 million people no longer getting the help they need and in the last 5 years 170,370 pensioners have died from cold related illnesses.



That is why at the next General Election, we will call on all candidates to support a manifesto that will put the concerns of today's and tomorrow's pensioners at the heart of the political process.

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All men and women shall be entitled to dignity and security in retirement. The NPC stands for intergenerational fairness preventing attacks on future pensioners and calls for:

- A state pension set above the official poverty level, at around £220 a week and linked to the triple lock of the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5%.
- Greater funding for the NHS, an end to privatisation in the health service and a national care service funded from general taxation that is free at the point of delivery and without means-testing.
- Maintenance of universal pensioner benefits such as free bus travel, a £500 winter fuel allowance, free prescriptions and the reinstatement of the TV licence for the over 75s, fully funded by government.
- A minimum of 85,000 homes need to be built each year, that are both affordable and suitable for older people, whilst recognising the specific barriers to downsizing that older people face.
- It is now time for a Commissioner for Older People, independent from government, who can champion and safeguard the rights of older people and who has the legal powers and responsibilities to enact positive change.
- A Brexit deal that safeguards equality, the payment of uprated pensions, the EU health insurance card and the rights of those UK pensioners living abroad.



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