



Charter for Remain

Change UK

The Independent Group

These elections offer you the chance to send a simple message: we want a People's Vote and we want to remain in the European Union.

Our politics is broken. Our main parties have drifted to the ideological fringes and are failing to provide the leadership our country needs. The Conservative Party is increasingly controlled by its right wing; Labour by the hard left. Neither is competent. Both are failing to speak up for the kind of open-minded, open-hearted Britain we are.

The 11 Change UK MPs put everything on the line by leaving the Conservative and Labour parties to work for a better alternative, precisely because the country deserves better.

Brexit is the biggest symbol of our broken system – and the main parties are the cause. We have spent more than three years consumed by it, thanks to the divisions in the Conservative Party and a desperate lack of opposition from Jeremy Corbyn.

Politics shouldn't be like this. We should not be faced with a choice between a divided Conservative Party, with a weak Prime Minister at war with her own backbenchers, or a Labour leadership which refuses to come off the fence and back our place in Europe. You deserve better.

We could no longer remain a part of this dysfunctional system, so we founded what is now Change UK in February. We left the outdated cultures of Labour and the Conservatives behind. We want to provide an alternative – one based on the values which we know matter to the British people: a strong economy, our country playing a leading role in the world, protecting our environment, investing in our public services and building a vibrant, healthy democracy where we campaign for our beliefs with decency and respect.

At these European elections, that alternative will be on the ballot paper. Where our broken main parties offer you division, we are united. Where they focus on internal arguments, our vision for Britain's future is clear. Where they put their own narrow political interest first, we will always put the country first.

The Brexit process has divided our country for too long. It has stifled the debate and prevented us from focusing on the real challenges we need to solve. We can't wait any longer. Send our broken main parties a message:

**It's time for change.
Vote for Change UK.**



Remain in the EU

Britain today can feel like a divided country. There are times when it feels like we have completely forgotten how to debate issues in a reasonable way. Parliament cannot agree on anything and is falling apart. Our political parties have exacerbated the problem: pitting those with means against those with less; urban against rural; old versus young. Our politics is broken.

The argument about Europe is not the cause of this, but it is the biggest symbol of it. When Tory Prime Minister David Cameron bowed to the right wing of his party and said that we would have a referendum on our membership of the European Union, he fired the starting gun on a period of uncertainty and bitterness which has disfigured our national life – and which has hit you in the pocket.

Business investment in our country has stalled. Our economic growth has slowed to a crawl. By some measures, your household income is £1,500 a year lower today than we were promised in 2016. There may be more people in work, but prices are rising and pay is barely going up. The UK has experienced the sharpest slowdown of any major economy. Oddly enough, none of this was on the side of Boris Johnson's big red bus.

The Government's own assessments show that Brexit in any form – including the 'soft Brexit' options of 'Common Market 2.0' or a customs union – will harm our economy and leave us worse off than we are now. There is no Brexit deal which is better than the one we have now as members of the EU.

Right now, you have the right to live, work and retire anywhere in the European Union. Millions of British jobs are linked to our membership. As a consumer, you are protected anywhere in Europe. Roaming charges have been abolished.

Great British products from Cornish pasties to Scotch whisky are protected by EU rules. All of this and more continues to be at risk from those, like Nigel Farage, who would drag us out of Europe and back in time.

While the other parties may be fearful about these European Parliamentary elections, we embrace them. We believe that the European Parliament is a forum the UK must be involved in. We have a powerful role as a rule-maker around the table, not just a rule-taker, obeying laws made without Britain being present.

Britain being in Europe is not just in the national interest – it is in our communities' interests, our families' interests and in our interests. But it is not simply that we are better off in the EU. For many, of all generations, being part of Europe is an expression of British values. One of the most inspiring things about the past few years has been an increasingly patriotic movement which is proud of Britain and is unapologetically pro-European. Over 6 million people signed the petition to revoke Article 50; a million wrapped themselves in the EU flag and marched to Parliament's front door. These were not the acts of 'traitors' or 'enemies of the people' – but those of patriots who believe in a brighter future for Britain: one where we act in partnership with our friends and allies in a Europe of equals.

Your values are ours. We want to put the chaos and division of the past few years behind us. The Brexit voted for three years ago is simply undeliverable. The only way to reconcile the country is to give the final say on whether to proceed with Brexit, as it is today, to the people. Over 2 million young people who couldn't vote in 2016 have become eligible to vote and their futures will be affected by Brexit more than any one group. Their voice must be heard.

We are stronger, safer and better off in the EU. Change UK MEPs will:

- Campaign for your right to a final say in a People's Vote – and we will campaign for Remain, making the positive case for Britain in Europe
- Argue passionately for an open, frictionless border on the island of Ireland, consistent with the Good Friday Agreement and with the UK's full participation in the Single Market and EU
- Seek to amend any Brexit 'deal' presented to the European Parliament so that it is subject to a People's Vote
- Not vote for any final Brexit proposal if the British public themselves have not approved it



Reform the EU

There were many reasons behind the 2016 vote to leave the European Union, not least that people felt that politics and the economy weren't working for them. The truth is that we need fundamental change to address the issues which drove that vote. We strongly believe that leaving the EU won't help resolve any of the challenges we face, but we do recognise that addressing them is critically important. That's why although stopping Brexit and remaining in Europe is a first step, it's not enough. The EU itself needs reform, so that it better focuses and delivers on the things which matter to you.

Like any political institution, the EU isn't perfect. It can feel too distant from us, with too few MEPs being well-known to their constituents. Change UK MEPs will be campaigners in their communities and advocates for reform. The entire Parliament regularly ups sticks and moves from Brussels to Strasbourg, which is a completely unnecessary waste of time and money – so we should put an end to that back and forth. The EU Budget needs to be refocused on the investments which can give us the most return and elements of it, like the Common Agricultural Policy, desperately need reform.

Remain prosperous

We need an economy that increases opportunity and reduces poverty. It must close the gaps between north and south, regions and nations, rich and poor. We must focus on skills, training and a proper system which helps people as they change career. We must prepare for the rise of automation and support investment in the industries of the future where, thanks to its world-leading universities and science infrastructure, Britain is well placed to lead. Everyone should be able to make the most of these opportunities.

Change UK will always make the case for immigration and its benefits. We welcome those who want to bring their ideas and energy to Britain; who want to work hard, contribute to our society and build a better life for themselves and their families. Immigration is a net positive for our country. Where it poses challenges to some of our communities, we need to take action; for example, central government should be properly supporting local authorities. But we see newcomers not as a security risk, but as Britons-in-waiting. We support the freedom of movement which gives you the right to holiday, work, live and love in other EU countries – and which breaks down barriers and builds links between the United Kingdom and our European neighbours. At a time of global insecurity and division, this unity should be celebrated and defended. We are more powerful when we work together.

We need to remain in Europe so that we can build a fairer, stronger economy. Change UK MEPs will work within the EU institutions to:

- Fight Brexit austerity which flows from any form of exiting the EU and expose the waste of money spent on preparations for 'no deal'
- Prioritise the long-term interests of the next generation, including a new focus on skills and preparedness for the impact of automation on the workplace
- Support the continued free movement of people across the 28 European Union nations
- Ensure Britain remains a great destination for international students
- Advocate fair trade deals for the UK as part of the EU, using the leverage of the entire continent to ensure we get better social, economic and environmental outcomes in line with the values we share

Remain healthy

The Leave campaign knowingly lied about the £350 million extra a week they claimed would go into the NHS as a result of the Brexit vote. They pledged this non-existent bonanza to the NHS. The truth is there is no bonanza – only extra cost.

Brexit will be a disaster for our hospitals, science and research, social care and public health. It will be bad for our health workforce – if they leave the UK, patients and those who are dependent on care will bear the brunt. It will be bad for getting the medicines we need, which have a short shelf-life and which we risk losing if we leave the EU without a deal.

This impact would be on top of the loss of expertise and opportunity which we have already experienced with the departure of the European Medicines Agency, and the loss of research networks of which we were an important part. We also face losing the benefits of guaranteed healthcare which we currently enjoy when we live and travel in the EU.

We need to remain in the EU so that we can get on with the job of building a healthier nation. Change UK MEPs will:

- Support the recruitment, retention and valuing of the nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals who are essential to our NHS – keeping the UK an attractive place to live and work
- Defend UK citizens' right to healthcare when living and travelling in EU countries
- Vote for the UK to be reinstated around the table as a full decision-maker in the European Medicines Agency

- Expose and oppose the fall in revenues allocated to our NHS as a result of the damage Brexit will do to our economy
- Fight to hold the UK Government to account for ignoring the vote of Parliament to make it a negotiating objective for the UK to continue to participate in the European medicines regulatory network

Remain united on tackling climate change

We are in a climate emergency. Climate change is accelerating and the Government's action falls short of what is required. Difficult decisions need to be made now, because how we live, the goods we consume and the energy we generate will need to be transformed. We must agree stronger water and energy standards for new-build homes; change how we consume energy in those homes; adopt and expand renewables; reform our transport, automotive and other industries – working with them to protect jobs; and make the transition to a circular economy. Europe is absolutely essential to this – not least because of our membership of the Emissions Trading Scheme, which is the key mechanism for managing carbon reductions.

The way in which we renew our natural environment will be critical. Poor management of this means that the natural world around us is no longer playing its proper role in sequestering carbon. Improving our soil quality and uplands restoration are critically important to meeting the challenge. We must work with those who are closest to our countryside – our farmers and agricultural industry – to invest in research and find new ways of significantly reducing emissions.

We need to remain in Europe so that we can be a part of the international action needed to tackle climate change. Change UK MEPs will:

- Argue for reaching carbon 'net zero' emissions at least by 2050 with a stretch target ambition for 2045 if the evidence shows it is feasible;
- Support a transition away from sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030;
- Work with industry to phase out non-essential single-use plastics by 2025;
- Advocate higher standards for new-build, with all new stock built to carbon neutral standards by 2025, incorporating tough new regulations on energy and water efficiency
- Commit to supporting and developing a diverse energy base which makes use of a range of renewables, including hydrogen and tidal power; and
- Call for an increase in the areas designated for nature protection across the UK and EU – and commit to improving our natural environment and high-carbon natural habitats



Remain Stronger in the World

In these turbulent times, Britain should stand with her allies in what is not just an economic alliance but a security one, too. Our place on the UN Security Council and our leading role in NATO are critical, but our membership of the EU is also essential. Being part of the EU does not dilute or crowd out our voice – it multiplies our power as we act in concert with those who share our values of freedom and democracy.

The world continues to shrink rapidly thanks to advances in technology and the global economy. In such a world, the challenges which face us cross borders – and the only way to solve them is by working together. Britain has never been a country to pull up the drawbridge and turn its back on the world. We are innovators and explorers. Our way is to face up to challenges and work with our allies to tackle them. That's the approach we need now – and the one which has always been the most true to who we are.

That means speaking up for our values within the halls of the EU. Today there is a movement within some parts of Europe for 'illiberal democracy'. We reject this approach as contrary to our values.

The EU was born to bring European nations together after decades of terrible conflict. Now we need to work together to stabilise the EU's 'near abroad'. We will support efforts to work with the countries of the Mediterranean and North Africa – but we will not turn away search and rescue boats from safe harbour.

Despite international agreements to end all forms of extreme poverty by 2030, there are still millions for whom there is no plan or investment to help them escape a miserable existence; and there are more refugees now than at any time since 1945. Whenever disaster strikes, it is women and girls who experience it most acutely, so it cannot be right that only a fraction of humanitarian aid is spent on tackling the epidemic of gender-based violence in crises. It is only through urgent and energetic international co-operation that we can reverse this trend and lay the foundations of peace and prosperity.

Playing our part means putting our values into action. We have to accept that there are threats from those on Europe's borders who do not share our values and who would do us harm. Russia's behaviour in recent years has been unacceptable and we should continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our partners in Europe in the face of this threat. We should also be concerned about the potential security risks from greater use of Chinese technology in our national infrastructure and seek to build consensus within Europe about engagement with Beijing. Cyber threats from the Middle East, notably Iran, must be defended against – and any EU efforts to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians must be supported.

Britain has always played a leading role on the world stage. Our conviction is that our country must play its full part in all forms of international co-operation. In doing so, we will increase our impact and influence on world events, as we always have.

We need to remain in the EU so that we can defend our values and play our part in the world. Change UK MEPs will:

- Support the UK playing its full part in international institutions such as NATO, the UN and the European Union as the best way to amplify British values in an unstable world
- Seek the development by the EU of new international institutions to meet modern global challenges, including corporate tax avoidance and evasion; internet safety; and climate change
- Support reforms which make it more likely that humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations and those suffering distress and persecution can be delivered swiftly and intervention can be more effective



The Values Behind Remain

Our primary duty as a political party is to put the best interests of the people of this country first and foremost.

Our aim is to pursue policies that are evidence-based, not led by ideology, taking a long-term perspective to the challenges of the 21st century in the national interest. We must no longer be locked in the old politics of the 20th century, which put party interest first.

We recognise the value of healthy debate, are tolerant towards different opinions and will seek to reach across divides, building consensus to tackle Britain's problems.

We believe:

- Ours is a great country of which people are rightly proud, where the first duty of government must be to defend its people and do whatever it takes to safeguard Britain's national security.
- Britain works best as a diverse, mixed social market economy, in which well-regulated private enterprise can reward aspiration and drive economic progress and where government has the responsibility to ensure the sound stewardship of taxpayers' money and a stable, fair and balanced economy.
- A strong economy means we can invest in our public services. We believe the collective provision of public services and the NHS can be delivered through government action, improving health and educational life chances, protecting the public, safeguarding the vulnerable, ensuring dignity at every stage of life and placing individuals at the heart of decision-making.
- The people of this country have the ability to create fairer, more prosperous communities for present and future generations. We believe that this creativity is best realised in a society which fosters individual freedom and supports all families.
- The barriers of poverty, prejudice and discrimination facing individuals should be removed and advancement occur on the basis of merit, with inequalities reduced through the extension of opportunity, giving individuals the skills and means to open new doors and fulfil their ambitions.
- Individuals are capable of taking responsibility if opportunities are offered to them, everybody can and should make a contribution to society and that contribution should be recognised. Paid work should be secure and pay should be fair.
- Our free media, the rule of law and our open, tolerant and respectful democratic society should be cherished and renewed.
- We believe that our parliamentary democracy in which our elected representatives deliberate, decide and provide leadership, held accountable by their whole electorate is the best system of representing the views of the British people.
- In order to face the challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation, migration and technological advances, we believe the multilateral, international rules-based order must be strengthened and reformed. We believe in maintaining strong alliances with our closest European and international allies on trade, regulation, defence, security and counter-terrorism.
- As part of the global community we have a responsibility to future generations to protect our environment, safeguard the planet, plan development sustainably and to act on the urgency of climate change.
- Power should be devolved to the most appropriate level, trusting and involving local communities. More powers and representation should be given to local government to act in the best interests of their communities.



Charter for Remain

Remain **in Europe**

Remain **prosperous**

Remain **healthy**

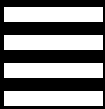
Remain **united on tackling climate change**

Remain **stronger in the world**

For a People's Vote.

For Remain.

Vote Change UK on 23 May



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