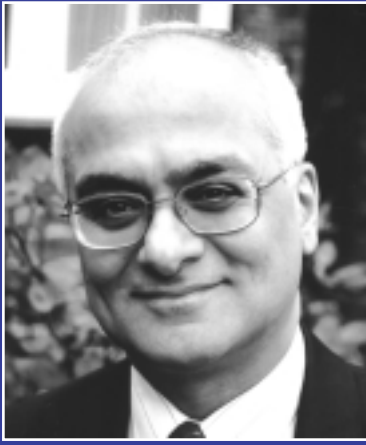




**Ram
Gidoomal
CBE**

Passion for London

**London
Mayor
2004**

**CHRISTIAN
peoples
ALLIANCE**



CHRISTIAN
peoples
ALLIANCE

" We **believe** that under **God**
the **well being of society**
should be judged more by the **quality**
of human relationships than
by **material attainments**, more by the
richness of human lives
than by the **abundance of**
possessions. "

*From the Mayflower Declaration
of the Christian Peoples Alliance*

**London Mayor
and Assembly
2004**

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'For I know the **plans** I have
for you,' declares the Lord,

'plans to **prosper** you and
not to harm you, plans to
give you **hope** and
a **future**."

Jeremiah 29:11



Ram Gidoomal, CBE,
Leader of Christian
Peoples Alliance

Dear Friend,

"London deserves better than to be kicked around left, right and centre by the main political parties. That's why I am standing, to give Londoners a choice of something different.

Competence and accountability are needed more than PR and politicians. As Mayor of London I pledge to deliver both of them.

London expects crime to be tackled.

I will lead the drive to make London a safer place for all and to restore public confidence in the police and legal system. Better streets will be a product of better homes. Keeping families together and restoring right relationships between people, especially fathers and sons, offenders and their victims, one community against another are but some examples of practical reconciliation that I will encourage.

Our children deserve the best.

As Mayor, I'll see that through education children are given a framework of learning and both moral and personal values. London needs over 130 new schools. I will see they have a Christian/Faith foundation. Developing good character is as important as awarding good qualifications.

Six out of ten of Britain's poorest boroughs are still in London after 4 years of the GLA. This is intolerable.

I will use my business expertise to establish a £500 million London Regeneration Fund to bring new life and jobs to the capital. The divide between rich and poor has to be tackled. Skills training will be targeted to all communities to offer people a route out of homelessness and poverty into homes and jobs.

It should be possible for London to have a coherent integrated transport system.

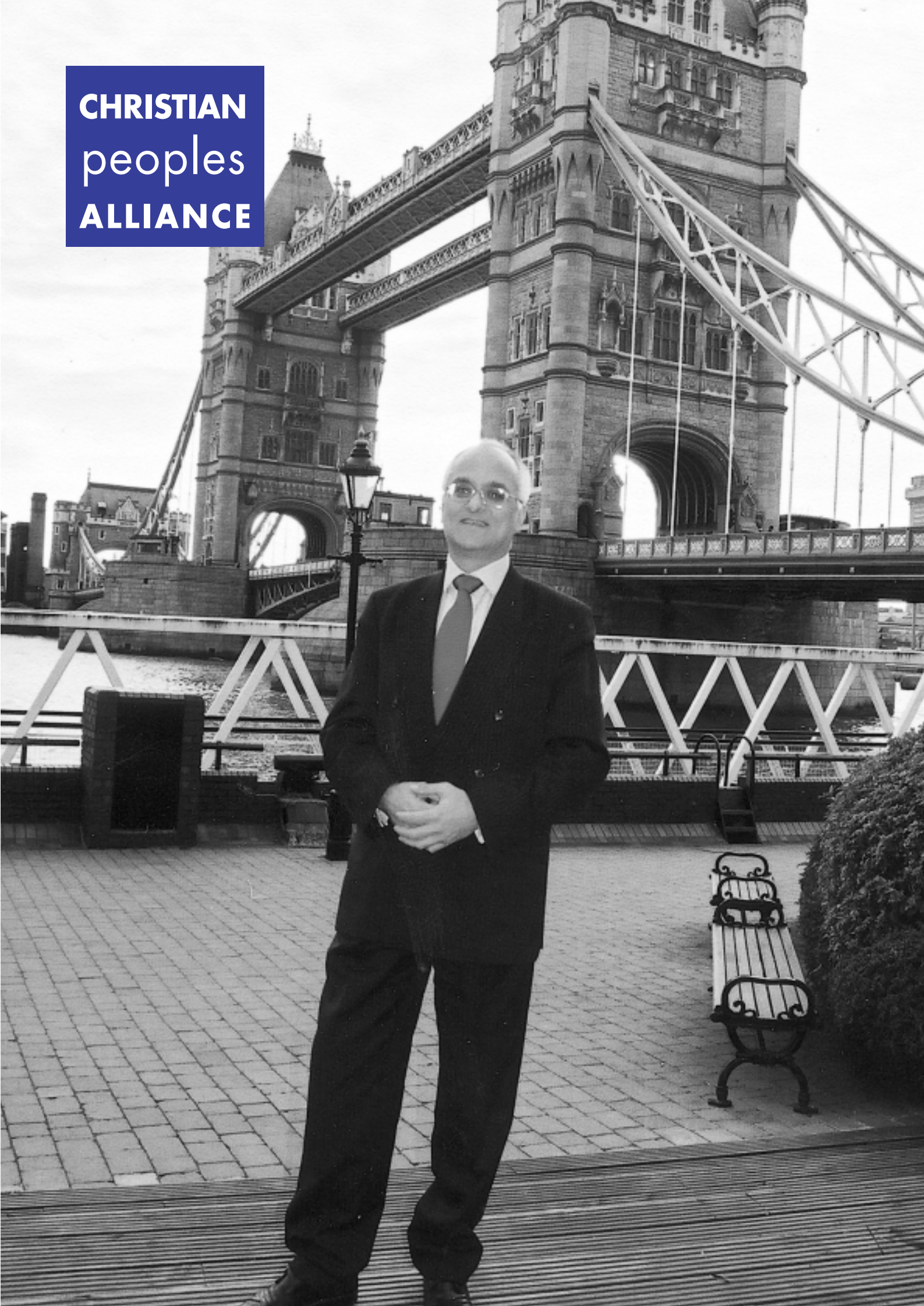
This is still not happening. I will see that it does. First I will sort out bad management and get existing services to run more efficiently. Then I will change investment in the rail network and London Underground through a Peoples Bond.

As Mayor I will do all I can to bring Christian Democratic values of **justice, integrity, compassion** and **reconciliation**. Far from being a weakness, our diversity is a cause of celebration and a source of strength."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ram Gidoomal".

Ram Gidoomal CBE

CHRISTIAN
peoples
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Christian Democratic Values for London

We believe that caring about your neighbour, thinking about the common good and putting the needs of others first works for all of us.

In this election the Christian Peoples Alliance focuses on the Second Great Commandment. Jesus taught, first, that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and, second, to love our neighbours as ourselves. We cannot really live any other way. We challenge the old Thatcherite individualism which has not worked and has delivered a range of social problems in London and elsewhere. New Labour has modified it, but selfish solutions still largely shape the agenda in transport, housing and energy use. We believe that caring about our neighbour, thinking about the common good and putting the needs of others first works for all of us. As Christian Democrats, we think it can be done successfully.

This is our first Christian principle, a commitment to love our neighbours as ourselves. As we want to be treated, so we treat others. If we think of the needs of everybody in London, our own deeper needs will be met. Love for our neighbour and respect can shape the city of London. Government can't do it, but it can encourage it. Government in London can work for a situation where everybody is honoured and the more basic needs of all receive priority over the more extravagant needs of a few. Justice and fairness rank more highly than material wealth or having power. The principle honours the place of everybody in London. In Jesus' terms it is a pattern where the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Second, is the commitment to London as a peaceful community. For many, London is a place of stress. A million flee it at weekends. Others find it hostile and jagged in its relationships; they are exploited and harmed. Yet, it can be more peaceful. Patterns of stress need breaking. We can find ways of working and travelling well together. Well ordered systems of transport and daily life need to exist that are for people and not for profit and control. We aim to eliminate much stress from Londoners' lives, so that daily existence is as peaceful and good as it can be. London is an incredible work city. Tube trains groan with the number of early morning commuters. But work needs taming, so that London is a place to live, to rest, relate, have fun and sleep, not to escape. And work can be good with some careful reforms.

Third, many people make demands of London. They take from it and use it. We think London needs a lot more love and stewardship. Stewardship is the Christian principle of taking care of God's creation and recognising its glory. First, it is grateful for what it has been given – the glory of the natural world, the building and work of generations throughout history. It involves honouring London as more than personal possession, or something to be exploited. It means a longer-term vision of its development. The present Mayor has begun this process. Yet, the London Plan, as the London Assembly found, is weak on sustainability and transport.

We think, with another level of planning and investment, London could be transformed into a better and more beautiful city for all of us. The policies below set out how this might happen, especially in relation to long-term investment.

The Greater London Authority and the London Mayor are now fully in operation, but with limited powers. We do not think that central government has yet fully recognised what strategic responsibility London needs, and in this Manifesto we push for the further transfer of central government powers, including the raising of finance, to the London Assembly and the Mayor. At present, Central Government is maintaining control in a range of ways which are damaging London.

The Christian Peoples Alliance prefers straightforward priorities which will make London a better place. We think it makes sense and hope you will join us in seeking to make London a better place to live in.

**London could
be transformed
into a better
and more
beautiful city
for all of us**





Bringing Good Government to London

Ram Gidoomal has a reputation for seeking the highest ethical standards, has proven business capability and a reputation as someone who really cares about London. With the CPA Assembly team, he will take a straight-talking tough approach to running London as a business and seek the restoration of pride in London as a World Class City.

- Competence and accountability are needed more than PR and politicians. The CPA vision is for a city that will work without everything breaking down, late and dirty. Ram Gidoomal will act as the catalyst to ensure that the right policies are chosen, there are action plans to deliver them and accountability for the expenditure of the money required.
- As Mayor, Ram will exercise strong leadership in cutting back on the poor management and waste of the Greater London Authority and ensure that both business and citizens get value for money. Large projects will be cancelled if the case is not proven, such as the £400 million Thames Gateway Bridge.
- Ram will establish the GLA as the most modern, open and efficient city government in the world. The CPA team will benchmark against the best performing cities in the world and set ambitious, quantifiable targets to be achieved by the end of the Mayor's term of office.
- Working with central government, the CPA will seek a fairer share of national tax revenues for London and a reform of how taxes are raised in the capital. Public infrastructure investment gives companies significant untaxed increases in the value of their stock and so special precepts should be considered. We favour business rates going direct to the GLA.



- Ken Livingstone has imposed an 80 per cent increase in the precept on the Council Tax through the boroughs in the past 3 years. Londoners are right to oppose such tax rises when the evidence is that budgets are not being managed efficiently and projects are wasting scarce resources.
- The CPA Assembly team will work closely with the boroughs. Representatives from London's diverse communities will be appointed to work with the Mayor and contribute to all GLA policies at every stage. All of London's publicly funded bodies must be reviewed for inclusiveness, customer focus and added value.
- All public appointments will be under Nolan principles and strictly monitored, at all stages (from recruitment to appointment), to ensure that all public bodies reflect the communities being served.
- Transparent and accountable government requires the GLA to promote equality of access to its services. This will be a priority for review, alongside a value-for-money evaluation of posts at Civic Hall.
- Labour's idea of 'super-boroughs' will be opposed. At present, London's structure of government does not increase capacity for sustainable growth but acts to constrain it. More centralisation cannot help when centralised government and the lack of truly devolved decision-making is already a problem.
- As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal would address the reality that responsibility for London is confused and diffused. Despite the creation of the GLA, many functions and decisions remain at central government level. Difficulty over getting decisions on transport, new homes or projects like the Olympic bid rest as much with central government not taking London seriously as with our borough-level system. It is at this level the CPA will press for action.
- The citizens of London already feel disengaged with the political and decision-making process. Small is beautiful, especially when recognisable, geographical, borough communities are involved. Decision-making will therefore be taken at the lowest level practical - at ward and Neighbourhood level and only at a higher level, where necessary.



**Decision
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Stress Free Transport

London is a stressful city because millions of journeys do not work properly. Congestion charging has been a good move, but it addresses only a small proportion of London journeys. If people can move about easily and quickly, work, home and leisure life are better. The foremost priority for the Christian Peoples Alliance in tackling road congestion and inadequate tubes, trains and buses is to make the systems we have work. This will mean Ram Gidoomal and the CPA Assembly team must establish why the record is so unreliable and then do something about it.

Ram would come to the task as a businessman and systems analyst who's grown and run a £150 million business with 7,000 employees in 15 countries. Improving the efficient use of existing bus and rail capacity is as much a management issue as investment.

The problem of traffic congestion across London is not being addressed in more than a marginal way. For many journeys the traveller has no alternative to the car. Public transport is therefore essential to keep London moving. The increase in public transport capacity by 50% outlined in the London Plan over 15 years has our support. We present some radical solutions to fund the plans.

Safety and the Future of London Transport

A significant rise is expected in London's population and substantial expenditure is required in the transport infrastructure to cope. The long battle between the Mayor and the Government over the refurbishment of the London Underground is symptomatic of a general problem where the Government controls, but will not commit funds to, investment. On the Underground, as elsewhere, the Government has backed Private Public Partnerships.

- The CPA will oppose reliance on the private funding of long-term capital where the investors require profit as this often leads to lower levels of safety because ensuring safety is costly. The cost of this funding is temporarily disguised to the voter, as they get refurbishment now, but pay heavily for it later.



- Public transport systems which require co-ordinated planning must be managed by an overall publicly responsible agency to create a co-ordinated system. There is a difference between profit driven investment and that which is focused on the public good, putting safety and quality of service first. We unequivocally back the latter.
- Overall control and safety is a long-term issue. The CPA will press for London to take strategic responsibility for the planning of its transport infrastructure, both in terms of investment, strategy, pricing and development. Under Ram Gidoomal's leadership, we shall look for the modification and renegotiation of responsibilities in the Public-Private Partnerships.
- We also think that the problem of in-built monopolies in these agreements has not been fully addressed. Once a firm is in place and has specialised knowledge, it may prove impossible to prevent price escalation, because they cannot be dislodged.
- We advocate unequivocal control of the Underground system, track, tunnels, rolling stock and personnel with London Underground, under the supervision of Transport for London, in line with the recent transfer from the Department of Transport.
- The CPA propose an independent safety executive, funded by and responsible directly to the Mayor and the GLA, with powers to censure and to sack. We continue to challenge New Labour's imposition of PPP.





Getting London Moving

The challenge of getting London moving will not be solved in four years. Seeing vital infrastructure and strategic projects through to completion requires a business acumen that so few politicians have. Under Ram Gidoomal, a different approach will be taken.

- The first priority of the CPA is the East/West construction of Crossrail on a more limited scale than currently proposed. It is a vital element in helping London cope with demand for transport and in improving access and links across the capital.
- Under Ram Gidoomal, construction of Crossrail will be planned and implemented by those who understand the business of major infrastructure projects. Never again should a project of the magnitude of a new line be left to the inadequacies of London Transport in-house teams.
- Priorities after Crossrail would be Thameslink 2000, Underground improvements, additions to the DLR, Jubilee Line and East London line extensions. But funding is vital.
- At a more immediate level, road maintenance and utility company projects should be authorised under licence by TfL in areas of high congestion. Failure to complete contracts in time would lead to penalties being paid.
- Goods deliveries should be made at night and ways of rewarding companies who do this should be examined as part of a review of business taxation. A work-hours lorry ban may be necessary.
- As part of the drive to dampen use of the car for commuting, Ram Gidoomal would consult with business about taxes on workplace parking.

Raising Investment

Londoners are right to be angry that they are paying for above inflation fare increases on both the buses and tubes when the Government is not giving the capital a fair share in grants. London makes a net contribution of between £9 billion and £15 billion a year to the national economy and future prosperity will be undermined unless Government back London's case.

- Ram Gidoomal and the CPA Assembly team will press for Transport for London's bid for an additional £900 million a year for 2005/6, 2006/7 and 2007/8 to be met in full from the Government's spending review (SR2004). However, we propose other measures if this bid is unsuccessful as an expanding transport deficit, predicted to reach £600m in 2005-6, has to be met if investment targets are to be reached.

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- The CPA welcomes other parties borrowing from our policies, such as the acceptance by the Treasury of Ram Gidoomal's idea in 2000 for a 'Peoples Bond' to raise investment. As Ken Livingstone has come to see, the case for raising finance cheaply and prudently, without privatisation, is just as strong now.
- Labour's plans to raise £400m through a bond are too cautious and the CPA team for London will seek to raise £2.5 billion this way. Under our plans, key stakeholders, the citizens of London, will each have the right to purchase a bond and so directly influence the improvement of London Underground.
- As an additional source of funding, Ram Gidoomal will also make the case for a hypothecated precept on business, provided that proper controls and business practices are introduced in the spending of money raised in this way. If such a precept had been introduced and business rates had tracked the annual rise in the council charge over the past decade, the Crossrail project could have been funded outright.



Long Term Transport Solutions and the Congestion Charge

The main London problem is that there is no effective outer London public transport system. As a result, car use – the mode used in 80% of London's journeys, is unavoidable for a high proportion of journeys and strangles much of London. The Congestion Charge, Underground renovation and rail use will not touch this underlying dilemma. In response, we favour improving outer London transport. This is not a policy which is against the car, because if we could cut London use of the car by, say, 30% car users would have a far better and more efficient time on the roads. However, wise stewardship of London's resources requires a total commitment to sustainability and the need to rely less on cars.



- The CPA favours the principle of the Congestion Charge which has decreased the number of traffic movements at peak periods.
- Although failing as a major source of GLA funding, the fact that fewer cars use central London has important environmental benefits, especially over air pollution. Extension westwards to Kensington will bring the same improvements.
- Workers in the charitable sector will be given the same exemptions which currently favour key sector workers and residents of the zone.
- The charge has hit small and medium sized businesses. Ram Gidoomal favours the re-examination of the time periods in which the charge applies. He would like to see a window in the day between 11am and 3pm when the charge won't apply. However, exemptions must not undermine the scheme's coherence or deterrent effect.
- The CPA Assembly team favour using market-price measures to control traffic. London's boroughs will be given the right to apply the charge in zones where peak traffic or rat-running is a problem.
- New schemes would be run by the GLA, who will receive the revenue (so it does not become another local tax). The charge would become a means of directing peak traffic to radial roads and not a way of raising revenue.

Support for Buses

The increase in bus services and the expansion of the network has proved a significant success. The move is beginning to show some fruit in journey transfer from cars, but still many buses are less than half full.

- The Christian Peoples Alliance team will give continued focus to the expansion of what is at present an incomplete network. 37% of London households are without a car, and we should be able to provide public transport for most of their journeys for these two and a half million people.
- Ram will give firm support for bus priority measures as a way of improving the appeal of bus services. In particular, these should be used in suburban town centres where traffic is problematic. The CPA Assembly team will work for additional bus lanes, bus stop clearways, clearly marked road surfaces and better signs and signals.
- As part of the CPA's integrated approach to transport in London, our other policies, such as the coach system, will strongly encourage local bus journeys and thereby increase use and frequency. If occupancy rates could be doubled, especially on journeys in outer London, we would suddenly have quite an efficient bus system for local urban travel.
- All traffic must be kept moving - that's why we will also bring in a Car Sharing Scheme: drivers will be able to use bus lanes if there are three or more people in the car.



Improving Suburban Journeys

Overwhelmingly, London remains a car city. The question is not of being against the car, but of providing an alternative to the car for a substantial proportion of the journeys. If a suitable alternative to the car could be provided, the bulk of car journeys still made would be better and less stressful.

- As Mayor, Ram will press for the adoption of the CPA policy from 2000 of an Outer London and inter-city Coach system, based on fast orbital moves around the M25 and the North and South Circulars. The CPA proposal was strongly recommended in the £3.6 million Government sponsored, multi-modal ORBIT study, the most thorough ever undertaken of transport in the South East.
- The CPA will challenge Labour's short-sighted logic of seeking the widening of the M25 to eight lanes (with several years of road works) as experts agree that the space is largely taken up already and the decline in speeds will continue.

**Car Sharing
Scheme:
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- Ram's plan for coaches addresses the underlying outer London problem of road space. There is a chronic shortage in central London which congestion charging has partly addressed, but the problem remains wherever cars are used, whether on the High Street or the M25. With eight lanes the M25 can carry only 45,000 passengers travelling at a decent speed. This is exceeded daily in the rush hours and often during the day, and currently the traffic slows or stops.
- Using coaches the M25 capacity moves up to nearly half a million! Coach networks require little infrastructure, because they use existing roads. Coaches cut energy use by a factor of five or more and could free up millions of hours spent behind a wheel. We propose an outer London transport system, based on the coach, especially using the M25, which is capable of eliminating car overuse and making it possible for those who want to use cars to do so without congestion.
- Transfer points will be moved from Victoria Coach Station to the M25 junctions, creating a necklace of transfer points where quick transit can be made, allowing people to make millions of outer London, fast, efficient journeys using the coach.
- As well as the M25 Orbital system, the CPA will introduce a similar system on the North and South Circulars, with rapid movement coaches on the radial motorways and to population centres in suburban and outer London. Passengers would know that they can move swiftly with a few quick transfers from and to any area in outer London, with links to the tube, buses and home.
- The CPA Assembly team will implement the ORBIT study recommendations by creating a Strategic Authority as part of Transport for London to implement this change. It would need to build the transfer points round the M25, establish safe practice, buy and operate coaches, operate interchanges, negotiate the links with radial private coach provision and other London public transport provision.



Alternatives to Car Use

Current car use is incredibly inefficient. The average car speed is about 17mph and falling. The cost per car mile is about 40p and we are wasting millions of hours in traffic jams, using petrol and creating pollution. By tackling the problem of overuse of the combustion engine, London would be richer, a less stressed and unhealthy place to live and people would have more time.

- Street and road space design will be required to maximise the interest of the wider community, especially pedestrians. Effort will go into preventing the obstruction of pavements and footpaths, particularly by cars.
- Ram will work to improve road crossings and street layouts to make them more pedestrian friendly. The existing Walking Plan has the support of the CPA Assembly team.
- Better information, street signs and maps will be provided to make walking more attractive for Londoners and tourists.
- Mopeds will be given higher priority.
- Use of bicycles, especially by schoolchildren, will be encouraged through the promotion of well-designed cycle lanes that cover whole routes and through implementation of TfL's existing Cycling Action Plan by 2009. Every child will be given the chance to receive on-road cycle training.

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Safer London – Policing the capital

The success of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in fighting crime and making London a safer city to live in, work in and visit deserves full public recognition. As Christian Democrats, the CPA believes that every citizen has a role to play in crime prevention, not least in engendering values of personal responsibility and care for their community.

Crime figures show a downwards trend in most areas, but personal safety and crime still remain a top concern for Londoners. Most feel unsafe with 61% of women saying that fear of crime is a problem for them and 51% feeling unsafe walking in their neighbourhood in the evening. Overall, 58% of Londoners have a fear of crime being committed. (Source: MORI poll carried out for the GLA 2003).

Public perceptions of crime rates are bleaker than the real picture. Much has to be done to ensure Londoners feel safe and are safe. But more resources and police are not the whole solution. For a real and lasting reduction in crime, Ram Gidoomal and the CPA Assembly team are determined to tackle its root causes. Safer streets will be the by-product of better homes, by a renewal of the values which underpin society and by the offer of real hope to communities experiencing deep-rooted problems.

Crime reduction

Ram Gidoomal will adopt policies such as those proven to work in New York which has a culture as near to London as any. No more the constant liberalising of everything, which leads to the huge uplift in theft to feed the drug habits of London, but a tough no nonsense approach to law enforcement, even if it does mean even more police on the streets.

The CPA recognises improvements are happening, with figures for some crimes such as burglary and robberies continuing to fall. Recorded burglary is down by 2.2%, street crime by 15.5% and car crime by 1.2%. However, some crimes like race hate and gun crime are on the increase – the latter by 3%. (Source: MPS & MPA Annual Report 2002/3)

- Reduction in drug related, violent and gun crime will be a top priority. Ram will build on the success of campaigns like the pan London Operation Trident (tackling black community crime), Operation Trafalgar (other communities) Operation Bantam (Hackney) and the recent Stand Up and Stamp Down on Gun Crime consultative initiative.

**Safer streets
will be the by-
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better homes**

Full enforcement of the law against cannabis users

- The capital will be made secure against the threat of terrorism through building on initiatives like 'Rainbow'. Additional funding will be found from Central Government to ensure high visibility policing, partnership with national and international agencies and through expert intelligence gathering.
- The MPS will be instructed to challenge the 'anything goes' mentality by enforcing the law, whether disorder caused by public drunkenness and substance abuse, or petty acts of vandalism and sex in view of families enjoying London's parks and open spaces. Steps to legalise prostitution or brothels will be firmly rejected if Ram becomes Mayor.
- Ram Gidoomal will ensure full enforcement of the law against cannabis users. Soft drugs are a gateway to hard drug usage and the dealer's delight. The Acting Borough Commander for Lambeth said that centre of Brixton became a '24 hour crack supermarket' as a result of the notorious Brixton cannabis trial.
- The CPA will ensure that London's police will use their continuing powers of arrest for people found in possession of cannabis, and will not follow the 'presumption of warning' for offenders as advised by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).
- We will work with borough police forces to encourage proper and more extensive use of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) to target youth disorder.
- Local authorities, working with local borough police, will be encouraged to designate Alcohol Free Zones in trouble spots.



The Met will be instructed to challenge the “anything goes” mentality

- Stop and Search operations will be actively pursued subject to extensive training and rigorous monitoring [under Recommendation 61] and based on the Hackney Pilot to ensure that ethnic minority communities are not affected disproportionately.
- The CPA will press for more radical solutions within the Prison Service by tackling deep rooted problems of repeat offending, through the introduction of restorative justice programmes run by Kainos and Prison Fellowship.
- Pressure will be brought to bear so that people who are not a danger to the public but have mental health problems receive psychiatric treatment in hospital. Prison confinement must not be the only response and used for ‘care’ on the cheap.
- Difficulties in reporting crime, whether over the phone or at local police stations, will be tackled. The CPA will act to ensure the new C3i system telephone system is monitored rigorously against customer service standards.
- The speed and friendliness of front desk service at police stations (whether staffed by police officers, police staff or volunteers) will also be tracked and Email reporting extended.
- Hesitancy among some communities in reporting crime will be addressed. The use of third party crime reporting for the victim via an agency such as a local church or mosque will be encouraged.

More Frontline Policing

The increase in the number of police officers to 30,000 (2004) is a step in the right direction. The CPA also supports the Met’s aim to bring this to 35,000 uniformed officers by 2007. But it is vital that this action leads to more frontline officers being present in the community. We support the developing use of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO’s) and will seek to maximise the use of Police Specialists.

- Ram Gidoomal will also aim to increase the number of Police Specialists by 300% to 3000 by 2007 through a vigorous recruitment campaign promoting volunteering through London’s employers as part of their Social Responsibility commitment.
- The CPA will introduce an annual allowance of £3000 for Specialists, using the learning gained from pilot schemes run in Cumbria, the West Midlands and Humberside.
- The State Visit of President Bush alone cost Londoners £3.9m to police. We will campaign to ensure that the cost of policing

national events held in London - such as state visits, and major demonstrations, will be paid for out of Central Government Funds not out of the funding from local Council Taxes.



- The cost of providing security for the Royal Family will also be paid for in this way.
- Savings generated will release more funding to put more Police Officers, Specials and PCSO's on our streets.
- Serving police officers are not allowed to wear their uniform 'off-duty' although exceptions can be granted. The CPA does not believe it is appropriate for police officers to parade in full uniform at any public demonstration, as occurred in July 2003, either individually, or as a group or as an organisation, and will press the Police Commissioner not to permit this.

Improve Police Diversity

30% of Londoners come from ethnic backgrounds but less than 6.0% of police officers reflect this diversity. While nearly 11.0% of the MPA's new recruits are from visible ethnic minorities there is an urgent need for this number to be dramatically escalated. The number of women police officers, while increasing, still remains low at below 17%.

- Ram Gidoomal believes that the MPA's target of 15% visible ethnic minorities within the force by 2009 is too low. Our target will be 25% by 2009 by ensuring that 50% of all new recruits will come from ethnic backgrounds.
- The CPA will introduce vigorous initiatives through the MPA's Positive Action Team to target new recruits in areas of high ethnicity. The roadshow initiative recently used in Paddington, now being extended to other areas, like Ilford, Uxbridge, Hounslow and Brentford, will be extended across London.
- The development of Mentoring Schemes for ethnic police probationers, piloted at Enfield will be extended. Dedicated mentors from a similar ethnic background will be assigned to probationers.
- Recruitment will be encouraged from other communities such as London's varied faith groups, college students and all ethnic minorities.
- The CPA will increase the number of women within the MPS from 16.9% to 30% by 2009 by abolishing the arbitrary 16 hrs p.w. minimum threshold for police officers to work part time hours.

**Increase the
number of
women in the
Met**

The police service needs to be more accountable

Communities Resisting Crime

Community consultation, engagement and involvement are key components in building a safer, crime free environment. Local Crime and Disorder Partnerships are a good start but the CPA believes the police service needs to be seen to be more accountable to the local communities it is seeking to serve. The Restoring Reassurance Project piloted in Southwark, Enfield, & Westminster last year is a model to be explored.

- The concept of localised policing through a small team under a Local Community Officer and dedicated to a specific and recognisable community area will be developed. The new 'Step Change' programme has the support of the CPA. However, instead of being based upon 6 officers per ward, larger units covering 3 wards will be formed to ensure adequate local deployment and flexibility.
- Police Officers, PCSO's and Specials would patrol largely on foot and bike across the designated wards. Under the CPA, they will work in partnership with a designated Council Ranger responsible for dealing with street environment issues – such as graffiti, abandoned cars, litter and vandalism.
- The CPA will put in place policing performance measurements based on time spent on foot & bike patrols, visible and regular visits to local venues like drop-in Centres, Day Centres, schools, colleges, shopping centres, leisure complexes, libraries and so on.



Local police stations should not be closed

- Local police stations should not be closed, but extended using 'cop shop' type locations at places such as supermarkets, shopping centres and leisure centres. These will be staffed by trained civilian volunteers, based on the successful model pioneered in New Malden and supported over week-ends by Police Specialists.
- Every community policing team will be encouraged to forge a partnership with their local Council Neighbourhood Committees (CNC), Sector Working Parties and Neighbourhood Watch Groups.
- Neighbourhood Watch Groups will be properly funded by Ram Gidoomal and revitalised and church and faith groups will be encouraged to launch or re-launch groups.
- The CPA Assembly team will ensure that Local Community Officers are linked to a local magistrate who is familiar with the area. Knowledge of persistent offenders and the pressure often placed on witnesses in the course of proceedings will therefore be known about.
- The Community Officer and Magistrate will form a team with Youth Services, Probation and School Heads. This partnership will help tackle the problem of repeat youth offending, especially where proactive reporting is made to local Police and Community Consultative Groups.
- Greater engagement by the police with local communities will be supported by the development of PACT groups (Police and Churches Together). This will help to tackle crime's root causes. Other faith groups will be encouraged to develop similar models.
- The CPA will encourage further community support of local police officers by the extension of the 'Adopt a Cop' scheme that is run by some local churches. Other faith groups will also be encouraged along similar lines.



... guiding
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what will build
good and just
relationships
between people
– a solid sense
of love of our
neighbour

Economic Regeneration

London is Europe's biggest city and in many ways it is a great world city. It is rich in culture, buildings and people. But attitudes from the Thatcherite era still survive as we seek our own interests first and the solutions offered to problems focus on individuals and their private needs. London has areas of great private affluence alongside poverty, public squalor, high unemployment and lack of investment.

In tackling inequality and the need for regeneration, Ram Gidoomal's guiding principle is what will build good and just relationships between people - a solid sense of love of our neighbour. Commitment to the principle of reconciliation means seeking peaceful communities, whether in the workplace or in run-down neighbourhoods. Though committed to bringing meaningful and well-paid jobs, Ram Gidoomal will not slavishly promote unsustainable economic activity.



A New Business Strategy

As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will build on London's record as the foremost destination for overseas inward investment and its achievement in attracting leading international firms to the city. The CPA commitment is to social justice and our foremost priority will be to address the fact that London has 6 out of 10 of the most deprived boroughs in Britain and some of the highest unemployment and worst housing in Europe.

Ram Gidoomal will bring new strategic business leadership



Working with businesses

- Ram Gidoomal will bring new strategic business leadership to London government. A partnership will be formed with existing business support agencies, individuals and institutions to launch a £500 million London Regeneration Fund. This will provide interest free loans and support for mutual guarantee schemes. Services provided would include micro business start up funds, partnerships with corporate buyers and suppliers to get help in kind and start up facilities (discount packs, credit, extended payment terms, guarantees etc). These will be supplemented by the provision of business mentors, business surgeries and access to internet services.
- From his experience as Chair of Citylife's £50 million Zero-Coupon BOOST Bond, Ram Gidoomal has been working to bring people in the inner-London boroughs the skills they need to join the workforce and to find meaningful work. While other candidates make promises committing public funds, he has already helped leverage seven-figure sums from private-sector sources to bring investment to Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets, three of Britain's most deprived boroughs.
- As Chair of the Employability Forum, Ram Gidoomal is committed to making better use of qualified professionals entering Britain as refugees. The CPA will facilitate the recognition of professional training from other countries.
- The CPA will help to remove barriers to work for legitimate guest workers and refugees by establishing an agency that can verify qualifications on behalf of the employer and applicant. Ram Gidoomal will ensure the provision of free English as a second language (ESL) in classes for all those who cannot meet the criteria. Vouchers for recognised centres will be given to identified groups eg. refugees and to designated community groups to ensure centres are established which meet their needs and enhance assimilation.

Keeping London Ahead

London's image abroad places it in an advantageous position for both tourism and inward investment. But it also places further pressures on infrastructure, especially transport. Tourism plays a crucial role as London's second largest industry and the CPA's plans for addressing pressures on transport will ensure this contribution to London's economy, on which half a million jobs depend, is maintained.

- London is a complex business metropolis which offer the opportunities for specialisation and co-operation. Ram Gidoomal will promote the natural tendency of businesses to cluster, whether in design, ecology, finance, retail or food processing.
- Through the London Development Agency, the CPA will back business clusters by policy charters, business cluster plans and an annually elected representative to be an advocate for business clusters recognised in this way. Clusters would report and have a right to response from the GLA. Ram Gidoomal will see their markets are developed nationally and internationally and resources are made available for training, research and marketing.
- The Madrid atrocity and the war in Iraq are impacting the number of tourists coming to London, which in turn is damaging the capital's economy. The CPA will make public efforts at maintaining reconciliation between London's ethnic and faith communities, so that outward unity will give the message of our abhorrence of terrorism.
- With 300 languages spoken in the capital and 1 in 3 citizens coming from ethnic minorities, Ram Gidoomal will use London's diversity to win new inward investment and overseas trading opportunities.
- As Mayor, Ram will appoint 1000 'trade ambassadors' drawn from every ethnic group to market what London offers to their networks overseas. They will have the objective of bringing to London 100,000 business investment and trade opportunities and accompanying jobs, over the 4 years of a Christian Democratic mayoralty.

**Ram ... will use
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Giving London the Skills it Needs

From the Christian Democratic belief in Empowerment Ram Gidoomal will develop a culture of workforce development among businesses that addresses the capital's skills needs. Too many of the working population find it difficult to find gainful employment because they have no qualifications. As Founder Director of the

South London Training Enterprise Council and Founder Chairman of Business Links London South, Ram Gidoomal has the experience and vision to ensure the productivity of London's employees matches and exceeds that of our European competitors.

- Drawing upon the development plans of London's top companies, skills shortages will be addressed in advance of new workers being needed.
- New "career teleports" – PC direct links to websites – will be established to provide courses that meet these shortages. Coupons will be given to unemployed people to enable free transport and free instruction to these centres.
- Incentives will be provided for the commercial creation of these schools. These incentives will be tied to how quickly and to how well paid the jobs are which are gained by their graduates. This will force these career teleports to be immediately responsive to the rapid changes in the skills market that we already see.
- The CPA will see that the entire system is financed through the private sector, with incentives from the GLA. Loans will be made by the career teleports to students, who will contract to supply skilled labour for specified demand. This will allow retraining and upgrading of skills of everyone who has the aptitude and the will to perform in the new economy.

Ram Gidoomal
will be the
champion of
Living Wage for
all Londoners



Businessman to businessman

Work and Life balance

As Mayor of London, Ram Gidoomal will be the Champion of a Living Wage for all Londoners. He will also work for a better work and life balance for all. The hours of work undertaken in the United Kingdom are more than three hours a week greater than the European average. Londoners work fairly close to the English average, but that disguises the fact that certain manual and non-

manual groups work long hours, often up to 45 a week and beyond. This in turn is made worse by the commuting times undertaken by Londoners. On average they spend ten minutes longer in their journey to work, nearly a couple of hours a week, than people in any other region.

It is easy to assume that things cannot change, but it is possible, relatively quickly, to change the work patterns of substantial numbers of Londoners for the better. The CPA will take the following steps.

- Working with business organisations, unions and employers' forums, Ram Gidoomal will identify ways of overcoming problems related to over-work. Many central London commuters can spend two or three hours a day commuting, which adds up to an working week of say 45 hours plus ten or even fifteen commuting. For these Londoners, this adds up to an effective working of fifty or sixty hours a week.
- The CPA Assembly team will highlight issues relating to fatigue. This lowers performance in actual work and often shortens the work lives in London of many fine and highly qualified workers. There are a variety of dimensions to this – alcohol addiction, smoking, back pains, depression and a range of other afflictions that can be traced in part to the stress caused by overwork.
- New ways of working will be examined to support local jobs in London's neighbourhoods, such as the idea of local offices. With broadband available throughout London and easy contact possible between staff and their employers, it should be possible for workers to work one or more days a week in a local multi-organisational office. Firms could hire these as a variant on home-working, thus cutting rush hour traffic. The offices could be normal commercial enterprises.
- As a matter of social justice, under Ram Gidoomal's mayoralty there will be an advocate for workers who are exploited. They work long hours to service London's 24/7 style of life and earn very low rates of pay. They work long hours, because of the 'high' costs associated with living in London. As mayor, Ram will require all GLA bodies to include a living wage framework of good practice in all contracts.
- We consider it to be a matter of justice that London workers should have a statutory minimum wage, as recommended by TELCO, of £6.70 an hour. This will be implemented among GLA employees and in 'service provider' contracts. The new level might slightly reduce the amount that London workers have to work but would mean that they have to be valued more highly.
- The Christian Peoples Alliance will highlight demands on many parents who are effectively cut off from their children for much of their childhood and school years by the working and commuting hours to which they are committed by their job. To

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leave for work before the children are up and to get home after they have gone to bed is a deep grief to tens of thousands of parents. Children experience a hunger for the time their parents cannot give them.

- Many Londoners now have to work at the weekends. Nationally, over half of fathers work at least one Saturday a month and a third at least one Sunday a month, and the figures for London will not be too dissimilar. For mothers the figures are 25% and 14% respectively. Using the influence of the Mayor, the CPA will press for the restoration of 52 retail-free days a year.
- Until Sunday is restored as a day of rest, Ram Gidoomal will use his influence with London employers to adopt, as minimum good practice the right for all parents of children to either a Saturday or Sunday off in any one week.
- Unions became less powerful in the Thatcher era, with an erosion of premium pay at a half or double time for unsocial hours. We believe this is an important indicator of what a worker, especially a parent, forgoes by working shifts and weekends, and the CPA will press for unions and employers work to recognize this in their pay structures.



London as the Global Technology capital

Through his leadership role in applying the latest technological developments to industry, Ram Gidoomal has the experience to turn London into the global technology capital. Through use of broadband, the Christian Peoples Alliance will ensure London is best placed to exploit the economic benefit of the information technology revolution. As a guiding principle, the CPA will place citizens at the heart of service delivery, ensuring that both government and business respond to the needs of users, not the convenience of providers.

- Through our commitment to the principle of Empowerment, the CPA will work with the boroughs to develop Network Democracy. Interactivity online is already creating expectations of interactivity in other parts of peoples lives. The CPA would enable micro-communities to feed into policy development for their area and for issues that really affect their lives. Ram Gidoomal would encourage these local networks to become formal, thus enabling online voting about issues that affect them e.g. street parking, lighting, anti-vandalism measures, options for environmental improvements and policing levels.
- Ram Gidoomal would roll-out the use of 3G technology in London to empower citizens over their local authorities. Currently most people access the London borough websites for

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information rather than to carry out transactions. The CPA would support efforts between the boroughs to set up cross boundary strategic partnerships through the provision of electronic service delivery (ESD) via pioneering local wireless networks. This would mean that Council Tax, parking fines, council rent and library fines could be paid, housing and other problems could also be reported online.

- Through our priority of working for reconciliation and peace, the CPA would back the concept of 'Unity Groups' to revitalise the co-operative movement at local level. Local communities would organise themselves into purchasing groups to reduce costs for services e.g. electricity, gas and bulk purchase food. This could be at estate, neighbourhood and even street level.
- Also at estate and local level, especially in deprived districts, the CPA would back both Community Banking Services and food co-operatives. We would use set top boxes in housing estates that are linked to CCTV 'Neighbourhood Watch' to encourage solidarity in the fight against crime.
- The CPA backs 'M-government' by the vanguard use of mobile telephony. Without changing current handsets, the use of freephone numbers for London's emergency services could identify phone callers to within metres through a chip on their phone, thus saving lives. Similarly, text message alerts could be sent out by geographical location in case of bomb warnings or other emergency instructions from the civil contingency planners.
- Intermodal technology is also supported by the CPA. We would apply it by investigating the placement of Oyster card chips into mobiles and by giving road users the ability to identify parking spaces in real time. Meter free zones would be established where parking tickets could be paid for by text by signing up for a 'virtual parking ticket account'. A ticket can be bought by sending a text message stating required time. Reminders could be texted to a mobile 10 minutes before time runs out.
- Using wireless network technology, the CPA would examine giving each lamp post in London a barcode, which would enable registered utilities and company users to download detailed information such as underground plans of drains/electrical work for contractors; house/office plans in case of fire or for planning purposes; history of repairs undergone or help in case of fire/flood/terrorist attack.



Ending Discrimination

Through his commitment to social justice Ram Gidoomal will work to eliminate uncompromisingly all forms of discrimination in all public bodies. Paramount is the determination of the CPA to establish a kinder London, where people have a higher regard for the interests of their neighbour, than for their own personal acquisition. We want a city where hatred diminishes because love, not 'targets' and regulations has changed people's hearts.

- The CPA will give full, unconditional and unqualified support to all appropriate equal opportunities policies, programmes and projects in public services under the control of the GLA. There will be equal, inclusive and open recruitment, based purely on merit.
- As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will speak directly to the FTSE 100 companies about ensuring a proper reflection on their boards of London's diverse communities, or otherwise the CPA shall seek action by government.
- Through the London Development Agency, the CPA will provide accessible small business support services which satisfy the needs of communities, growth businesses and micro businesses. In particular, Ram will focus on businesses owned by minority ethnic or disadvantaged people.
- The London Plan will be implemented through holistic economic regeneration and development programmes which will benefit all those who are excluded, both directly and locally.
- Equality of access, sufficiency of focused funding and participation for the excluded, unemployed minority ethnic people will be given in compulsory and post-compulsory education and other related training and skills programmes.
- Ram Gidoomal will promote role models who are recognised by excluded communities as examples of best practice. With the CPA Assembly team, he will seek substantive progress in the promotion of social inclusion.

Loving our Neighbour, the Asylum Seeker

The Christian Peoples Alliance is opposed to all asylum regimes which leave applicants in poverty through removing benefit entitlements. We shall press for central government to reconsider legislation in the light of the experience of asylum seekers in London.

**The CPA is
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On the campaign trail

- The aim of Ram Gidoomal is to shorten the waiting time for applications to be dealt with and to ensure asylum seekers are provided with the necessary support structures.
- Through the Metropolitan Police Authority, the CPA will seek to build bridges of mutual understanding and respect between refugee communities and the Police. Ram Gidoomal will use his background as a refugee to educate the media about the positive contribution that refugees make to London.
- The need for education of refugees and refugee children will be highlighted. The existing system needs to ensure proper support to those children who have interrupted their schooling in order to flee for their lives.

**... unashamed
to declare his
commitment to
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respect for life**

Fighting for the marginalised and vulnerable

Of all the candidates running for London Mayor, Ram Gidoomal is unashamed to declare his commitment to the principle of respect for life. God values everyone equally and so everyone from conception (fertilisation) to natural death deserves the protection of the law. Under the influence of the CPA, London will develop a



Working with students

new caring, pro-life ethic that will embrace an end to all forms of violence, whether gun crime, domestic violence, the abuse of children, the violence of abortionism and embryo experimentation, sexual exploitation of women, people trafficking, slavery or cruelty to animals.

- As part of the Mayor's responsibility for promoting health in London, the CPA will give direct support to pro-life caring agencies in their counselling and bereavement work with women. A public information campaign will be launched warning of the consequences of abortion, such as post-abortion syndrome, health complications and the danger of greater risk of breast cancer.
- The CPA will work with primary health care trusts to secure an end to the use of the morning after pill and press all London's local education authorities to ban the pill from every school or place of higher learning. Schools will be encouraged to approach the issue of increased under-age pregnancies by promoting the stability offered by marriage and sexual abstinence.
- A family-support service that covers the whole of the metropolitan area will be funded to ensure the provision of a 24-hour, 7-day a week helpline for women and couples who are seeking a positive alternative to abortion.
- In conjunction with local authorities, caring agencies and the faith communities, the CPA will press to ensure that no woman seeks an abortion because of a lack of accommodation, baby essentials, cots, prams or clothes.

**Direct support
to Pro Life
caring
agencies**

Ram Gidoomal will appoint an Advocate for Older People

Tackling Discrimination Against Older and Disabled People

The plight facing many older people in London and the vulnerability of people with disabilities is a reflection of the fact that London is too busy, too "me-focussed", that people don't have much time to look out for others, there is less commitment to one geographical area as people move home frequently and because many in the workforce simply lack energy. Under Ram Gidoomal's leadership of London, attitudes that see the needy in general as "time-consuming, unfashionable and unrewarding" will be challenged.

- A Relational Health Audit will be undertaken of the policies of the GLA so that public services are alerted to the stress that London life loads on its citizens. Policies undermining relationships between people will be identified and changed.
- Working with the boroughs, Ram Gidoomal will press for good quality and affordable home care services and home adaptations to be provided to enable older people 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.
- The CPA team will work to implement the law so that buildings, public transport, educational facilities, new homes, urban centres and public resources are as accessible as possible to people with disabilities, mothers with young children and older or infirm people.
- Hospitals and residential homes will be asked to look at their policies towards the care and treatment of older people. The CPA does not believe that it is ever justified to treat older people as less entitled to life and respect merely because of their age or because of frailty.
- Ram Gidoomal will appoint an Advocate for Older People in his Mayor's Office to tackle the abuse of the older generation. The Advocate will subject residential and nursing homes and private subcontractors to more vigorous and frequent inspections in order to improve standards.
- 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.
- Through the CPA commitment to the principle of respect for life ways will be developed of promoting the hospice movement begun in London by Dame Cecily Saunders. We will support the idea of a special hospice in London for very young children with terminal illness or severe disability, similar to Zoe's Place in Merseyside.

Sustainable London

For London to retain its world-class status and remain the principal world financial centre it must meet the demands of business and customers whilst also doing what is right for the environment, workforce and communities where companies exist or trade. As Chair of the London Sustainability Exchange which is backed by London First, the Association of London Government and Business in the Community, Ram Gidoomal has already been promoting efforts to make London the world's most sustainable capital.

When Chairing a working group in the Cabinet Office's Better Regulation Task Force Ram Gidoomal's message to government was to seek good practice before adding yet more legislative burdens. This will guide the CPA's environmental priorities.

Reduce Traffic Pollution

At present, Londoners live with high levels of pollution, asthma, dirt, illness and travel stress. Our proposed transport measures would improve this significantly, saving billions in congestion, pollution and routine car costs.

- The CPA favours linking outer London commuter lines with feeder systems using either bus or coach routes. This will allow commuters to travel across outer areas without needing to travel via central interchanges, reducing congestion. Fares for such journeys could also be reduced.
- The dominance of cars in London spoils the environment of many key communal areas. London's Mayor should invite local communities to move to the urban village model creating car free zones (except for residents) at centres where people congregate, as well as in the central areas where pedestrianisation is being considered.
- The CPA will promote the use of Home Zones where pedestrians and vehicles have equal priority and the speed of cars is brought down to low levels.
- Policies will be supported that bring peoples' home and work environments closer together to produce vibrant, mixed use, local communities.
- Planning policies will ensure new residential neighbourhoods are designed to ensure the safety of children and other pedestrians.
- Cycling and walking will only flourish when deeper issues are addressed, such as work and travel demands. When these are tamed, London will become a place to live, to rest, relate, have

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fun and sleep, not to escape. This requires different, more sustainable ways of living and doing business.



Greening London

The challenge the CPA will respond to is ensuring London is not just cleaner, but also adopts more sustainable ways of living. Many people make demands of London. They take. Our passion for London is to ensure it has a lot more love and stewardship. The CPA will pursue a longer-term vision of its development. Under Ram Gidoomal's leadership, London could be transformed into a more beautiful city for all of us.

- The CPA will include issues of good design as an important part of planning gain to be considered in the planning process.
- A response to the need to plant more trees will be met by establishing a network of 'green ways', with tree and flower planting to pedestrian priority zones, linking parks to canals, the riverside, allotments and local town centres to provide routes in and around the city and encourage wildlife corridors.
- Local businesses will be established to manage the green ways, creating local employment, education opportunities and providing organic produce from the allotments for local sale.
- The CPA will harness the support of high street companies in reaching new recycling and waste-cutting targets.
- A very basic public provision, but one that has been withdrawn in many boroughs, is the need for public toilets: often shoppers have nowhere to go except limited facilities provided in shopping malls. After dark, there is nowhere, which results in anti-social behaviour by those coming out of pubs and clubs and use of the streets instead. The CPA will provide the public with adequate toilet facilities.

**Our Passion for
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and
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Radical Cuts in Energy Use

London under the CPA will become a low energy city. Ram Gidoomal's mayoralty will not look for marginal cuts, but a decrease of about a third in energy use. Energy costs will rise over the period of the next Mayoralty. Not only will cutting the use of natural resources make London better off, we owe it to the post-Kyoto world. In the end, it is people's lifestyles and their consumer choices which will make the difference to the social ecology of London, as well as the natural one.

- Economising on energy use, wasteful production and unnecessary journeys is the key to reducing noise, pollution and litter. Ram Gidoomal's transport plans and drive to support local businesses and home-working is a wiser approach than dealing with the after affects of unsustainable practices or finding new resources.
- As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will require both private and public developments to meet high standards of sustainable construction, including energy efficiency, water conservation, reuse of building waste and the use of solar power and wind power. The CPA will ensure that existing buildings reach government targets for cutting energy use by 30% by 2007.
- In line with recommendations from the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, the CPA will work with builders and the planning authorities to promote greater use of combined heat and power (CHP) and ensure that new homes in London can be powered and fuelled by biomass energy derived from willows, straw and tree cuttings.
- Working with local authority commissioned teams and by bulk buying, energy-saving measures such as loft and cavity insulation, low energy light-bulbs and draught-proofing will all be installed on a self-funding basis.
- The CPA will seek tax incentives for companies who donate technology goods to local charities, the elderly and schools. Many thousands of obsolete PCs are dumped into London street rubbish collections every year and this has a significant impact on resource depletion as the average PC weighing 24kg requires ten times its weight in fossil fuels to build.
- Working with the boroughs, the CPA would back London-wide local centres where recyclable items could be deposited, certificated and passed on. Manufacturers could pick up their labelled goods from these centres for recycling.
- London's waste policy has failed. The CPA would work to create 'green collar jobs' to encourage new markets for secondary materials. To achieve this, new recycling and energy saving targets will be set. Recycling schemes will be operated, turning waste and litter into raw materials. Using recycled materials,

**New recycling
and energy
saving targets
will be set**

products could be made from artwork to insulation and from composting to furniture.

- The CPA would work with the media to introduce a major campaign to improve recycling in the capital, using newspaper recycling and major transport junctions to spearhead this.



New Houses for London

London's housing is in increasingly short supply, with spiralling waiting lists and many households priced out of the private market. Ram Gidoomal will lead the drive to make the ideal of affordable housing a reality for key workers. Limited legal powers, such as 'planning gain' provisions have shown themselves deficient in tackling the crisis, as Mayor Livingstone's poor record on construction has shown. A more radical and innovative approach is needed.

Through the CPA's commitment to the principle of Wise Stewardship, Ram will identify unused development areas and talk to landowners, whether public or private, about solutions that deliver significant new build. No-nonsense problem-solving is what is required. With the business skills Ram Gidoomal brings to the task, the CPA is willing to 'strike the deal' that brings results.

**Ram Gidoomal
will lead the
drive to make
the ideal of
affordable
housing a
reality**

- London needs more resources. Harnessing the clear voice of both business and citizens, the CPA will campaign to win greater national spending for new homes. Current housing supply will simply not accommodate the projected rise in population.
- As a matter of Social Justice the Christian Peoples Alliance will also promote shared-equity schemes and leasehold arrangements where key workers can buy homes but not the land on which they are built, thus making property more affordable.
- The first action of the CPA Assembly team will be to maximise the potential for new development by concentrating on bringing empty homes back into use, converting buildings to residential or mixed use and using vacant sites.

- The upper floors of many high street shops lie empty and should be used for rented housing. We will bring in capital improvement grants for retailers to convert unused floor space into living accommodation for lease by local councils. Ram will talk to the insurance industry to overcome problems of using empty accommodation above shops.
- Young Londoners 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.
- The strategy will be integrated with other policies, ensuring that infrastructure is in place and building densities that are appropriate to the location.
- Communities will be given resources to participate fully in this process, with options for local management, maintenance and self build within their locality, creating training opportunities and local businesses.
- The CPA will encourage more sustainable methods and materials in new construction, reducing the environmental impact of new development. This will include support for zero energy developments.



The Thames Gateway Development

As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will pose some basic questions about the economics of the Thames Gateway development, such as who is the development is for? The CPA suggests that it is dangerous to think of development which is not based on the local population. Christian Democrat experience in Canning Town is that development patterns which marginalise the local populations, or tend to push them out because they cannot afford housing, are deeply destructive.

- A lower Thames link will not help East Enders who do not have a car and so the CPA will press for the Thames Gateway Bridge, as envisaged, to be cancelled. It is claimed that one of the main benefits of the bridge is the number of jobs created. Yet there is little explanation about where these jobs will come from. Some research also indicates that it won't create jobs anyhow.
- The bridge is meant for 'locals' - and a toll will be put in to discourage long distance users. A high percentage of locals don't have a car and would be disinclined to pay the toll anyway. In addition, a loophole permits a 'local journey' to be classed as any that finishes in the 6 boroughs around it. Lyon in France to Canning Town would be a local journey! In reality the bridge would have a lot of through traffic.

The CPA will ensure that development is for local people and not against them

- The best way to help people into work would be through relevant training and assistance in helping set up local businesses e.g. micro loans, capacity building. This would cost a lot less than the proposed £420m bill for the Bridge.
- The CPA holds to other transport priorities. Transport for London has expressed concern over sources for the extra £200m-£250m a year the Underground needs to run smoothly. The extension of the DLR into the new Thames Gateway area north of the river also appears in jeopardy. The south east spur of Crossrail would go under the river if built. Preference ought to be given to these projects rather than over £400 million to a road bridge.
- The CPA priority is to ensure that family, social, work and business patterns of localities should grow and not be overturned after a few years. Some Thames Gateway work does this. The grander stuff does not. The arguments about “trickle down effects”, really an insulting phrase, often do not work. Acute poverty and high unemployment can be present alongside prestige developments for a long period of time, as Canary Wharf illustrated. The CPA team will ensure that development is for local people and not against them.
- The structure of the Thames Gateway development initiative looks dangerous. Clearly, there is a need for co-operation between all levels of government, but the initiative seems mainly to lie with central government through the Government Office of London, not with the Mayor and GLA, and even less with local boroughs.
- It is the view of the CPA that what is primarily going on is public-private sector deals of which the public are scarcely aware. In the development area, there is a backlog of poor infrastructure, ugly areas and patterns of dumping. In addition, the absence of investment and skilled workers has created run down areas.
- The CPA team believes that speculators and outsiders are often the beneficiaries rather than local people and firms. If priority is to be given to local development it may be that the present conception is inadequate and over ambitious in its timing and infrastructure plans. We would like there to be a independent public review of the Thames Gateway plans which is not orchestrated by central Government.
- Multiple lower Thames crossings, a second outer tier M25, a re-routing of Channel Tunnel lorries through Essex, and other such projects are talked about. Until the GLA has properly addressed the overuse of the car by creating an outer London and M25 public coach system, the CPA believes these developments are premature and may be mistakes. It is not just the travelling that counts, but what you find when you get there.



Strong Communities

London has long-standing neighbourhood communities which have been important to the local people, not just in the East End, though they are the most famous. Increasingly, areas of London have become anonymous, as people move in and out and older patterns of relating are destroyed. For the Christian Peoples Alliance, building strong communities is a long-term priority. Women, often the prime formers of neighbourhood community, now often work in paid employment as many hours as men. On the London Assembly, the CPA will seek some simple and unthreatening ways of recreating London's local neighbourhoods that work with changed patterns of living.

We will promote social structures that enable people to realise their dignity, achieve their individuality and exercise their responsibilities within the context of the common good of London. The Christian Peoples Alliance believes that all our citizens should have opportunities to achieve their full potential and contribute effectively to society. Our policies for health, education, culture and sport therefore reflect a particular solidarity with the poor, wronged, sick, vulnerable, oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised.

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Working with the church – Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor

Reviving faith in the community

The CPA team will ensure the GLA starts to give proper recognition of the contribution that faith communities make to social cohesion and the establishment of moral values. The CPA supports the integrity of the faith basis and cultural identity of London's different groups. A strong local community can only be built on the goodwill of faith groups who share and put into practice common values.



We uphold religious freedom and encourage the active collaboration of church and local government for the benefit of all. We recognize that churches and Christian communities fulfil an essential role in serving those in the community. In 3,800 churches, week after week, some 600,000 Londoners of all ages, races and cultures attend worship. According to the London Church Leaders group, some 6,500 social action projects are run across London, with 9,000 paid staff and 40,000 volunteers, using 2,000 buildings for community use.

- While accepting that Local Authorities should not fund the worship activities of faith groups, the CPA will actively support the funding of faith based volunteer projects, particularly involving young people to help with environmental clean up projects, the elderly and disadvantaged. The 2004 'Soul in the City' initiative is an excellent example of young people engaging in local community betterment.
- Local Authorities will be encouraged to ensure that a Faith Liaison Officer is appointed as well as a Cabinet Member to pro-actively foster effective partnerships between faith groups and Borough Councils.
- Local Authorities will be encouraged to support and fund interfaith community forums for discussion of issues of common concern.
- Local Race Equality Councils, financed through public funds, will be encouraged to review their aims and objectives and broaden their focus to embrace cross cultural, rather than race only issues and be renamed Diversity Forums.
- These Forums will take a pro-active role in advising local hospitals, the police, and other public bodies on cultural and religious needs – e.g. dietary issues for different faiths and the provision of single sex wards in hospitals.
- As many faith groups do not permit gambling, grant applications from the National Lottery's Community Fund by such groups for social projects are hamstrung; the CPA will fight for alternative funding sources from central and local government and an end to the Lottery.

Giving Support to Families

As part of our objective of renewing relationships between people and putting work into a proper context for living, the CPA Assembly team will evaluate every measure by whether it supports families in their role as the nucleus of a healthy, viable society. Families related by blood, marriage or adoption have always been the foundational social unit of society. The GLA has a role to play in supporting these as the ideal for successful extended

relationships. The role of the family should be given special status and strengthened, especially in the raising of children to become responsible adults.

- As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will talk to the Local Education authorities to ensure the provision of teaching material that emphasizes the value of heterosexual marriage and the importance of faithfulness, love, trust, and obedience as core modules. Chastity before and fidelity within marriage will be taught as radical 'new' norms for society.
- The CPA will abolish the public civil partnership ceremony for gay and lesbian couples instituted by the current London Mayor and instead introduce public recognition ceremonies for Fathers and Mothers (as well as Single Parents) who demonstrate good parenting skills.
- A review will be conducted of agencies funded by the London boroughs and other public grants schemes to ensure that they do not promote violence, pornography, anti-life or anti-family values and policies.
- Planning and licensing powers to restrict gambling, sex shops and sex club outlets will be encouraged.
- Local Authorities will have the support of the CPA in using their existing powers to reclassify or ban films approved by the BBFC in public cinemas which are blasphemous to any faith, promote violence or degrade women and children.



Learning throughout Life

Education begins in the home and should continue throughout life. As Christian Democrats, the CPA is committed to restoring the emphasis on loving parents and good role models in raising children, as much as the formal education each child will receive. To help achieve this, the Christian Peoples Alliance will promote family and religious values as an integral part of education programmes.



- On the GLA, Ram Gidoomal will be an advocate for the right of parents to choose the education that supports the beliefs, traditions and values of the home.
- The CPA will act to affirm the right of Church schools and independent faith based schools to maintain their religious ethos.
- The rights of parents to have freedom of choice of the school for their child will have the support of the CPA, alongside the right of all children, whatever their background, to a high quality educational experience.
- As part of the CPA commitment to establish over 130 new schools to meet London's projected rise in population, cross-denominational schools with a Christian ethos will be encouraged. Together with other Faith establishments, these will have a special bias to serve communities where there are high levels of social and economic deprivation and low educational achievement.
- Ram Gidoomal as Mayor will be a committed advocate for the continuation of voluntary aided faith schools in London.
- Where parents and governors opt for moving to this voluntary aid status, the CPA will encourage Local Authority School Organisation Committees to respect the wish of parents. We will press for a review of the powers of Independent Adjudicators whose decisions can overturn local wishes by parents.



CPA Assembly Candidate, Juliet Hawkins, with Redbridge Residents

**Health
inequalities will
be tackled as a
priority**

A Healthier London

The Christian Peoples Alliance will pursue policies which promote a healthy London, whether from a physical, mental, social, spiritual or economic perspective. As Mayor, Ram Gidoomal will work with the NHS and strategic health authorities to meet the needs for new



Working with the church – Rev. Sandy Millar, Holy Trinity, Brompton

health facilities to cope with population increases, economic growth, lifestyle change and environmental concerns. The requirement of the GLA Act for the London Plan to take account of Londoners' health will be interpreted to ensure the re-emergence of Christian understandings of well-being and sacrificial care. The CPA is committed in particular to policies which value the individual and respect life.

- Health inequalities will be tackled as a priority. It can't be right that life expectancy for men in Bromley is four years higher than in Lambeth. Health problems are directly linked to poverty, homelessness and access to decently-paid work.
- Ram Gidoomal's plans to bring new jobs and investment to London are targeted towards inner-city boroughs and will make a real difference in improving health.
- The CPA will introduce a benchmarking appraisal procedure by which each public sector initiative will be evaluated for its impact on health. This will be especially important in the focus we propose to give to black and ethnic minority health issues.
- Boroughs will be asked to have regard to the health impacts of spatial development proposals to ensure that major new developments promote public health.
- As part of the CPA commitment to renewing neighbourhoods, the boroughs planning policies should identify preferred locations for hospitals, health centres, GP practices and dentists in places accessible by public transport.

Partners in Care

Families and neighbours often provide healthcare as much as professional workers and institutions. The CPA will therefore work in partnership with local communities and non-governmental

...churches and other voluntary organisations are recognised for their valuable role in community-focused health provision ...

organisations to develop neighbourhood care and support schemes associated with volunteer as well as paid workers.

- Through liaison with primary care groups and trusts, new models of community care will be fostered which provide relevant and accredited vocational education and training for these groups and other lay and volunteer carers will be encouraged.
- The CPA will ensure that churches and other voluntary organisations are recognised for their valuable role in community-focused health provision, which supports people from infancy and childhood through adolescence, parenthood and old age.
- Faith-based centres will have Ram Gidoomal's full backing in the promotion of healthier lifestyles and provision of support to people in crises of various kinds, such as unsupported pregnancy, debt, divorce, homelessness, addiction, loneliness and bereavement.
- The CPA supports the call of London's churches for support for health Community Cafes that are both community centres and venues for promoting the message of better health.
- Taking health services to people in their communities, rather than expecting them to come to clinics or hospitals, is also a shift in focus that the CPA supports.

Healthy Lifestyles for Young People

While the Mayor has no responsibility for education, health or social care, the powers of the GLA in relation to transport, culture, regeneration, spatial development and regeneration all have an impact on young people and children. Twenty-three percent of London's 7.2 million population are children, of which those who live in the inner city have almost a 1 in 2 chance of living in households with incomes below the official poverty line.

Through his experience in serving in London's healthcare and hospital services, Ram Gidoomal will ensure that London is an inclusive and healthy city, where every child is brought up in a safe, secure and happy environment. As Christian Democrats, the CPA is committed to ensuring that children are listened to, respected and made to feel that their contribution to London is welcomed.

- To improve children's health, the CPA will develop more child-friendly and healthier neighbourhoods, especially through improving the safety of roads and streets.



... promoting the stability offered by marriage and sexual abstinence.

- Creating safer street networks and open spaces for play is vital for improvements in children's social and physical well-being.
- Ram Gidoomal is committed to the success of the National Healthy Schools Scheme and the promotion of physical activity in all schools.
- Poverty levels in London suggest that young Londoners may be particularly vulnerable to mental health problems. The CPA will aim to develop preventive, child friendly services and easily accessible counselling.
- The causes of substance abuse will be tackled and a firm stance taken by Ram as Mayor against all illegal drug use. Alcohol abuse will be tackled by confronting the way big companies promote alcohol to young people.
- Schools will be encouraged to approach the issue of under-age pregnancies by promoting the stability offered by marriage and sexual abstinence.
- The CPA is opposed to the promotion of homosexuality by the GLA and all public health bodies.



Working in sport – Barbara Cassani, London Olympic Bid Committee

Culture, Media and Sport

The heart of our vision for London is to transform the city into a place of celebration and creativity. The cultural life of the capital's diverse communities is a source of strength to its members and is a reflection of God's desire that people should enjoy life to the full.



London's well-being is a reflection not of economic prosperity, but how far recreation plays a role in people's lives. The quest to bring the Olympics to London in 2012 will be measured by these perspectives.

- In promoting London's Olympic bid, the main issue the CPA will address is the reticence of central Government to support the effort by the pledge of public funds. In order for the Olympics to come to London, Government must be convinced to back investment in the necessary infrastructure development.
- The Olympics would boost manufacturing and construction with the added benefit of regeneration of the Thames Gateway region, so it makes sense for business to endorse the campaign. However, London has an appalling record of cost overruns - the Dome, Wembley Stadium and the Jubilee Line extension spring to mind. As Mayor, Ram will watch over the threat of soaring costs.
- The CPA opposes the Government's mixed funding approach which is drawing on London taxpayers, the LDA and the National Lottery. This is not just because the CPA thinks that the LDA money is needed for other projects but the International Olympic Committee needs to be convinced that Britain's Government is solidly behind the bid.
- As Mayor, Ram will give every single London household a vote with next April's Council Tax bill with clear information showing how much extra Council Tax Londoners will have to pay if we win the Olympics. If the vote shows that a majority of households don't want to pay the extra for staging the Olympics, the Government must either step in to under-write the project, or see the London bid fail. A band D household in the capital will have to pay £20 extra Council Tax a year from 2006/7 if the Games are held here. We believe Londoners should decide whether they want to pay or not.
- As the lead-in time is long, Ram Gidoomal would ensure that the LDA works with the Construction Industry Training Board to ensure unskilled or unemployed workers in the East End of London are trained to do the work.
- London's community must state clearly its view on the future use of any new buildings, sports facilities or infrastructure development if the Olympics bid is won. London does not need another Dome fiasco. We question prestige creations for a unique event when a third of Londoners are living in sub-standard housing.
- London's historic buildings and spaces are a treasured asset and development opportunities, such as at Stratford, must not be lost to poorly considered developments. New facilities, or buildings where they are needed for the Olympics, must contribute to our historic landscape and not damage it.

- Ram Gidoomal will ensure that grassroots sport is built into the Olympics bid and that physical activity at home and in schools is also promoted.
- London's heritage and existing national sporting centres are already a focus of attraction for numerous visitors and tourists. To maintain and develop London's global role, steps will be taken to conserve and promote access to the city's natural and built environment.
- Ram Gidoomal will establish a new board to be known as London Heritage which will take strategic responsibility to develop the cultural life of London. The arts, galleries and museums, tourism and sport, broadcasting, library services, film production and the buildings and heritage collections of the capital will all be developed by the board as part of an integrated strategy with existing bodies.
- The cultural life of London must be accessible. Support will therefore be given by the CPA to small local community arts projects as well as to the prestigious artistic centres. Groups representing disabled people will have a key role in decisions affecting their access to London's theatres, cinemas and concert halls. Ticket prices will be a crucial factor in decisions over grant-aid support to cultural organisations.
- Many children do not enjoy the benefits to health and their emotional development offered by sport and the arts in London. By working with schools and London's local authorities, all young Londoners can be given the opportunity to develop their full potential and to attend cultural events on a regular basis.

Conclusion

Our policies for London are based on the six principles contained in our Mayflower Declaration adopted by the Christian Peoples Alliance in September 2001. These are:

- Justice
- Respect for Life
- Reconciliation
- Active Compassion
- Wise Stewardship
- Empowerment

Our policies are designed to give Londoners a hope and a future.

Vote to make this a reality across London on June 10th 2004.

Trustworthy, committed candidates who are putting **faith** back into **politics**

Christian Peoples Alliance London Assembly top-up candidates

- 1** Ram Gidoomal CBE
- 2** David Campanale
- 3** Cllr Alan Craig
- 4** Gladstone Macaulay
- 5** Peter Flower
- 6** Sue May (& candidate for Deputy Mayor)
- 7** Cllr Genevieve Hibbs
- 8** Juliet Hawkins
- 9** Peter Wolstenholme
- 10** Jillian McLachlan
- 11** Ellen Greco

Christian Peoples Alliance constituency candidates

BARNET & CAMDEN	Humberto Heliotrope
BEXLEY & BROMLEY	Miranda Suit
BRENT & HARROW	Gladstone Macaulay
CITY & EAST LONDON	Christopher Gill
CROYDON & SUTTON	David Campanale
EALING & HILLINGDON	Cllr Genevieve Hibbs
ENFIELD & HARINGEY	Peter Wolstenholme
GREENWICH & LEWISHAM	Stephen Hammond
HAVERING & REDBRIDGE	Juliet Hawkins
LAMBETH & SOUTHWARK	Simisola Lawanson
MERTON & WANDSWORTH	Ellen Greco
NORTH EAST LONDON	Andrew Otchie
SOUTH WEST LONDON	Peter Flower
WEST CENTRAL LONDON	Jillian McLachlan

CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE

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