

Usdaw and Labour

One Week to Win for our Members

Executive Council Statement to the 2015 ADM

Foreword

By Ed Miliband, Labour Party leader

My mission is to make Britain work for everyone, not just for a privileged few. Building a recovery that works for you and your family, ensuring that the next generation does better than the last and that the NHS has time to care for those that need it most.

People are being told there is a recovery when they aren't feeling the benefits. They are working hard, but not being rewarded. Young people fear that they are going to have a worse life than their parents. Even those making a decent living are often still unable to afford to buy a house. Families worry that the NHS is under threat. Meanwhile they see a privileged few doing better and better.

These are symptoms of a country that is too unequal. It is a country I am determined to change and that is why I want to be your Prime Minister.

Millions of people are resting their hopes for a fairer, more just, more equal Britain on us. We will not let them down.



A handwritten signature of Ed Miliband in black ink.

By John Hannett, Usdaw General Secretary

This General Election will be the most vital for a generation. We are faced with a stark choice between a Labour Government committed to a fairer and more equal society, or another Conservative Government committed to cuts and austerity on a scale that will dwarf the hardships they have created over the last five years, whilst still looking to cut taxes for the richest in society, and to hammer trade unions and our members.

Usdaw is on the side of Labour because Labour are on the side of Usdaw and our members. This statement sets out how you can make a real difference in the next few days – just by talking to colleagues, friends and family, encouraging them to vote Labour, and helping your local Labour candidate.

This is a battle that we not only have to win – our members cannot afford for us to lose. I look forward to working with you for a Labour victory.



A handwritten signature of John Hannett in black ink.

What has happened in the last five years?

1. Tax and benefit changes mean that families are on average £974 a year worse off.
2. There are 1.4 million zero-hours contracts in Britain.
3. 3.5 million children are growing up in poverty – more are in working households than in workless ones.
4. Rents have risen faster than inflation and the housing benefit bill has gone up, while house building levels are at their lowest in peace time since the 1920s.
5. Household energy bills are up by £300 a year.
6. One in four patients wait a week or more to see or speak to a GP.
7. Despite an ageing population, £2.7 billion has been cut from social care budgets.
8. Nearly 16,000 police officers have been lost, risking the safety of our communities.
9. Net migration is up to 260,000 a year.
10. The Government has borrowed £219 billion more than they planned.

The Tories' answer to Britain's problems is to make even deeper cuts – starting with £500 a year cuts to hardworking families in the first two years – and then cutting twice as much from public services as they have over the last five years.

Labour's Top Ten Policies to help Usdaw Members

1. Raise the minimum wage to £8 per hour and ban exploitative zero-hour contracts.
2. Freeze energy bills until April 2017 while reforming the broken energy market.
3. Cut the deficit more fairly by asking those earning over £150,000 to contribute a little more through a 50p rate of tax.
4. Get at least 200,000 homes a year built by 2020 and deliver a fairer deal for private renters.
5. Scrap the Bedroom Tax.
6. Extend free childcare for three and four-year olds from 15 to 25 hours per week for working parents and guarantee childcare from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm at local primary schools.
7. Repeal the Tories' plans to bring competition and privatisation to the NHS.
8. Recruit 20,000 more nurses and 8,000 more GPs to guarantee a GP appointment within 48 hours – funded by a mansion tax on homes worth over £2 million.
9. Scrap Police and Crime Commissioners in order to protect frontline police numbers.
10. Control immigration so that entitlements to benefits are earned and outlaw unfair labour practices so that wages are not undercut.

How You Can Help

This election will not be won by debates in the national media. Labour can only win if we each play our part. That does not mean that we all have to commit to spending every day out on the streets talking to voters, there are many different ways that we can help and all of them will make a real difference to the campaign to get a Labour Government.

Voting

With the General Election happening in just over a week's time, the single most important way to help Labour win is to encourage your family, friends and colleagues to go out and vote.

If they are registered for postal votes, encourage them to return their ballot paper as soon as possible or to take it along to their local polling station on Polling Day.

If they do not know if they are going to go and vote, you can make a real difference by encouraging them to get down to the polling station. In many constituencies, the result is balanced on a knife-edge and even a few votes could make the difference between a Labour victory or five more years of a Tory Government.

Talking Politics

With the anti-Labour press focusing on other issues, talking to our family, friends and colleagues about Labour's policies can be one of the easiest and most important things we can all do to help Labour win the General Election.

With politics affecting every part of our lives and the election just around the corner, there are plenty of opportunities to talk about the real issues affecting people's lives and what Labour plans to do to help. Whether it is in the canteen, around the dinner table or out with friends, these conversations are an important part of convincing people to vote and to vote Labour.

The information in this statement will give you the facts about the key issues in this election and help you to talk about politics.



Usdaw Key Seats

Usdaw has been supporting a set of key seats across the country, ones where Usdaw members can mean the difference between Labour winning or losing.

Division	Key Seat	Usdaw Co-ordinator	Candidate
A	Cardiff Central	Rose Bevan (Cardiff Office)	Jo Stevens
A	Cardiff North	Rose Bevan (Cardiff Office)	Mari Williams
A	Plymouth Sutton & Devonport	Linda Crick (Plymouth Office)	Luke Pollard
C	Harlow	Andy Hearn (Waltham Cross Office)	Suzy Stride
C	Norwich North	Stuart Sharman (Bury St Edmunds Office)	Jessica Asato
E	Redditch	Sarah Hughes (Redditch Office)	Rebecca Blake
E	Warwickshire North	Darren Matthews (Redditch Office)	Mike O'Brien
F	Carlisle	Jayne Shotton (Newcastle Office)	Lee Sheriff
F	Elmet & Rothwell	Mark Todd (Leeds Office)	Veronica King
G	East Dunbartonshire	John Tonner (Glasgow Office)	Amanjit Jhund
H	Chatham & Aylesford	Paul Reynolds (Faversham Office)	Tristan Osborne
H	Croydon Central	Rafael Rey (Morden Office)	Sarah Jones
K	Blackpool North & Cleveleys	Amanda Bailey-Coll (Warrington Office)	Sam Rushworth
K	Warrington South	Tony Clare (Warrington Office)	Nick Bent

To get involved in the final push, contact the Usdaw Key Seat Co-ordinator for the seat where you want to help.

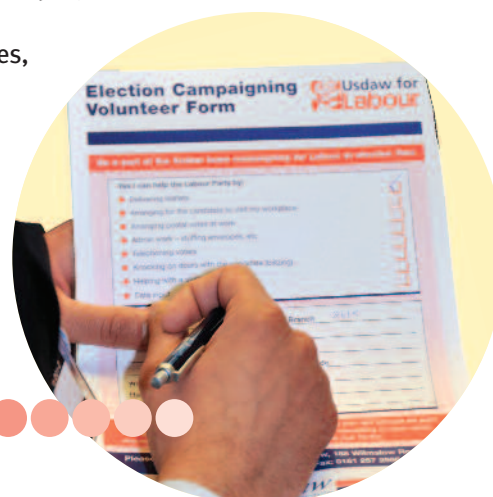
Campaigning with Labour

If you are keen to help out in the constituency where you live and get involved with the Labour Party directly, your local Labour Party will be very grateful for any time that you can give to the local campaign.

There are plenty of ways to help, from delivering leaflets, to stuffing envelopes, to knocking on doors and phoning local voters, it all makes a difference.

You can volunteer to help your local Labour Party by going to www.labour.org.uk/volunteer

To register as a trade union Affiliated Supporter of the Labour Party, you can go to support.labour.org.uk



#VoteLabour