

Equally Ours manifesto 2019 – a UK that works for everyone

Protect rights and tackle inequality

Equally Ours is the national network of organisations committed to making a reality of equality and human rights in people's lives. Our members can be found [here](#).

At this election, across traditional party-political boundaries and the Leave-Remain divide, voters are united in the belief that the government should do more to tackle inequality.

We challenge all parties standing to guarantee to keep our hard-won human rights and equality laws, including those covered by EU regulations and directives, and to strengthen protections.

We believe that there are practical steps that any new government could take to tackle inequality, so that every member of society is respected and included and has an equal chance to flourish, fulfil their potential and contribute to society.

Protect rights

The UK has a strong tradition of protection for equality and human rights which has been further strengthened by EU legislation and case law.

We look forward to a modern, outward looking and high standards Britain where we can build on current rights to equality, respect and inclusion.

We believe that any incoming government should:

- Maintain all current equality and human rights including the Equality Acts (2006 and 2010), the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.
- Prohibit changes to primary legislation by secondary legislation – and ensure full parliamentary scrutiny for any delegated legislation that changes rights.
- Keep pace with EU changes in equality and human rights legislation.
- Protect human rights safeguards in the Good Friday Agreement.
- Prohibit regression of rights in any future trade deals.

Equality and human rights for us all

Equally Ours brings together people and organisations working across equality, human rights and social justice to make a reality of these in everyone's lives. Equally Ours is a registered charity (number 1135357) and registered as a company (number 06464749).

Tackle inequality

There are a number of practical steps any incoming government could take to ensure fairness and prosperity for all. In large scale economic programmes, this will require a strategic focus on and investment in equality, where equal prominence is given to economic growth AND social inclusion.

Work on equality that has already been developed should be taken forward – we suggest in the areas of race equality and tackling hate crime.

We believe that:

- All major government infrastructure and procurement projects must have equality hard wired, including through participation targets to tackle the race, disability and gender employment gaps.
- Any replacement for EU funding must have equality and inclusion at its core, actively involve civil society and respect the devolution settlement.
- The Race Disparity Unit findings and analysis must be followed up by a cross departmental race equality strategy.
- Hate crime legislation should be levelled up to provide parity and clarity between different protected characteristics under the Equality Act. Further work should concentrate on strategies to prevent hate crime occurring.