

# CHAPTER 13

## THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Imagine the UK as a good global neighbour, committed to peacemaking and to helping create the conditions for a flourishing life for everyone on the planet. This is a UK bent on resolving conflicts rather than making them worse, determined to listen as well as to speak. How about the chance to vote for a Europe of self-reliance rather than free trade and indiscriminate growth? Imagine a climate change agreement that is both just and effective. Picture a world where the big decisions are made by democratically elected governments and not by private corporations – picture the end of talk of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)...

We live in an interconnected world, which brings huge benefits as well as drawbacks. Decisions that we make affect people in other countries, and events in other countries affect us. In particular, UK foreign and military policies over many years have contributed to challenges to our security today:

- By using up global resources or polluting the air or water that we all share;
- By influencing how much we pay for diminishing natural resources and how much we get paid for our labour;
- By driving displacement;
- By creating insecurity at home and abroad.

Greens are internationalists and want to live in a world that is just and fair, secure and peaceful, and where human rights are universally respected. We will make the UK a force for international good, respected throughout the global community, with coherent foreign policies based on building effective and cooperative security relations across the world.

All countries deserve a voice in global decision-making, and we want to use ours to support the following:

- A new, holistic and consistent approach to peace and defence, which is focused on genuine peacekeeping and respect for the sovereignty of peoples around the world.
- A fundamental restructuring of our global economy, with power held at the local and regional level and only passed upwards when international cooperation is necessary. We call this 'subsidiarity' – this principle is the basis of our approach to the European Union and other international organisations.
- Writing off and writing down unpayable international debt, avoiding paternalistic aid, and securing the rights of First Nations peoples. Trade that supports the well-being of workers that can be achieved without breaching sustainability limits is useful, but a blind commitment to 'free' trade is not.
- A global policy of Contraction and Convergence in which rich countries' use of finite energy resources contracts, while that of poorer countries expands, to converge on an equitable and sustainable per capita sharing of global energy, designed to keep within 2 degrees C of warming. Only in this way can poor countries improve living standards while the world as a whole avoids hitting resource and climate limits.
- Making UK foreign policy genuinely independent, based on the principles of shared responsibility, cooperative security and human rights.