

Britain is a great country ready to build a better future. This manifesto sets out Labour's plan for national renewal.

The British people, are known for tolerance, responsibility to others and for our belief in the value of hard work. We look confidently outward to the world. These are great British traditions - things we all believe in, things our country is good at. We are at our best when we work together. We see this every day in our workplaces, in our families, and in our communities. People want to get on, they want to give their children a better future, and they want to help to change Britain for the better.

But across Britain working people also know a simple truth: the economy is not working for them. For years now, our economy has not rewarded everyone who put in a good, honest day's work. However hard people work, many don't earn enough to make ends meet. Too many have been driven from secure, full-time work, into precarious, badly paid jobs – many working on zero-hours contracts. Time to enjoy friends and family is increasingly squeezed, as mothers and fathers juggle the demands of work and caring for children, and often an older relative.

The problems mount for the next generation too. Young people are taking on a mountain of debt to go to university and too many still cannot find a job worthy of their talents. We lack a proper system of vocational education and apprenticeships to give our young people the start in life that they deserve. We are not building the homes we need. Our sons and daughters have been shut out of the housing market and too often they are forced to leave the communities where they were brought up.

Our economy and our system of government are failing people. Many have come to believe that politics ignores the things that matter to them. Too much power is unaccountable, concentrated in the market and the state, at the expense of individuals and their communities.

Many of these problems have been mounting for years. Some, like the rise of inequality, are felt in countries all around the world. So the Conservatives did not cause all of them, but they have made them far worse. Their view is that economic success depends just on a few at the top. They think that insecurity