

A Britain standing tall in the world

Our commitment to you:

Everything we do around the world will be driven by a determination to protect your security and help you prosper. We will:

- *ensure Britain is a major player on the world stage, using diplomacy to protect your interests, uphold British values and tackle threats to your security and prosperity*
- *help generate new trade, investment and job opportunities, to benefit you and your family*
- *maintain our world class Armed Forces so they continue to guarantee your security*
- *uphold our commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development.*

Economic security and national security are two sides of the same coin. Without one, you cannot have the other. Our prosperity depends upon Britain remaining an active, outward-looking nation, one that is engaged with the world, not looking in on itself. We will maintain Britain's strong global role and our capacity to project British power and values around the world.

We want a strong, secure and stable country

Labour's Great Recession weakened Britain on the world stage. They left a £38 billion black hole in the defence budget, went 12 years without conducting a Strategic Defence Review, and, at times, failed to provide our Armed Forces with the equipment they needed in Afghanistan. They shut down over 30 British diplomatic missions, failed to plan properly for Iraq's reconstruction, ignored trade and investment opportunities overseas, and neglected vital relationships.

We have strengthened Britain's influence in the world. The National Security Council that we established ensures proper, strategic decision-making at the top of government. We have boosted exports to emerging markets, opened new diplomatic posts in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and led the world in promoting women's rights and tackling sexual violence in conflict. We have balanced the defence budget and set out a clear strategy to defend our nation for the long term.

We and our allies face major challenges: Islamist extremism, an aggressive Russia, economic uncertainty in the Eurozone, nuclear proliferation and infectious diseases. A Conservative Government will tackle these challenges. We will use our membership of NATO, the EU, the Commonwealth, our UN Security Council seat, our Special Relationship with the USA, our intelligence agencies, vital institutions like the BBC World Service and British Council, and the strong personal links between our diaspora communities and other countries, to achieve the best for Britain.

Only with a strong economy can we maintain our world-class Armed Forces and protect our national security

We will back this up with UK military power and international aid. Our long-term economic plan will ensure we have the economic strength to maintain our world-class Armed Forces, to uphold our national security and project power globally. Aid helps prevent failed states from becoming havens for terrorists. It builds long-term markets for our businesses, by promoting global prosperity, and reduces migration pressures. So we will maintain our commitment to tackling conflict, poverty and disease around the world.