

# POLICY

## Crime

ONE WORLD. ONE CHANCE.

Vote Green Party 

### *Prevention and cure: creating a safer society*

Despite numerous government initiatives, the present system of crime control is failing. We live in an increasingly surveillance-based society and yet are more fearful than ever. The police are given more and more powers, but seem even more distant from the communities they serve.

The Green Party believes we need to address the social causes of crime so that crimes and criminals are not able to flourish in the first place.

Policies on crime should go hand in hand with those on education, social care, health, economics and housing. Some who commit offences need supervision, but we want a society to prevent crime not just punish people after a crime has been committed, a society where offenders make reparation to the victims and where the police are fully accountable to the people they serve.

#### The Green Party would:

- Ensure that police officers spend more time working in local communities, focusing on crime prevention as much as detection.
- Reduce the threat of crime by keeping public spaces well maintained and increasing resources for caretakers, attendants and staff on estates, railway stations, parks and other public areas.
- Where appropriate, bring offenders together with victims so that they are made aware of their impact on people's lives, and, where possible, can make reparation for their crimes.
- Tackle drug-related crime by increasing provision of treatment for addiction and breaking the link between drugs and criminal activity.
- Crack down on gun crime by introducing a tough licensing system, working to cut off gun supply to the UK and banning the sale of replica guns.

#### Will you put more bobbies on the beat?

We want officers to spend far more time working in local communities rather than being constantly taken away by other duties. The police should know their communities and should concentrate more on preventing crime before it happens.

#### What will you do about anti-social behaviour?

Local authorities have a key role in helping prevent the sort of activities that reduce quality of life for all. This includes providing opportunities for young people, establishing mediation services for disputes between neighbours, and ensuring that the police work more closely with local communities.

#### Isn't talk of reparation just giving criminals more rights than victims?

No. This approach to justice is increasingly common across the world. When criminals make reparations for their crimes they are forced to face up to what they have done. This approach also allows victims to play an active part in finding a fair resolution to the crime.

#### Does life mean life for the Greens?

The purpose of custody is both justice through the restriction of liberty, but also reduction of future harm through rehabilitation. If an offender has shown conclusively that they are ready to re-enter society and make a positive contribution, then early release should be considered.

#### What would you do about hate crimes?

In a just society everyone should be protected from crimes motivated by hatred and discrimination based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social origin, age or any other prejudice. We want a comprehensive strategy to tackle, significantly reduce and ultimately end hate crime.

#### Do you support ID cards?

No. We do not believe that ID cards will provide any more security than at present. We also have doubts about the security of a national central database and believe the risks to the rights of privacy and freedom from discrimination outweigh any benefits of centrally recording and sharing personal information.

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