



## General Election 2017: Putting a foreign policy lens on party manifestos

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	The UN and international cooperation	Human Rights	Arms Control	Nuclear Disarmament	Atrocity Prevention	Peacekeeping	
<b>Conservatives</b>	<p>The United Kingdom is a global nation. Our history is a global history; our future must be global too. We believe Britain should play an active, leading role in the world. Not because it is our right or inheritance, but because our leadership in the world is the surest way to defend and advance the interests of the British people, and to extend around the world those values that we believe to be right</p> <p>We can and should do more, not just because acting as a force for good is an important end in itself but because the result will be greater peace and prosperity for the British people. We will continue to champion British values around the globe: freedom, democracy, tolerance and the rule of law.</p> <p><b>British leadership in international institutions</b> The security and prosperity of the United Kingdom is built on the international institutions that we helped to found and will continue to help maintain: the United Nations and the UN Security Council, NATO – the cornerstone of our defence, the Commonwealth, the G20, G7 and the World Trade Organization. We will continue to give strong support to an international order in which rules govern state conduct; in our own behaviour we will support this system and apply it in a principled way. We shall continue to seek to reform multilateral institutions, especially in the way they distribute development funds, so that money is used to greatest effect to protect and help the world's most vulnerable people.</p>	<p>We will not bring the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights into UK law. We will not repeal or replace the Human Rights Act while the process of Brexit is underway but we will consider our human rights legal framework when the process of leaving the EU concludes. We will remain signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights for the duration of the next parliament.</p> <p>The finest servicemen and women We will attract and retain the best men and women for our armed forces, including by engaging them on a flexible basis. We will protect our brave armed forces personnel from persistent legal claims, which distress those who risk their lives for us, cost the taxpayer millions and undermine the armed forces in the service they give. Under a Conservative government, British troops will in future be subject to the Law of Armed Conflict, which includes the Geneva Convention and UK Service Law, not the European Court of Human Rights.</p>			<p>We will retain the Trident continuous-at-sea nuclear deterrent to provide the ultimate guarantee of our security.</p>	<p>We will expand our global efforts to combat extremism, terrorism, and the perpetration of violence against people because of their faith, gender or sexuality.</p>	<p>We will play a leading role in NATO and maintain the ability to conduct strike operations, peacekeeping, security missions and the deployment of a joint expeditionary force.</p>
<b>Labour</b>	<p>Labour will take all necessary measures to protect the security of our citizens and country. We will put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, commit to working through the UN, end support for unilateral aggressive wars of intervention and back effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis. Unlike the Conservatives, Labour believes Britain's foreign policy should be guided by the values of peace, universal rights and international law.</p> <p>The lessons of the past, including those from the Chilcot Inquiry, show why our response to these challenges must be different. We cannot seek to solve the world's problems on our own, but instead must exhaust diplomatic solutions alongside international, regional and local partners within the framework of international law. This will require a modern and inclusive strategy, uniting the interwoven foreign policy instruments of diplomacy, defence and development.</p> <p>Labour will work tirelessly to end the conflict and get the diplomatic process back on track, while fully supporting international efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of war crimes.</p> <p>While strengthening our commitment to the UN, we also acknowledge its shortcomings, particularly in light of repeated abuses of the veto power by some permanent members of the UN Security Council. We will work with our international partners to build support for UN reform and make its institutions more effective and responsive. We will appoint dedicated global ambassadors for women's rights, LGBT rights and religious freedom to fight discrimination and promote equality globally.</p>	<p><b>International Trade</b> Labour will build human rights and social justice into trade policy. We will ensure that trade agreements cannot undermine human rights and labour standards, and that UK Export Finance support is not available to companies engaged in bribery or corrupt practices.</p> <p><b>Justice</b> The Conservatives threaten our Human Rights Act and may withdraw us from the European Convention of Human Rights. Labour will retain the Human Rights Act.</p> <p><b>A More Equal Society</b> It was a Labour government that enshrined the rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, marking the birth of the Human Rights Act</p> <p><b>Diplomacy</b> In our discussions with different governments, including China, Egypt, the Gulf States, Myanmar, the Philippines, Russia and Turkey, we will urge respect for human rights and the rule of law. We will review all training and equipment contracts with repressive regimes, to ensure that Britain never colludes in the mistreatment of civilians.</p> <p><b>Development</b> There are more refugees and displaced people around the world than at any time since the Second World War. This is a failure of diplomacy, conflict resolution and of human rights, which is why they will be at the heart of Labour's foreign policy.</p> <p>Jobs in global supply chains can be of enormous importance to working people across the Global South, but human rights abuses and exploitation of lower environmental standards and workers' rights are too common. Labour is committed to ensuring respect for human rights, workers' rights and environmental sustainability in the operations of British businesses around the world, and we will work to tighten the rules governing corporate accountability for abuses in global supply chains.</p>	<p>However, we also believe that strong export controls have a vital role to play in sustaining a legitimate trade in arms, while protecting UK jobs and R&amp;D. Labour will therefore implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law (IHL). In particular, Labour will demand a comprehensive, independent, UN-led investigation into alleged violations of IHL in Yemen, including air strikes on civilians by the Saudi-led coalition. We will immediately suspend any further arms sales for use in the conflict until that investigation is concluded.</p>	<p>Labour supports the renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent. As a nuclear-armed power, our country has a responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Labour will lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a Nuclear-free world.</p>	<p>We will also urge negotiations towards a political resolution in all other regions currently experiencing conflict, including Kashmir, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen, and give our strong support to those countries already working to end decades of division, including Colombia, Cyprus and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In other regions, including the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea, rising tensions threaten global peace. Under a Labour government, Britain will work to reduce those tensions through an insistence on multilateral political dialogue. From Afghanistan and Iraq to the streets of European cities, Daesh continues to commit acts of indiscriminate barbarism. We will take all lawful action necessary to counter and confront this evil, and we will advocate a long-term multinational political strategy, led by regional actors, to tackle the spread of extremism.</p>	<p>We will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges. Labour will commit to effective UN peacekeeping, including support for a UN Emergency Peace Service.</p>	

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<b>SNP</b>	<p>Our place in the world</p> <p>Building on the experience of the Scottish Government's partnership with the United Nations to empower the women of Syria and promote Scotland as a centre for training of female peacemakers, the SNP will continue to support UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Use of banned weapons against civilian populations should be investigated by the United Nations. If the Security Council is unable to act, we believe the General Assembly should take the initiative and if the evidence supports it those responsible – including state actors – should be brought before the International Criminal Court. SNP MPs will continue to argue that the struggle against Daesh must be pursued by more than military means and must include the battle of ideas which demonstrate that international justice and civic tolerance can be achieved without recourse to violence and barbarity. SNP MPs will urge the UK government to redouble its efforts to bring about a political resolution, through the UN Security Council in accordance with its Resolution 2254, to end the six year conflict in Syria. The SNP will uphold the international agreement which led to the end of the Republic of Iran's nuclear weapons programme. Any attempt to renege on the agreement in terms of the reintegration of Iran into the international community and the relaxation of sanctions would be to undo one of the greatest achievements in peace building of recent years. The SNP will continue to work with international partners to progress a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East, pursuing a two state solution for Israel and Palestine.</p>	<p>We believe that overseas aid funding must not be used for defence or intelligence related expenditure. We will urge the UK government to ensure development programmes have human rights and the rights of women at their heart. SNP MPs will continue to support the EU in the pursuit of the objectives outlined in the EU Global Strategy, particularly in the cross-cutting themes of Human Rights, Women, Peace and Security and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The SNP Scottish Government has committed to "always consider the human rights implications of its engagement with countries and business" and to ensure that "investment agreements should only be signed where appropriate due diligence, including on the human rights record of companies involved, has been undertaken." The SNP Scottish Government is now engaging with Amnesty International to put these commitments into practice. SNP MPs will demand that the UK government follows the lead of the Scottish Government.</p> <p>The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is enshrined in the Scotland Act 1998, ensuring that human rights are protected by the Scottish Government and all Scottish legislation. The SNP re-affirms its commitment to the Council of Europe, the ECHR and their institutions. We will fight to protect human rights across the UK. SNP MPs will oppose any attempts by the UK government to scrap the Human Rights Act and withdraw the UK from the ECHR.</p>	<p>SNP MPs have led the calls for resolution of the destructive conflict in South Yemen. Given the clear evidence that munitions supplied by the United Kingdom have been used in breach of international law, there should be an immediate ban on arms sales to Saudi Arabia pending proper investigation. And we will urge the UK government to immediately halt all military support and arms sales to regimes suspected of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.</p>	<p><b>Clear, consistent and unified opposition to Trident</b></p> <p>SNP MPs have been the only effective opposition to the UK government's plan to spend billions on a new generation of nuclear weapons.</p>	<p>Use of banned weapons against civilian populations should be investigated by the United Nations. If the Security Council is unable to act, we believe the General Assembly should take the initiative and if the evidence supports it those responsible – including state actors – should be brought before the International Criminal Court.</p> <p><b>Leading opposition to the bombing of Syria</b></p> <p>It was the SNP that provided the clear and unified opposition to the UK government's ill-judged decision to bomb Syria. SNP MPs will continue to press the UK government to take meaningful action to bring about a political resolution to end the six-year conflict in Syria, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2254.</p>	<p>Defence, security and global peace-keeping</p> <p>Building on the experience of the Scottish Government's partnership with the United Nations to empower the women of Syria and promote Scotland as a centre for training of female peacemakers, the SNP will continue to support UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.</p>
<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<p>The Liberal Democrat approach to Britain's place in the world is patriotic, optimistic and progressive. We will work with our European and other international partners to promote the ideals that bring us together and make us more secure – championing human rights, helping the poorest people in the world and protecting our country and our allies.</p> <p>Our priorities in the next parliament will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defending international cooperation against the rising tides of nationalism and isolationism, supporting multilateral organisations like the UN and NATO which are increasingly under threat.</li> </ul> <p>8.4 Standing up for liberal values</p> <p>Liberal Democrats believe that British foreign policy and international aid should seek to promote the liberal values of human rights and democracy throughout the world. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support free media and a free and open internet around the world, championing the free flow of information.</li> <li>Support the current UN initiative to protect journalists and to combat the impunity with which many countries treat those who attack reporters on the front line. To this end, we will provide ad hoc funding to UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.</li> <li>Campaign strongly for the abolition of the death penalty around the world.</li> <li>Champion global anti-corruption initiatives to safeguard global security and economic development and maintain a strong voice in international platforms on ending corruption. We will implement outstanding commitments made by the British government at the 2016 Global Anti-Corruption Summit.</li> <li>Publish a government anti-corruption strategy.</li> <li>Introduce Sustainable Development Goals audits of new trade, investment and development deals, reviewing the impact of the deal on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.</li> <li>Maintain funding for the BBC World Service, BBC Monitoring and the British Council.</li> <li>Develop a comprehensive strategy for promoting the decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world and advancing the cause of LGBT+ rights.</li> <li>Prioritise support, protection and equal rights for women and girls, which is both right and essential for effective, sustainable economic development. We will aim to end female genital mutilation worldwide within a generation.</li> <li>Appoint an ambassador-level champion for freedom of belief to drive British diplomatic efforts in this field, and campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide, having already been responsible for ending them in this country.</li> </ul>	<p>Defending human rights: we will vote against any attempts to scrap the Human Rights Act or withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights and we will strengthen the UK's commitment to international human rights law.</p> <p>Decriminalise the sale and purchase of sex, and the management of sex work – reducing harm, defending sex workers' human rights, and focusing police time and resources on those groomed, forced or trafficked into the sex industry. We would provide additional support for those wishing to leave sex work.</p> <p>Liberal Democrats believe that we should all be free from an overreaching state and that the individual freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the Human Rights Act are central to a free and democratic society.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrat approach to Britain's place in the world is patriotic, optimistic and progressive. We will work with our European and other international partners to promote the ideals that bring us together and make us more secure – championing human rights, helping the poorest people in the world and protecting our country and our allies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Controlling arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report and suspending arms sales to Saudi Arabia.</li> <li>Improve control of arms exports by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing a policy of 'presumption of denial' for arms exports to countries listed as human rights priority countries in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual human rights report.</li> <li>Enforcing end-user certification on all future arms export licences with an annual report to parliament on this certification.</li> <li>Creating a public register of arms brokers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Suspend UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in response to their consistent targeting of civilians, in breach of international humanitarian law, in Yemen. We will work with international partners to recommence the peace process in Yemen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to lead international nuclear disarmament efforts.</li> <li>Maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. We propose continuing with the Dreadnought programme, the submarine-based replacement for Vanguard, but procuring three boats instead of four and moving to a medium-readiness responsive posture. This would mean replacing continuous at-sea deterrence – instead maintaining the deterrent through measures such as unpredictable and irregular patrolling patterns.</li> </ul>	<p>Champion the rules-based international order, which provides a strong basis for multilateral action to address the world's most pernicious problems, including poverty, armed conflict, disease, climate change and the abuse of human rights, including forced marriage, so-called 'honour' killings, and female genital mutilation.</p> <p>Support the UN principle of Responsibility to Protect, focusing on conflict prevention and only resorting to military intervention to prevent mass civilian atrocities if all other means of resolution have been fully exhausted.</p> <p>Seek new ways to bring an end to the conflict in Syria, working within the UN to break the deadlock in the Security Council. We will work to deter the use of chemical and conventional attacks on civilians and demand humanitarian access and the release of political prisoners and their families.</p> <p>Campaign strongly for the abolition of the death penalty around the world.</p>	<p>We will encourage dialogue and mediation to reduce conflict between and within countries, working through the UN and other agencies. The UK must be able to defend itself and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies, and engage in humanitarian intervention.</p>

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<b>Democratic Unionist Party</b>		Jurisdiction of European Court of Justice ended and greater control over our laws restored		The DUP has consistently supported the maintenance of the UK's independent nuclear deterrent and will continue to support Trident's renewal. One of the reasons for the need to renew is the systematic failure of the international community to deal with the issue of nuclear proliferation. We believe the UK should use all international forums to completely overhaul the approaches to counter proliferation and support efforts to prevent the likes of North Korean dictatorships from gaining and distributing such technology.		
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<b>Sinn Fein</b>		<p>Sinn Féin believes in a rights-based society, with equality and mutual respect at its core. Under Brexit your rights and agreements will be further eroded.</p> <p><b>BREXIT AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT</b> The Tory party plan to scrap the 1998 Human Rights Act (HRA) and to remove the British Government from any international human rights accountability. The HRA gives effect to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and grants access to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Access to the convention and court are fundamental commitments of the Good Friday Agreement. The ECHR affords protections for fundamental rights including: freedom from torture, the right to a private life, the right of cultural identity, freedom of conscience and religion, freedom from discrimination and the right to life. The scrapping of the HRA would restrict access to this essential Human Rights court.</p> <p><b>BREXIT AND WORKERS' RIGHTS</b> Brexit will mean the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights would not apply, and the EU Court of Justice (ECJ) would not be the final arbiter in providing rights' protections. Access to the ECJ has been vital to ensuring that women are entitled to equal pay for equal work despite British courts having denied them this for seven years. It took a decision of the European Commission to ensure that women not only received equal pay for being in the same job as a man but also that they received equal pay for doing work of equal value. EU law ensured that women could not be dismissed because they were pregnant, overturning a ruling in a British Court that such a dismissal did not constitute sex discrimination. The ECJ ensured that part-time workers received paid holiday leave and has guaranteed levels of health and safety at work.</p>				
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<b>Plaid Cymru</b>	Wales was once a global trading superpower. We now face a situation where we are forced to go cap in hand to a Westminster Government that cosies up to dictators and attacks our closest allies. Plaid Cymru wants an outward-looking, ambitious Wales. By electing Plaid Cymru MPs, you can make sure Wales's voice is heard on the global stage.	Our fundamental human rights are at risk, exposing the weakest, most vulnerable members of our communities. Plaid Cymru's answer: We will publish a human rights charter for Wales to defend Welsh people against the backdrop of a Tory government intent on undermining the Human Rights Act. Where we can be: Legal protection for our human rights and guarantees that whatever your race, gender or sexual orientation you will be treated equally.	The Tories are not doing enough to help those in need. The UK Government is more interested in selling arms to Saudi Arabia than taking our fair share of refugees.	We are determined to scrap Trident, resisting any attempts to relocate it to Wales. We will instead invest in home-based troops and strengthen our conventional forces. Where we can be: Basing our regiments at home in Wales with a properly funded and looked-after defence force.	<p>Plaid Cymru voted against the illegal war in Iraq and led a cross-party campaign to impeach Tony Blair for his war crimes. We also voted against air strikes in Syria.</p> <p>Where we are: The Tory Prime Minister is willing to do anything to appease her newfound friend, Donald Trump. Unnecessary, undemocratic and illconsidered military action is likely.</p> <p>Plaid Cymru's answer: We will oppose military action without UN and Parliamentary authority.</p> <p>Where we can be: Wales as part of a global community where we work together to keep each other safe and secure.</p>	

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<b>SDLP</b>	We are proud nationalists and internationalists. The global challenges of tax justice, climate change and eliminating poverty can only be solved through cooperation with our sister parties across the world.	<p>The SDLP will continue to champion and defend international human rights.</p> <p>We cannot trust Theresa May's false assurances on not moving on human rights until 2020. The 'next parliament' is now. Her reckless position on Brexit reflects how her government staggers into hard positions on issues. All signs suggest they will move on the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights,</p> <p>The SDLP will stridently oppose any attempt to caricature and devalue human rights at home and abroad. The Human Rights Act underpins the Good Friday Agreement; it must be complemented by rather than supplanted by a Northern Ireland Bill of Rights. We will also vehemently oppose any attempts to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.</p> <p>Diluting human rights affects people at home and weakens our ability to call out the abuse of human rights in other countries. We will also work to secure a commitment from the British Government that human rights form a key component of any future trade deals once the UK exits the EU.</p>				
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<b>Green Party</b>	The Green Party will work for a caring and confident Britain that uses its influence wisely, to build peace and protect the environment, and to offer sanctuary to those at risk. We would co-operate with our neighbours on the shared challenges that face us all – from tackling terrorism and preventing climate change, to reducing inequality. We would work towards an outward-facing Britain that has the confidence and resilience to welcome others.	<p>Trade rules that respect human rights, labour standards, environmental standards and climate commitments with mechanisms for individuals, groups and communities to bring grievances.</p> <p>Defend the Human Rights Act and UK membership of the European Convention on Human Rights, and reinstate funding for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.</p>	No more arms sales to oppressive regimes.	Cancel Trident replacement, saving at least £110 billion over the next 30 years.	An ethical foreign policy that builds capacity for conflict resolution, and ends support for aggressive wars of intervention.	
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<b>UKIP</b>	<p>By reclaiming our status as an independent, democratic nation, the UK can through force of example play a role similar to that it played through force of arms in two World Wars: that of a shining star illuminating the way ahead for other European countries. Indeed, Brexit means we can help re-invigorate the Commonwealth, with trade agreements and increased engagement to give these friendly countries parity of esteem in our foreign relations policy. Brexit means stepping boldly out into a global world as an important actor on the world stage. Free to pursue a foreign policy prioritising British interests and the security of our nation, UKIP will ensure the safety, wealth and prosperity of British citizens, while meeting our international responsibilities.</p> <p>There is no question about it: when we leave the EU, Britain will retain her status as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, and as a leading member of NATO, the organisation that has been the bedrock of our security since the aftermath of the Second World War. We will sustain our position within the special intelligence 'Five Eyes' alliance with the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and continue to value our home within the Commonwealth.</p> <p>WE STAND BY OUR 2015 MANIFESTO PLEDGES TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an over-arching role of Director of National Intelligence, who will be lead a new, single, unified intelligence service</li> <li>• Revise the Armed Forces' terms of service, to ensure personnel on operational duty overseas do not pay income tax</li> <li>• Oppose any form of military integration with the European Union.</li> </ul>	<p>Parliament must resume its supremacy of law-making without restriction. Britain must be completely free from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, and we must be free, if we wish, to relinquish our membership of the European Court of Human Rights.</p> <p>Protect religious freedoms in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provided those beliefs exist firmly within the framework of British law. We will not condone any faith position that is itself intolerant of the human rights of others</p> <p>Our approach to criminality contrasts starkly with that of the other parties. As Home Secretary, Theresa May was soft on crime. She went the way of the Labour party, putting the human rights of offenders before those of their victims, tiptoeing around even the most hardened criminals, instead of concentrating on protecting the public.</p> <p>Repeal Labour's Human Rights legislation and remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights.</p>		UKIP will retain Britain's independent nuclear deterrent. Give the continued existence of rogue states such as North Korea, any other policy would be utterly irresponsible.	In the years ahead, UKIP will avoid allowing Britain to become embroiled in foreign wars. We will maintain our sceptical view of neoconservative arguments for attempting to deliver change in the Middle East at gunpoint. You cannot bomb people into democracy.	<p>Britain must have a well resourced, properly manned, fit-for-purpose armed force, one with the capability to defend simultaneously Gibraltar and the Falklands Islands, contribute to one major theatre operation and several peacekeeping missions.</p> <p>A DEDICATED BRITISH HOSPITAL SHIP British medical expertise and disaster support is among the best in the world. Our help is always welcome in the aftermath of natural disaster, disease epidemic, or famine. To increase the contribution Britain can make in times of global crises, UKIP will commission, equip and staff a Naval Ocean-Going Surgical Hospital (NOSH). As 95 per cent of the world's largest 100 cities are port cities, and 90 per cent of the world's population live within 200 miles of the sea, this will be an extremely useful way to deliver large-scale relief to our armed forces on active operational duties, to civilians and refugees in war zones, or to undertake humanitarian missions in peacetime. The new ship will also provide useful reinforcement in case of emergencies here at home. The new NOSH will have at least 500 beds, a flight deck and large hangar to support several helicopters, as well as vehicle decks. It will be a highly visible ambassador for Britain, and will replace the Royal Navy's current sea-borne medical capability, RFA ARGUS, which is set to retire in 2020. It will not carry weapons, giving it the full protection of the Geneva Convention in times of war. This flagship project will help confirm Britain's status as a force for good in the world, while simultaneously expanding our naval capabilities</p>

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<b>Cooperative</b>	From its inception more than 150 years ago, the co-operative movement has always stood for an international approach to solving the world's problems. This stems, at its heart, from a belief that we achieve more together than alone and that collectivism, solidarity and the struggle for social justice have always extended beyond our borders. As our world becomes more and more interconnected, it is increasingly apparent that no nation is insulated from what goes on elsewhere, and no country is able to solve all of its problems on its own. In a post-Brexit Britain, international co-operation will be more important than ever to deal with global challenges like a precarious world economy, the looming catastrophe of climate change, and the continued emergency of global poverty.	The Co-operative Party believes that human rights are universal, and that it is the job of strong and mature democracies to support the development of free societies. The government should legislate to provide victims of human rights abuses with access to the British courts for remedy, compensation and criminal prosecution when these are found have been committed by, or in collusion with, UK based multi-national companies.				



### About this initiative

UNA-UK is shining a spotlight on foreign affairs by extracting passages from parties' manifestos on the subject of international cooperation as well as on the five key areas of foreign policy identified by our policy report 'Keeping Britain Global': human rights, arms control, nuclear disarmament, atrocity prevention and peacekeeping.

[Click here to read 'Keeping Britain Global'](#)

Britain's future prosperity and security depend on factors we cannot control alone. As such, a considered look at political parties' foreign policy strategies should be part of the conversation on Britain's future role. This initiative is part of a set of General Election 2017 resources intended to stimulate informed debate on international cooperation and the UN.

[Click here for more on UNA-UK's General Election Resources](#)

### Understanding the results

When reviewing the results, please remember the following:

- The text included comprises verbatim extracts from political parties
- Parties have been ordered by number of MPs returned to Westminster during the 2015-2017 parliament (where numbers are ties, results of the 2010-2015 parliament was used to break the tie)
- The Co-operative Party has been listed last given that its MPs are also jointly Labour MPs and as such there were no exclusively Co-operative Party MPs
- Manifestos are not the only policy expression by political parties - the absence of information may not indicate the absence of a policy on a given issue
- Different parties approach manifestos differently; some will be more verbose and completist, others prefer to keep it simple
- Given that responsibility for British foreign policy lies with the Westminster government, some parties based in devolved nations may choose not to include commitments on foreign policy
- We are including the main manifestos of the 12 political parties that returned MPs to Westminster during the 2015-2017 parliament (at the time of writing, not all manifestos had been released)
- While we aim to be as thorough as possible, we may have missed something so please do not take this as a definitive round-up of policies
- For definitive information, please read the manifestos directly (see links below)
- UNA-UK is a UK registered charity and is not affiliated with any political party

### Links to manifestos\*

- [The Conservative Party](#)
- [The Co-operative Party](#)
- [The Democratic Unionist Party](#)
- [Plaid Cymru](#)
- [Green Party](#)
- [The Labour Party](#)
- [The Liberal Democrats](#)
- [The Scottish National Party](#)
- [Sinn Féin](#)
- [Social Democratic and Labour Party](#)
- [UK Independence Party](#)

\*UNA-UK has included all manifestos of those parties which returned MPs to Westminster during the 2015-2017 parliament. At the time of writing, not all manifestos had been released.

### Appendix: UNA-UK's own policy positions (click on headers for more)

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<b>UNA-UK</b>	<p>For Britain to survive and prosper, it must invest in global solutions. This means Britain should invest in the health of the United Nations by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a cross-departmental strategy for strengthening the UN and the rules-based international system that it serves, with a focus on supporting the new Secretary-General – including by championing UN effectiveness through merit-based senior appointments, and on seeking to keep British allies engaged, active and coordinated at the Organisation</li> <li>- Acknowledge the extent to which Britain's own conduct affects the health of the Leaders should seek to set out an inspiring, patriotic vision of a global Britain, with policies that support the international system and an outward-looking UK. They should take responsibility for ensuring that this is reflected across the actions of all departments of Government. and that spokespeople refrain from anti-internationalist rhetoric</li> <li>- Deepen public and civil society engagement on foreign policy issues, including by enhancing the Global Britain Fund, to support educational and outreach programmes that demonstrate the value of international organisations to UK citizens</li> <li>- Recognise the central role that must be played by UK diplomatic networks if Britain is to sustain or expand its influence on the world stage. This should include maintaining its 0.7 per cent GNI on Official Development Assistance, and increasing funding to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with an emphasis on operations that support work at the UN-level as the UK's role on the Security Council, and relations outside the European Union, become more important.</li> </ul>	<p>Our key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that any changes to human rights law serve to strengthen, not weaken, universal human rights protections in the United Kingdom and should refrain from introducing any human rights exemptions based on extra-territoriality</li> <li>- Take steps to strengthen the Human Rights Council and engage constructively with all UN human rights mechanisms, including UN Special Procedures, and serve as an example to other states as recommended in our recent report "Leading By Example"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, refraining from conduct which undermines the Treaty, including by ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to commit war crimes and human rights violations</li> <li>- Articulate a clear and coherent policy on its use of armed drones for counter-terrorism purposes, both within and outside the context of armed conflict – with mechanisms for parliamentary scrutiny and accountability</li> <li>- Publish a detailed policy on its approach to autonomy in weapons systems, and take on a more active role in international fora to build consensus for an international framework to control the development and deployment of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take unmistakable actions to improve diplomatic relations between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states by participating in negotiations and stimulating dialogue</li> <li>- Work energetically to restore the health of the NPT regime, including by initiating an inclusive process to work on the 2010 64-point Action Plan and by publishing an annual report on the UK's contribution to its implementation</li> <li>- Breathe life into the 'P5 Process' talks between the nuclear weapon states including by strengthening their agenda and increasing their transparency</li> <li>- Review the prominence given to nuclear weapons in the UK's security doctrines in close consultation with parliament and civil society</li> <li>- Use the opportunity of the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament to highlight UK leadership and progress on this issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Declare the prevention of atrocity crimes to be a foreign policy priority and mention R2P in its speeches and Security Council interventions on situations where there is a significant risk of atrocity crimes</li> <li>- Strengthen its R2P strategy by ensuring it is coordinated by a ministerial point person with sufficiently resources to support best practice</li> <li>- Champion the "code of conduct" put forward by the ACT group of countries, whereby UN member states voluntarily agree to not veto action on issues relating to atrocity crimes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Articulate a distinct rationale and approach to UN peace operations</li> <li>- Ensure that the policy and practice of the new UK deployments in Somalia and South Sudan showcase 'people centred' peacekeeping and the robust implementation of a 'Protection of Civilians' mandate, including by demonstrating transparency when it comes to the caveats attached to troop deployments</li> <li>- Consider how it can strengthen peacekeeping at the UN with an emphasis on improving the UN's rapid response capacity</li> <li>- Lead calls for victim-centred accountability mechanisms to ensure peacekeepers guilty of sexual exploitation and abuse do not go unpunished</li> </ul>