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EDUCATION



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LIFE TRUTH COMPASSION

**CHRISTIAN
peoples
ALLIANCE**

Five Christian Democrat Priorities for Government

- ▶ **Stable marriages bring about stable societies.** Recognise marriage by £1000 marriage and child-birth grants plus tax allowances worth £4350 to married couples.
- ▶ **Moral values in schools.** Give children the power to resist peer pressure. Instil love and regard of others. Renew Christian ethos in schools.
- ▶ **An uncompromising pro-life ethic.** Give absolute respect in law for innocent human life from fertilisation until natural death.
- ▶ **Compassion for Refugees, Justice in Migration.** Deal with asylum applications fairly and swiftly; tackle need for economic immigration and re-establish port controls.
- ▶ **Make Poverty History for Everyone.** Fight the causes of inequality in Britain. Love our neighbours in the developing world through trade justice and debt forgiveness.



INSIDE: The Christian Peoples Alliance General Election Manifesto 2005. Contact us: www.cpalliance.net

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CPA MANIFESTO

The General Election of 2005 is the first parliamentary election to be fought by the Christian Peoples Alliance and is the first contested by Christian Democrats in British political history. Although inspired by our sister parties in the European Union, where Christian Democracy is an established and successful force, our campaign is modest. But our policies are radical and distinctive. They are rooted directly in the social teachings of Britain's churches and the key issues identified by the bishops for the election on May 5th.

A young party

As a young party, policy is a work in progress and so this manifesto is not exhaustive. We have included just those statements approved by the Federal Council of the CPA, which is the party's representative body. More policy will emerge in due course dealing with culture and sport, defence, the countryside and technology. We offer this document with an open hand for the benefit of society at large.

Figures and Applicability

This manifesto document has been produced by the Federal Policy Committee of the Christian Peoples Alliance for the elections of May 2005 to the House of Commons. They relate primarily to England. Policies for Scotland and Wales are the responsibility of the CPA in those nations. Figures included are on a UK-wide basis. These have been calculated on the research and proposals of the PAPRI Pension and Population Research Institute and estimates already in the public domain.

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Alan Craig, with one of his daughters

The Christian Democratic Approach

"Secularism in its various forms is ravaging our society like there's no tomorrow. Culturally we have lost sight of God so we focus on ourselves, and the result is a nation that is increasingly self-centred, superficial, harsh and materialistic and that worships the false idols of power, money and celebrity. It is a society breaking under the strain of its addictions, fears and fractured relationships.

Our answer is not to seek new laws which claim control over people and their lives. Our policies instead advocate new inner patterns of obedience and vision, shaped in Christian faith and principles, as the way to renew society and heal its relationships.

The major parties inevitably have become caught up in the process of secularisation so that the witness of faith within these parties is muted. Senior Christian politicians feel they have to claim that their faith doesn't influence their politics, often to the incredulity of commentators and the disappointment of their fellow believers.

The Christian Peoples Alliance rejects secular politics as cold and inhumane, and aims to challenge secularisation for the destruction it is wreaking on peoples lives. We believe the bible and the churches' social teaching has much to offer people of all faiths and none, and that it is our job to make these Christian values politically relevant and attractive to 21st century Britain.

Unashamedly we offer 'values politics'. As Christian Democrats we are not of the 'right' or the 'left'. Neither are we limited to a single issue or small agenda. The whole counsel of God cannot be constrained within existing categories.

Rather our task is to point society to the One of whom the bible declares, "The government is on His shoulder", and to put our hands to the plough of developing approaches and policies that are faithful to His teachings.

Take 'marriage' for instance. It was God's idea, set out in the early chapters of Genesis, but today a politically incorrect concept if there ever was one. However, a large body of research shows conclusively that the stability and commitment of marriage puts it streets ahead of other forms of domestic arrangement - such as co-habitation, gay partnerships, single-parenting - in the nurture, socialisation and education of children.

Consequently, if the government wants to do something to impact the rise of adolescent anti-social behaviour, the yob culture and teenage pregnancies, it needs urgently to affirm and encourage rather than undermine marriage. As you will see, CPA does just that.

This manifesto is built on such approaches to today's issues. It is fresh, radical and new because we are a young party and a values party that wants to think 'outside the box'. This is the result of such thinking.

CPA is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Rather, we reckon it is very relevant to the government of Britain today.

Our sister Christian Democrat parties in Europe had significant impact there in the past. By the grace of God, we aim to do the same in the different circumstances of the UK in the future."

Councillor Alan Craig
Leader, Christian Peoples Alliance

Putting marriage first



OUR PRIORITIES: Stable marriages bring about stable societies

What single policy change will make the most difference to improving the health and stability of modern society? The Christian Peoples Alliance is politically committed to support and strengthen both marriage and

family life and put it at the heart of all social policy. We do so based on overwhelming sociological evidence that marriage matters. The traditional family structure, centred upon a loving and faithful relationship between a husband and a wife, is the building block of our society. But it faces attack from every political quarter. Left, right and centre all equivocate in their support for marriage. Families today are both more diverse and more fragile than a generation ago, leading to far-reaching consequences, especially for children and the elderly. In Parliament the CPA will address this by assessing all legislation and policy for its impact on families, for instance whether it strengthens their relationships or undermines their capacity to survive and grow. For example, the CPA opposes the Civil Partnerships Act.

Studies in the UK, US and Australia show that marriage has important social benefits that are not provided by alternative domestic arrangements such as co-habiting couples, same-sex partnerships or lone parents. Children brought up and nurtured within the stability and commitment of marriage are significantly more likely to be socially adjusted and educationally successful than those of any other arrangements. Children living with co-habiting couples for instance are 50% more likely to have mental health problems than those with married couples. The CPA will support all parents whatever their status in the challenges they face in child rearing. However, there is a direct correlation between the decline of marriage in Britain and the rise of adolescent anti-social behaviour, the yob culture and teenage pregnancies. The Christian Peoples Alliance party will therefore ensure that marriage is centre-stage in any debate about social problems amongst young people.

Our financial programme backing marriage will not be available to co-habiting couples and is deliberately intended as government recognition of the social responsibilities assumed by two people when they choose to marry. In drawing-up these proposals, we will ensure that widows or widowers or orphaned children are not disadvantaged.

"The Christian Peoples Alliance is politically committed to support and strengthen both marriage and family life."

► Give women real choice - make mothering at home pay

The CPA will introduce Transferable Personal Allowances for Income Tax. This would allow the working spouse to take over the tax-free income allowance of the other spouse. At current levels this could be worth around £1000 per year to a typical married family - £20 a week, reducing the financial pressure for carers to give up their role and re-enter the workplace before they are ready to do so. This will cost £1 billion.

► Tackle child poverty and the financial causes of family breakdown

New Child Tax Allowances of £2,373 per child will be granted to all parents with one of the parents to receive by agreement. For couples with 2 children aged up to 20 this could be worth £1000 per year. The cost of this will be £6.9 billion.

► Reduce demand for housing by supporting marriage

The demand for housing is increased by the tragedy of family breakdown. It therefore makes sense to support the stability marriage brings to family life. One policy which will help is the re-introduction of Mortgage Interest Relief. This would be a Homeowners Allowance for Married Couples with Children and modelled on the scheme current in Germany. The CPA would grant an initial 1% plus 0.5% per child up to £100,000 of a married couple's mortgage for 8 years. This would be worth £1,387 per married couple. The cost would be £1.2 billion.

► Recognise the social value of marriage

The CPA will reverse the value-neutral attitude of the state towards marriage by re-introducing the Married Couples Allowance. This would restore the scheme abolished in 2000 by giving relief at an initial fixed rate of 10%. This would be worth £474 each, or £948 per couple paying the 22% tax band, each transferable.

► Don't let the cost deter couples from marrying

By introducing a First Marriage Gratuities the CPA will recognise that many couples have to choose between the costs of establishing a home and making the public commitment involved in marriage. A grant of £1,000 to set up home will become payable when both parties are marrying for the first time and £500 when one is marrying for the first time. This will cost £250million.

► Recognise that raising children is expensive

There is a clear public interest in the state supporting married couples who have children. The CPA will do this through a Birth within Marriage Gratuities. This will be worth £1,000, with parents deciding on which of them is to receive it. Other help will be available to tackle child poverty regardless of parental marital status. This Gratuities will cost the Exchequer £437 million.

► Support choice for mothers and help small firms

The CPA will extend Statutory Maternity Pay and Maternity Allowance to 90 per cent of earnings up to 26 weeks, at a cost of £2 billion. But we will transfer payment and administration to the Department of Work and Pensions to remove the burden from companies. This will cost £63 million.

► Endow universities and abolish student fees

Saddling students with tens of thousands of pounds of debt is wrong in principle and deters the less well-off from going to university. The Christian Peoples Alliance will endow universities to overcome their funding crisis. This will be achieved by allocating the anticipated windfall when terrestrial television broadcasting is ended in favour of digital broadcasting and then selling off the spectrum. We also favour a campaign of corporate giving. Our other savings will enable the abolition of all tuition fees. Our aim over a Parliament is to seek the restoration of full university student grants.

► Scale back the National Curriculum

Unnecessary tests have undermined teaching. They are the equivalent of getting children to jump through hoops. The CPA will cut back on them and give greater freedom to schools to choose what subjects are offered on the timetable. Excessive tests will be replaced by records of student achievement. Giving greater freedom to schools will be mirrored in other ways, such as capital investment to allow new kitchens, with school meals made to nutrition standards set by the Soil Association.

► Revitalise the Christian contribution to all schools

Under the 1944 Education Act, every school may benefit from Christian worship and values. The CPA will ensure every LEA has the resources and expertise to uphold the law in creative and attractive ways that help meet the spiritual needs of children. This will relate to collective worship, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education, relationships and Religious Education.

► Empower young people to resist social pressure

Schools will be expected to approach the issue of increased under-age pregnancies by promoting the stability offered by marriage and encouraging sexual abstinence. Pupils will be taught the skills and confidence to make right choices, especially when faced by the challenges of alcohol and substance abuse. Parental responsibility must not be undermined, so aiding and abetting illegal sexual activity among under-16s will be penalised.

► Christian schools for deprived communities

The CPA favours the construction of new cross-denominational schools with a Christian ethos and mission to serve deprived communities. We will ensure they have admissions policies which are open to non-church going families who subscribe to the Christian ethos of the school. Following consultation, county schools which wish to change their foundation basis to a faith-based one will have our support. The CPA will resist all attempts to interfere with the right of denominational schools to decide their own admissions policies. We will work with the church educational boards to renew and restore Christian teacher training colleges as places where Christian vocational service is developed.

► Invest in mothers not nurseries

The early years of a child's life are critical to their future well-being. But many women who would like to stay at home with their children are forced out into the workplace. Placing their child in a nursery is not their preferred option and denies the fundamental needs of the young child. Labour's policy is to shift resources just to the minority of women who prefer to work whilst placing their children in nurseries. The CPA will act on research that shows 60-70 per cent of women reduce their hours of employment or leave the workplace completely when their children are young. Our tax allowances and child grants will work with the grain of the natural maternal instincts of most women, recognise the sacrifices made in child-rearing and give real choice to women as well as men.

Moral values and good citizenship in schools



OUR PRIORITIES: Encouraging self-esteem

The approach which marks out the Christian Peoples Alliance is our commitment to the highest ideals of liberal education - the formation of the whole person. Schooling at its best opens up new horizons, broadens the imagination, gives space to the flourishing of the human spirit and helps form the character of the individual. For this reason Christian Democrats do not believe that education is primarily about exam results and league tables. Our approach is to impart a clear sense of moral rights and responsibilities and foster good ideas of citizenship. Lack of self-esteem in young people is often paralleled by self-obsessions. These are products of the pressures of our consumerist culture, where to be rich, attractive or powerful are held up as the highest goals of life. Space is needed in schools to allow worldly values to be tested and true self-love to be understood. The CPA will therefore cut back on the requirements of the National Curriculum in order to allow teachers to impart the gifts of their vocation. As a first step, we will bring back the Tomlinson Report for further discussion with teachers, parents and local education authorities.

Schools cannot be expected to deal with every problem of society. Education begins first in the home and continues through life. The CPA will not rely on testing in schools and educational re-organisation to improve educational outcomes. Just as important to children and raising standards is tackling poverty and supporting stability in the home, which comes through loving parental relationships. For this reason, schools will be places where honesty, motivation, self-worth, moral values and a respect for God and neighbour are valued as highly as prowess in others areas of school life.

Faith-based schooling reflecting all traditions is one of the success stories of the British education system, bringing students together from different ethnic backgrounds and modelling the best of what all schools should be about. The CPA will ensure new faith schools are built in areas of high economic deprivation that are open to all who agree with a school's values and mission.

"Our approach is to impart a clear sense of moral rights and responsibilities."

Compassion and respect for life



OUR PRIORITIES:

A place for healing and health

A compassionate society that values relationships above material possessions will be a slower and less dysfunctional society. How does this make Christian Democratic health policy different? The CPA aims to restore healing and health to its rightful place in policy making. So, health problems associated with the consumerist society will be made part of the economic equation and not just addressed once people become ill.

This means watching out for the stress that modern life in Britain loads on people, especially the less well off who are most likely to suffer health problems. Employers will be asked to address working hours, especially weekend working, so that time is released for people to spend in rest and recreation and in developing relationships, especially with older relatives and children. An economy less demanding of energy will see a reduction in pollution. Less reliance on industrialised food production will also have direct health benefits.

The traditional Christian emphasis on care and compassion will be restored across health and social services. As God values everyone equally, full protection of the law will be given to individuals from conception (fertilisation) to natural death. This will not be left to the flawed consciences of individuals. The CPA is unashamed to make this the foremost priority of our party and a mandate upon all elected in our name as Christian Democrats.

"Full protection of the law will be given to individuals from conception to natural death."

► End the culture of targets.

The CPA will radically re-organise the NHS to replace central direction from Whitehall. It is patients and health professionals who can best determine what is best in each individual case. Bureaucratic considerations must not prevail over clinical judgements. We will ensure hospitals are locally-owned, self-managing institutions on the model of voluntary societies under independent Boards answerable to the community they serve.

► Restore universal access to health care

The CPA will restore fair access to health care by ensuring that national standards of provision are the benchmarks rather than targets. National standards will also be applied immediately in relation to cleaning wards and tackling the scourge of MRSA. Blocking airborne transmission of MRSA will be achieved by the physical separation of infected patients through isolation units. There will be a shift in emphasis towards public health grounded in the principles of fair access, concordance/partnerships in health, lifestyle management, prevention measures, recovery and rehabilitation.

► An uncompromising pro-life ethic

The right to life is the right from which all others flow. 'Doing no harm' will be restored as the paramount principle in health care. As a first step, we will seek to repeal the 1967 Abortion Act. An end will be put to the use of the morning after pill. Cloning of human beings and embryo experimentation will be outlawed. The screening out of abnormalities in embryos will be ended and a commitment made to listening and acting on the needs, views and interests of people with disabilities or long-term illness. The CPA will develop ways of promoting the hospice movement, begun by Dame Cecily Saunders.

► Offer positive alternatives to abortion

To deter the back street abortionists, the CPA will provide direct support to pro-life caring agencies in their counselling and bereavement work with women. Our new child allowances will tackle financial reasons justifying abortion. Additionally, in conjunction with local authorities, caring agencies and the faith communities, the CPA will ensure that no woman seeks an abortion because of a lack of accommodation, baby essentials, cots, prams or clothes. A public health campaign will be run warning of the consequences of abortion, such as post-abortion syndrome, health complications and the associated risks of breast cancer. The CPA will ensure the provision of a 24-hour, 7-day a week helpline for women and couples considering abortion.

► Oppose all eugenic practises

Hospitals and residential homes will be subject to new standards in their care and treatment of older people. It is never justified to treat older people as less entitled to life and respect merely because of their age or because of frailty. Deliberate acts leading to the death of older people by healthcare professionals will be exposed and policies to introduce euthanasia by the back door will be rooted out. Best practice in palliative care will be adopted nationally across all health and social care authorities so that no patient need seek either assisted suicide or euthanasia.

► Respect for older people and the long-term ill

We will fund personal care for elderly and disabled people from the health budget so no one will be forced to sell their home to pay for care. We will initiate a Commissioner for the Elderly, who will also be an advocate for the long term sick and those with enduring health problems. The Commissioner will make recommendations as to the best way to assess, review and provide care for these vulnerable individuals. A UK based Voluntary Services at Home Scheme will be introduced for people to give at least 12 months service utilising their skills for the community. We will pay a lump sum on successful completion for a resettlement grant and pension scheme contribution. In addition, those under 30 who undertake 2 years competent service will be given an educational voucher equivalent to 12 months full time study, whilst fees exist.

► Improve home care services

Working with the local authorities, the CPA is committed to the introduction of good quality and affordable home care services. We will provide home adaptations to enable older people and the terminally ill to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible. When needed, older people will be offered a range of housing options including good quality and affordable sheltered housing or co-housing.

► **End discrimination - Embrace the talents of asylum seekers**

Very many successful asylum applicants are highly trained and dedicated individuals. It makes no sense to leave them on the scrapheap, unable to use their professional skills to provide for themselves, their families, or contribute to the British economy. The CPA will change our asylum regime as it leaves applicants in poverty and is discriminatory. Applicants will be treated as if they were British citizens with full access to state support and the right to work. We will tackle the distress and health problems suffered by children in Government detention centres as part of our commitment to improve the appalling conditions many applicants live under.

► **Speed-up the process**

Rights under the 1951 Convention on Refugees are inalienable so asylum seekers must be assured of getting a fair hearing. The Christian Peoples Alliance will conduct an overhaul to speed up the process of application and reduce the burden on the appeal system. Justice must work both ways. Unfounded claimants will be returned to the country of their embarkation. There will be no right to automatic settlement and refugees will be helped to return home if conditions in their country improve.

► **Tackle the domestic causes of economic immigration**

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 for major new child benefits and child tax allowances to reverse the domestic depopulation 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. An easy to understand Green Card would provide a merit based points system for skilled workers and a points system and random selection for unskilled workers, similar to the system used in the US.

► **Restore control over Britain's borders**

Illiberal measures will be replaced by common sense policies, such as 24-hour surveillance at all ports of entry and the re-introduction of embarkation controls at the ports so that it is known when and if someone who has entered the country has left. Fear and insecurity cannot be overcome by measures which undermine racial harmony. We therefore oppose house arrests and would re-establish rights of habeas corpus, such as the right to be brought to public trial. Non-EU migrant workers likely to have been exposed to health risks, such as TB and HIV in their home countries will require clear health checks.

Showing Mercy to Newcomers



OUR PRIORITIES:

Compassion for Refugees, Justice in Migration

What are the distinctive values which guide Christian Democrats in their policies on asylum and immigration? Paramount is the biblical injunction to love our neighbour, whether they are a refugee or a guest worker. Millions of people on all continents are fleeing their homes and countries. The social, economic and political factors behind these mass movements - persecution, human rights abuses, economic deprivation and environmental disasters - are certain to increase as globalisation accelerates and more and more countries close their doors to the fleeing dispossessed.

The Christian Peoples Alliance agrees with the late Cardinal Basil Hume when he described protection of those fleeing persecution as a "benchmark of a civilised society". But relatively few refugees seek life and support from prosperous countries. As many people are internally displaced, or live as refugees in neighbouring countries we will ensure help reaches them where they are. The CPA will legislate for full protection of asylum seekers in the UK, treating them equally and recognising their human rights and dignity. Where possible, we will encourage the placement of asylum seekers with families, rather than the alienating environment of hostels. Newcomers to Britain will be helped in their understanding and commitment to British democratic values, language and culture. We will combat the criminal trafficking and sexual abuse of women and children by coming down hard on those controlling so-called 'sex industries'.

"Paramount is the biblical injunction to love our neighbour, whether they are a refugee or a migrant worker."

The Global Common Good



OUR PRIORITIES: Making Poverty History for Everyone

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. As Christian Democrats, we believe poverty is not an accident - it's driven by global injustice. We will use the unprecedented opportunity represented by the UK hosting the G8 summit of powerful countries and Britain's presidency of the European Union to influence the policies of the world's financial institutions.

Our priorities are to ensure that richer countries become responsible stewards of creation, share the resources and wealth of our planet and protect the environment in every way that they can. We will promote the global common good through respect for the rule of law and by strengthening international organisations such as the UN. We will pursue policies that challenge the root causes of injustice, such as wars, generalised violence, persecution, human rights abuses, the arms trade, the crippling debt burden and unfair trade practices that distort the economies of poor countries.

Our priorities will guide our attitudes towards the future of the European Union, which is the biggest currency bloc that the world has ever known. Moving currency, interest rate, money supply, tax and government expenditure decisions to Brussels, rather than retaining them within national communities, acts against subsidiarity. But it also indicates the EU is seeking global power and assertiveness to allow the domination of poor countries through a strong currency. The CPA opposes the development of Europe as an expansionist economic and monetary empire. Radical change is needed to tackle the underlying injustice of the international economic order, which causes death and environmental degradation.

"Poverty is not an accident - it's driven by global injustice"

► Give Aid through Grants and not loans

Britain has already pledged to reach the 0.7 per cent target of national income on aid to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2013. But the timetable for change is too slow. We will work with our EU partners to ensure rich countries honour their pledge. We will press for reforms in trade, aid and debt and so release resources for developing countries to tackle vital issues such as HIV/AIDS and lack of access to safe water, sanitation, healthcare and education. Aid will be given in grants and not loans and not tied to poor countries opening up their markets or inviting in powerful multinationals from rich countries. We want the unpayable debts of the world's poorest countries to be cancelled in full without strings attached.

► Global Justice not Globalisation

International trade laws which favour rich countries by robbing the world's poorest people will be tackled by a change in WTO rules. Export subsidies that damage the livelihoods of poor communities around the world will be ended. A rise in trade will generate many times more resources than given through aid or debt relief. Multi-national companies will be held to account for the way they do business, especially their treatment of the environment. We will press the WTO to oppose the designation of hard-won social and environmental regulations as "unfair barriers to trade." New rules will place environmental protection and sustainable development as the necessary base requirement for fair trade.

► Iraq shows the need for peace-making and ending wars

The Christian Peoples Alliance opposed the government's pre-emptive and illegal war against Iraq as a breach of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. We warned it would lead to innumerable civilian casualties and make the West more vulnerable to terrorist attack. Yet still the occupying powers resort to overwhelming and indiscriminate force against what often turn out to be civilian targets. Iraq has seen the wholesale slaughter of innocent civilians, stoking resentment and fear. Britain and President Bush must now admit to 'bearing false witness' by falsifying the case for war. We will seek a swift UN mandate to replace western armed forces, end the occupation and re-open reconstruction contracts awarded unjustly to US companies.

► Europe more democratic and acknowledging Christ

Working with our Christian Democrat partners in Europe, reform of the EU will be pursued to make it more democratic and open. Christianity has formed the fabric of European civilisation and so we will seek a new Constitution that recognises the sovereign Lordship of Christ over Europe and the place of the Christian faith in supporting both the peace and stability of the continent. The EU must not become a rich man's club. We will judge every measure by reference to our love for poorer global neighbours. This will require opening up our markets, ending subsidised agricultural export dumping, less intensive food production and setting new standards of environmental protection. We oppose the draft EU Constitution as it stands. Although a 'tidying-up' exercise, it will lead to greater centralisation. The CPA believes that sovereignty gained by the EU is sovereignty lost from member states.

► Action against terrorism

A pro-active foreign and trade policy that addresses the root causes of discontent in the poverty and injustice of the developing world is the best long-term strategy to tackle the threat of terrorism. Britain and its allies in the EU and US would do better to invest in schooling, a free media and environmental protection than bombing campaigns, spyware and ID cards. As Christian Democrats we would demonstrate an understanding of diverse religious motivations and acknowledge the alienation in the developing world caused by the materialism and individualism of western society. We will work for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. This will not abrogate a responsibility to expose and alter all Islamist threats to the integrity and security of the State of Israel.

Tackle crime through self control



► Ending the yob culture

For a real and lasting reduction in crime, the CPA is determined to tackle its root causes. Safer streets will be the by-product of better homes and parenting, by a renewal of the shared values which underpin society and by the offer of real hope to communities experiencing deep-rooted problems. The me-first, 24-hour society and the amorality of unrestrained sexuality has dramatically altered the male role in society. We will therefore restore value to marriage and improve prospects of meaningful full time work as dual means of socialising young men. Our aim is to drain the swamps of yob culture and restore personal responsibility and individual accountability.

► Back restorative justice programmes

Half of offenders go on to recommit crime. We propose radical solutions within the Prison Service by tackling repeat offenders' deep rooted problems, such as by the introduction of restorative justice programmes. We are committed to tackling the scourge of drugs and will offer convicted drug offenders a choice between rehabilitation or prison. Backing will be given to prisoner-release and family support networks, as well as programmes such as Kainos.

► Policing through relationships

No more the constant liberalising of everything which leads to the huge uplift in theft to feed drug habits and other additions, but a tough no nonsense approach to law enforcement. As a first step, we'll cut unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape that hold police back. Local police teams will forge effective policing through building community-based relationships. The Police will be instructed to challenge the 'anything goes' mentality by enforcing the law, whether the disorder caused by public drunkenness and cannabis use, or petty acts of vandalism and sex in view of families enjoying parks and open spaces. Steps to legalise prostitution or brothels will be firmly rejected.

"Restore personal responsibility and individual accountability"

A new ecology of living



► Wise stewardship of God's creation

In the end, it is people's lifestyles and their consumer choices which will make the difference to saving the environment. This requires a shift away from the me-first values that hasten unnecessary consumption and which lie behind the destruction of our natural ecology. Our whole approach to government will hasten this culture shift. Through cutting the use of natural resources, not only will the UK be better off, we owe it to the post-Kyoto world who we will lobby to follow our example.

► Tackle energy use

The Christian Peoples Alliance will turn Britain into a more sustainable and low energy nation, by pressing other nations to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and by tackling traffic pollution through extended congestion charging. We will not look for marginal cuts, but a decrease of about a third in energy use. The key to reducing noise, pollution and litter is not just to deal with the after affects or to find new resources, but economising on energy use, wasteful production and unnecessary journeys. Downwards pressure on energy use will make our objective of 25% renewable electricity by 2020 more achievable. We support new air-fuel taxes by a new international treaty on aviation pollution.

► Economic sustainability

The CPA's transport and congestion plans and drive to support local businesses and home-working will also help improve the sustainability of our economy. Business will be set new recycling and waste-cutting targets. All private and public developments will be set high standards of sustainable construction, including energy efficiency, water conservation, reuse of building waste and the use of solar power and wind power. Our trade justice commitments will tackle the causes of environmental degradation internationally.

► Affordable housing a reality for key workers

The CPA will take a radical and innovative approach to the national shortage of housing. Unused development areas will be identified and landowners, whether public or private, approached to deliver significant new build. We shall also promote shared-equity schemes and leasehold arrangements where key workers can buy homes but not the land on which they are built, so making property more affordable. Empty homes will be brought back into use and buildings converted to residential or mixed use. Young people are willing to accept the choice of apartment or condominium-style living if it means having a home. Developers must accept that desire and not equate affordable housing with just semi-detached or detached solutions.

Investing in public transport



► Introduce efficient management

Conservative botched programmes of privatisation have left Britain's transport infrastructure in a mess. The CPA number one priority is to make the systems we have work. This means finding out why the record is so unreliable and then doing something about it. Improving the efficient use of existing bus, rail and road capacity is as much a management issue as investment. Clear lines of responsibility will be established for the whole rail network.

► Raise new transport investment

Business knows the real costs of stressed out and often late employees. But rising fares will not pay for the work needed to bring transport into the 21st century. The CPA therefore favours hypothecated precepts on business to help pay for major capital investment in the cities, such as London. Additionally, we will use Peoples Bonds to raise new finance. Key stakeholders, the citizens of each conurbation, will each have the right to purchase a bond and so directly influence the improvement of their city.

► Reduce car journeys

Traffic movements around cities will be made faster by investing in orbital coach systems, served by a necklace of transfer points at radial roads and motorways. This will create an efficient alternative to the car. We will reduce transport demand and congestion by making walking and cycling real choices. Congestion charging and road pricing will be used to manage peak car movements, in return for new investment in public transport.

"Make the systems we have work"

Security in work and wage justice



► Improving productivity

The CPA will develop a culture of workforce development among the business community that addresses the UK's skills needs and improves productivity. Too many of the working population find it difficult to find gainful employment because they have no qualifications. The CPA will introduce commercially-run "career teleports" which will supply skilled labour for specific demand so upgrading skills for all who enrol. They will be tasked with re-skilling people excluded from the active workforce.

► Support for small business

By rolling-out the Citylife's Zero-Coupon BOOST Bonds on a national basis, the CPA will raise new funds that bring people the skills they need to join the workforce and hope of finding meaningful work. We are committed to the provision of interest free loans and the start of mutual guarantee schemes. Services provided will include micro business start up funds, partnerships with corporate buyers and suppliers to get help in kind and start up facilities.

► Justice for workers

The CPA will enforce the provisions of the Working Time Directive, which prevents working in excess of 48 hours per week. We will end the UK's opt out option. The CPA will also introduce a provincial minimum wage of £5.50 and a metropolitan rate of £6.70 to ensure those on low incomes are not forced to work excessive hours to make ends meet. As nationally a third of all fathers work at least one Sunday a month, the CPA will restore 52 shopping free days a year, as well as Easter and Christmas.

Support the Christian Peoples Alliance LIFE • TRUTH • COMPASSION

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