



Labour for a Republic

Democracy. Equality. No Exceptions.

CAMPAIGN GUIDE



LATEST NEWS!

**SUPPORT FOR THE
MONARCHY FALLS
BELOW 50%**



Change.

Together we elected a Labour government in 2024 that we know will transform Britain for the better.

It is absolutely right that the priorities for our Labour government should be rebuilding the NHS, tackling the housing crisis, improving workers' rights and so many other issues that are the legacy of fourteen years of uncaring, incompetent and chaotic Tory government.

But this isn't the extent of the challenges facing our country. As voter turnout figures, the necessity of tactical voting and the rise of the far-right have shown, our democracy is broken too.

Democracy and equality are Labour's core beliefs and they must be the pillars on which we rebuild Britain. This means confronting and reforming institutions that work against our principles. **This includes the Monarchy** - the most unequal and undemocratic institution in the UK. And yes, it means Keir Starmer's warning that repairing the British economy will be painful for us all should apply equally to the monarchy.

Earlier this year, and for the first time, we saw majority support for a republic amongst people under-50. It's part of a long-term trend of falling support for the monarchy with less than 50% of people in the UK now wanting to



retain the monarchy.

Whether we believe the monarchy has a long-term future or think it must eventually be replaced, there is little doubt that **it is in urgent need of reform.**

Understandably, the sheer scale of the Labour government's to-do list restricts its scope to act, but we are urging Labour MPs and other representatives to use their platform to promote reform, through the media and most importantly through the use of Private Members' Bills.

In this guide we highlight the key reforms needed and invite you to consider how you might play your part in modernising our democracy.

Why this matters

Monarchy is not, as is regularly claimed, 'above politics'. It is deeply embedded in our political system and the king and prince of Wales exercise significant influence on the law-making process.

Monarchy represents hereditary privilege and excessive, unearned wealth. It allows Parliament to be bypassed by use of the Royal Prerogative and exempts itself from more than 150 pieces of legislation, whilst vetting thousands more.

That makes its very existence political and a threat to our democracy. Together we can change this.



But first some important context

Excluding
'don't knows'

60%

of under-50s want
an elected head of
state

Only

45%

of people say they
want to retain the
monarchy

It's often assumed that most people in Britain value the monarchy, but that's increasingly not the case, with only 45% of Britons saying they support the monarchy. Support for an elected Head of State is strongest amongst the under-50s.

In London and in Scotland, polls show that more people would prefer an elected head of state than want a monarchy. In the north of England and Wales views are evenly split.



"Increasingly, people are questioning the value of the monarchy, its relevance in a democratic society and the social divisions it portrays. With every generation support for the monarchy falls and right now, less than 50% of people in the UK want to retain the monarchy."

Alex Gallucci
Bolton South and Walkden CLP

1 in 3

people want an
elected head
of state

Overall, there's a growing sense that Britain has 'moved on' from an institution that no longer reflects modern Britain or its values, particularly Labour's core values of democracy and equality.



Polling has become more frequent as public awareness of the monarchy's impact on public finances and our democracy has grown. Find out more about recent polls and find links to all the stats used in this guide here:









Four key reforms

Although Labour's policy is to maintain the monarchy, there are steps that could, and should, be taken to reform and modernise it. We are campaigning for four key reforms, which will have tangible benefits for workers, the public purse and our democracy.

We're calling on MPs to use their platform to help achieve these changes. Labour for a Republic and our colleagues in Republic stand ready to help.


-  **Protect royal workers**
Extend Labour's Equality Act to the monarchy
-  **Increase transparency**
Extend Labour's Freedom of Information Act to the monarchy
-  **Introduce fair funding**
Revisit royal funding to prioritise public services
-  **Increase public trust**
Modernise the Oath taken by MPs



Motions for CLP debate

Over the next few pages you'll find more details of our four key campaigns - why they are good for workers, our democracy and for the country.

We need your help to champion these campaigns within your local party.

To help, we've supplied 'model motions' where you see this logo 

These motions can be used at meetings of CLPs, TUs and other affiliated organisations.

If you plan to present a motion, or would like further guidance please contact us at:

LabourForARepublic@gmail.com



70%

Of Labour voters believe the monarchy should not be exempt

EXTEND LABOUR'S EQUALITY ACT

Right now, hundreds of workers are not protected under existing legislation from racial, gender, disability and other forms of discrimination, simply because they work in royal households.

Polling commissioned by Labour for a Republic shows that the public overwhelmingly agree that royal workers should be protected by the Equalities Act.

'This CLP believes that every worker deserves protection from discrimination. We note that the monarchy is exempt from the Equality Act and as a result, hundreds of workers are not protected from sexual, racial and other forms of discrimination. We call on our Labour Government to urgently address this inequality by extending the Equality Act to all workers in royal households.'



**Motion for
CLP debate**

We are urging all Labour MPs to help make Britain's commitment to anti-racism and all other forms of discrimination clear by campaigning to **extend the Equalities Act to the monarchy** so that an example is and can be shown by those at the very top.

No workplace can be guaranteed free from discrimination, so no employee should be denied protection, regardless of who their employer is. **Please ask your MP and/or CLP to support our campaign.**



EXTEND LABOUR'S FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The monarchy is part of our governance structure and the state pays for it. It should therefore be subject to the same scrutiny as other arms of government.

Transparency is at the heart of a healthy, modern democracy, but the monarchy relies on secrecy to maintain its significant influence.

We are urging MPs to seek an end to the monarchy's exemption under the Act, allowing access to official correspondence between the monarchy and ministers on the same terms as the Act allows access to government correspondence.



Motion for CLP debate

'This CLP believes that openness and transparency are essential in a healthy democracy. Accordingly, we believe that all parts of government, including the monarchy should be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. We call on our Labour Government to extend the FoIA to the monarchy on the same terms as other arms of government.'

"People should not have to rely on Guardian journalists and others to expose the royals' lobbying of ministers, financial irregularities and environmental hypocrisies. That's why the monarchy, like any other arm of government, should be subject to the FoI Act."

Katie Barrow
Gainsborough CLP





73%

Believe the monarchy should be taxed in the same way as others

REVISIT ROYAL FUNDING

Labour recognises that it is ordinary people who are carrying the highest proportion of the tax burden. Meanwhile the king, whose personal wealth has been estimated at £1.8 billion, pays very little.

Although the king pays some income tax on a voluntary basis, none is charged on the millions he received each year from the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall. No inheritance tax is paid



Motion for CLP debate

This CLP notes that when security and other costs are included, the monarchy costs taxpayers around a third of a billion pounds a year (enough for 15,000 teachers or nurses). We call on our Labour government to review the way the monarchy is funded and the tax it pays to ensure that public money is prioritised for public services.'

on the huge personal fortunes passed from one monarch to their successor – saving the king c.£500M. Public attitudes on royal funding are changing. For example, in a poll commissioned by Labour for a Republic, 85% said that proceeds from off-shore windfarms should go to public services, not to the monarchy.

The issue is not just about money – it's about morality. Should the king, as one of the wealthiest people in the country, not be taxed in the same way as other citizens? Many would argue that there is an additional responsibility for those at the top to set an example.



MODERNISE THE OATH

Trust in politics is everything, but right now it's at an all time low. Labour wants to rebuild trust, but can that happen when MPs' allegiance isn't to the people they represent? It's hardly a basis for rebuilding public confidence.

Polling commissioned by Labour for a Republic reveals that by a margin of 5:1 voters want to see MPs swear an oath to their country and constituents, not an unelected and unaccountable

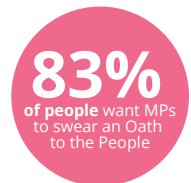
'This CLP believes that the Oath sworn by MPs should be to the people who elected them and to the country. We call on our Labour Government to support the campaign to replace the current oath with an 'Oath to the People', which pledges MPs' allegiance to their constituents and the country, not to an unelected and unaccountable individual.'



**Motion for
CLP debate**

individual. Amongst people who voted Labour on 4th July 2024, the figure rises to 88%. Across all age ranges, political affiliations and regions and nations of the UK there is a clear majority support for adopting an 'Oath to the People.'

Please ask your MP and/or CLP to support our campaign to put the people at the centre of parliament. Let's make this parliament the last time MPs were forced to swear an oath to the monarch.





THE PAST IS UNSUSTAINABLE...

There are good reasons why support for the monarchy is falling fast. With every passing year the monarchy looks increasingly out of place in British society and is less able to relate to people's concerns.

Britain is a diverse country, whereas the monarchy is based on an aristocratic bloodline. We are a forward looking country, not one that rests on claims of former glories.

Increasingly, people recognise that the monarchy's 'do as I say, not as I do' approach, whether it's on tax, the environment, cash-for honours or political lobbying, is completely unsustainable.

Rejection of the monarchy is not just happening in the UK. Across the Commonwealth more countries are choosing to become republics, with only fourteen out of fifty-six still having the British monarch as their head of state.

It is no surprise. British monarchs headed an empire built on conquest and colonialism. It contributed to a world of inequalities in power, wealth and opportunity,



"Monarchy is a left-over from feudal times which symbolises a society in which rank and status are important. Today, Britain is a diverse, forward looking country. We need an elected Head of State who is not there by accident of birth, but is of the people, and with a mandate to represent us, protect our constitution and help unite our nation in times of crisis."

Tricia Duncan,
Perth and Kinross CLP





...WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

with many countries and communities still scarred by these historic injustices.

A large part of the king's inherited wealth comes from the proceeds of slavery. He should not wait for the demand for reparations to grow stronger. He should use a large part this wealth to help communities whose ancestors were so cruelly treated and which still suffer from the economic and social legacy of slavery.

We want everyone to be able to aspire to be their country's Head of State. It makes no sense to ignore the huge potential and talent that we have in Britain and instead rely on accident of birth.

It results, for example, not just in Britain having a white, privileged male as Head of State for the rest of this century (at least), but a political system and society where unelected power inequality are embedded.



Labour for a Republic stands for Labour's values: Democracy and equality. **We say there should be no exceptions.**

"My generation is overwhelmingly in support of an elected Head of State. Support for the monarchy decreases rapidly the younger people are. The monarchy only has significant support amongst the older generation. That's why reform of the monarchy will become an increasingly important issue for voters at future elections."

Ben Clinton
Bexhill and Battle CLP





5 WAYS TO HELP BOOST OUR CAMPAIGN



1

FOLLOW US, LIKE & SHARE



@Labour4Republic.



@Labour4Republic



LabourRepublic



2

SIGN UP TO OUR MAILING LIST

Keep in touch with the campaign. Opt out at any time.



INVITE US TO YOUR CLP MEETING

3

TAKE A MOTION TO YOUR CLP

4

A L4AR speaker guarantees a lively discussion at your Labour Party meeting. We can also supply contemporary motions for debate on request. Contact us at: LabourForARepublic@gmail.com

5

JOIN OR RECRUIT A FRIEND

We are a volunteer-led organisation and 100% of membership fees are spent on campaigning. Join us for as little as £1 per month. If you're already a member - thank you - and please recruit a friend!



Labour for a Republic

Democracy. Equality. **No Exceptions.**

Labour for a Republic campaigns to build the broadest possible support across the Labour Party to adopt a policy of replacing the monarchy with an elected head of state.



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