

# resurgence-politicalparty programme

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

**1.1** Our vision and hope is for a United Kingdom and a European Commonwealth built on the twin pillars of a just democracy and a fair market economy. These must be constructed from the bottom up with the consent of the people and a renewal in moral virtue and responsibility.

True democracy must be responsible and based on absolute and unchanging core values which are ethical, such as the sanctity of all human life and the rule of just and reasonable law.

A market economy must not deny any citizen access to the essentials for playing their part in society. A fair market economy will also be inclusive to encompass free enterprise; private, mutual or public ownership; moderated to the extent that State intervention may best secure and serve the best interests and dignity of the individual citizen.

All economic principles, mechanisms and methods are secondary and subject to the development of the human person and the common good.

**1.2** The rights, responsibilities and dignity of citizens must be clearly enshrined and understood. Social justice requires of each individual that which is necessary for the common good. The common good of a society cannot be provided for unless each individual/citizen receives all that they need to discharge their social function. In order to promote the common good of humanity these core values must be a shared vision out of which a common agenda can be agreed.

**1.3** Our vision for the United Kingdom is formed on the defence of our historical Christian Democracy which is being attacked and undermined by anti-religious forces. It must be raised up and restored to provide a moral example for the renewal of decency, dignity, honesty, integrity and respect for all. This must be acknowledged by the civil/lay Head of State (Monarch), Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Our aim is a Democracy founded on Christian principles of Peace, Truth, Justice and Freedom.

**1.4** In the words of John Paul II, on the rededication of Europe at the Shrine of Our Lady of Europe in Gibraltar:

*Through the Church's presence since ancient times the message of the Gospel has contributed to the very formation of the culture and consciousness of the various European nations. Christianity is not just part of European culture; it is the spiritual 'form' of European man's approach to the basic and universal questions. It is appropriate that there should be a shrine which will help Europe to recall its Christian heritage and inspire all who come to pray there to build the future of the continent on that solid foundation. Only a strengthening of the spiritual and moral values rooted in "the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:5) can guarantee that the Europe of the third millennium will be a place of harmony, peace, freedom and respect for life and human dignity.*

## 1.5 Our vision for Europe is formed on the – **Europe for Christ!** – Charter:-

Europe stands before a crossroads. Europe owes much of its culture to the Gospel lived by Christians – solidarity and human rights, universities, hospitals and cathedrals. Today, however, we risk betraying the soul of Europe. A dictatorship of relativism and a culture of death are omnipresent. Christians are increasingly discriminated against and watch a political tendency in which a humanism inspired by the Gospel is ever increasingly banned into the private sphere.

And yet we have also understood that when God is not our Father, that we are no longer brothers and sisters! For this reason it is important for the future of this continent that we base our culture again on Christ. We seek a Europe in which freedom of religion and conscience is respected, a young and dynamic Europe, one that is a sign of hope for the world.

For this we pray and work.

## **BACK TO THE FUTURE**

**2.1** In the United Kingdom we have a society that has got no moral compass and no sense of direction. It has become worse under New Labour during the past eleven years. The Conservatives are equally to blame. For more than forty years the family has been undermined with the Divorce Reform Act 1969 and the Childrens Act 1989. More recently the emphasis on the rights of the child has overridden the rights of parents and resulted in new Government initiatives - such as, Every Child Matters - where the school as agent for the Government has usurped the role of parents. The legislation that has given recognition to civil partnerships has also led on to the introduction of sexual orientation regulations, giving homosexuals additional civil rights that override the human rights of heterosexuals. The Abortion Act 1967 and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Acts 1990 and 2008 are a denial of the Right to Life affirmed by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The list goes on and it will get worse, unless we turn things around.

**2.2** We will promote legislation that clearly defines and interprets the provisions of our commitments under UN charters, conventions and declarations. Due consideration must be given to; **the right to life** of every human being, from conception to natural death, each child having the right to be conceived, born and educated within the family, based on marriage between a woman and a man, the family being the natural and fundamental group unit of society; and **the right to be educated by his/her parents**, who have a prior and fundamental right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

**2.3** We will propose amendments to the Childrens Act; to reverse the provision of clause 2(4) which abolished the rule that a father is the natural guardian of his legitimate child; remove the institutional discrimination against fathers to give real effect to the joint parental responsibility of married parents contained in clause 2(1); remove the additional statutory financial burden placed on a divorced father for the education of his adult children while denying him access to them; and recognise that a father's financial support for his children up to the age of 18 is not isolated from his access to them.

**2.4** We will reform the Divorce Reform Act to remove the single ground – irretrievable breakdown – which has never been legally defined, is abused, and results in an open door to divorce on demand. We will reinstate the serious factual causes as defined grounds, but exclude the subjective personal belief of unreasonable behaviour which is emotional. We will ensure that the Act is applied as set down in statute; ban special procedures which results in an administrative process of divorce - where blame is denied and no evidence is presented, but the court does not examine the allegations. We will make it easier to contest a divorce action as it is currently impossible to defend a divorce petition and costs are automatically awarded to the petitioner; by abolishing court fees for filing a defence; by making each party responsible for their own costs and introducing awards against petitioners for malicious and unfounded actions. Judges would have to conduct hearings as part of a tribunal with two lay assessors.

**2.5** We would conduct a comprehensive review of legislation and enquire into the composition and remit of the Law Commission.

## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

**3.1** In laying the **foundations for the future** we will adhere to the six systems of community being;

democracy,  
culture and conviviality,  
information and communication,  
education,  
health and social welfare,  
economic equity and opportunity.

**3.2** Introduce a **Bill for the Right to be Born** to be designated a prime constitutional statute overriding every other Act of Parliament and Court precedent.

**3.3** Transfer the funds released by the outlawing of abortion towards improving ante-natal and neo-natal services.

**3.4** Propose new employment rights for mothers of children under the age of seven.

**3.5** Provide a guarantee of paid employment for all through a modern Community Programme linked to training and career advice.

**3.6** Maintain Child Benefit as the main support for mothers and provide a financial support system to eliminate family poverty.

**3.7** Reform the Low Pay Commission by making it independent and widening its remit with the objective of making the minimum wage a living wage, and streamlining the process.

**3.8** Increase the income tax threshold to remove minimum-wage earners from the direct tax system. Reform the income tax bands and retain a progressive system of 10p, 20p, 30p and 40p in the £.

**3.9** Increase the threshold for payment of the employee's National Insurance contribution to the annual equivalent of the Income Guarantee. Reduce the employee NI contribution to 10p in the £ and remove the cap on payment. Introduce an employer NI contribution based on a 10p in the £ payroll tax.

**3.10** Reform Corporation Tax and introduce a progressive system of 10p, 20p and 30p in the £ on profits.

**3.11** Increase the Carers Allowance to the same level as the Income Guarantee. Provide support for adolescent carers and their family through foster grand-parents paid the married couple Income Guarantee.

**3.12** Increase the basic state pension to the same level as the Income Guarantee and equalise the qualifying age at 63. Retain the contributory qualifying requirements but rationalise the scheme in a logical manner. Provide additional age-related payments at 70, 77, 84 etc.

**3.13** Introduce an additional-pension scheme by replacing ISAs with PISAs, and linked to the provision of housing mortgages.

**3.14** Abolish stamp duty on share dealings to repair the damage to pension funds and schemes.

**3.15** Abolish stamp duty on property purchases and replace with a tax on property sales calculated on property value inflation.

**3.16** Abolish the TV License Fee and fund public broadcasting of the BBC with the equivalent of the take of 1p income tax at standard rate. Requirement on BBC to improve quality and standards. Move the watershed to 22.00. BBC and BT to provide free broadband access.

**3.17** Abolish the Vehicle Registration Fee and the annual Vehicle Excise Duty and replace with a one-off Vehicle Registration Tax based on the existing seven bands and a multiplier of 10.

**3.18** Oppose the introduction of road-pricing schemes as existing fuel duty is an effective pricing system.

**3.19** Abolish the Air Passenger Duty and replace with an Air Flight Tax on all aircraft movements based on pollution level as this will encourage the manufacture of clean aircraft and engines.

**3.20** Make Inheritance Tax a genuine tax on recipients instead of the deceased's estate with exemptions for the family home and allowances for family members.

**3.21** Reform the Value Added Tax system. Tax to be applied to basic cost/price before the application of Excise Duties. Retain zero and 5% bands, introduce 10% and 20% bands, and reduce standard rate from 17.5% to 15%. Criteria to be based on essential versus luxury and polluting versus clean.

**3.22** Replace Council Tax with Site Value Rating. Central Government to fully fund mandatory agency services. Public Protection services to be funded directly by the Home Office.

**3.23** Democratise the Public Protection services at county level by introducing elections every four years for the executive positions of Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff with responsibility for civil defence, emergency planning, police, and fire and rescue services, including air ambulance and police flights. Also to coordinate emergency ambulance service, mountain and coastal sea rescue; and liaise with national police and border forces. Sheriff to appoint chief officers, executive directors and non-executive management board members on fixed term contracts of four years. Indirectly elected Watch Committee to monitor the PP executive

**3.24** Create a National Highway Patrol police force to police the strategic national highway network, equipped with road vehicles, helicopter and spotter planes.

**3.25** Democratise the National Health Service. MPs to sit as the elected members on the relevant Strategic Health Authority. Primary Care Trusts to be governed by elected Health Commissioner and Deputy with responsibility for appointments of executive and non-executive members. Elections and fixed-term contracts for four year periods. PCT areas to correspond to district or unitary local authority areas. Joint working with LAs on public health and community care. District Community Health Councils to monitor PCT and health services.

**3.26** Reform LAs by moving all community and personal services to district level. Elections every four year for Mayor and Deputy. Four year fixed-term contracts for chief council officers. LA councillors to be reduced in number but with increased powers to monitor and scrutinise.

**3.27** Promote Constitutional reform based on a genuine and real separation of the powers of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

**3.28** Promote Electoral reform of the House of Commons retaining single member constituencies using the Alternative Vote system and an elected threshold of 50% + 1 of the vote. Candidates to have an affinity with their constituencies. MPs to sit on the relevant regional assembly and associated bodies. The number of constituencies to be reduced with MPs pay benchmarked at twice the average national earnings. Party Whips to be banned in the House of Commons.

**3.29** Make changes to the administrative and subsistence support provided to MPs. MPs to reside in their constituency and to be accommodated in House Lodge when House sitting; with permanent constituency and parliament offices provided and staffed by a Department of Administrative Affairs. MPs personal employees to be restricted to two assistants for the Constituency and House.

**3.30** Introduce procedural changes whereby the PM and government ministers must be the servants of the peoples representatives and must first introduce all legislation in the Commons, and be accountable to the Commons. To enable this, the dispatch box will be moved to the bar and the Speaker will have an overreaching right to summons ministers. Select Committees will have extended powers to enquire and report, with the ultimate mandate to introduce mini-Bills. The election of committee chairmen/women to be beyond the control of government or parties.

**3.31** We will promote efficiency of government by simplifying processes and making information clearer and easier to obtain and understand. We will reduce the cost of tax collection and administration; and promote tried systems over untried complex computer systems.

**3.32** We will oppose the introduction of ID cards and the data base that supports them. We will support enhanced and improved existing identity systems, such as NHS cards and NI cards.

**3.33** We will propose a reduction in the number of government departments to a maximum of fourteen departments, with a corresponding reduction in the size of the Cabinet. A full review of QUANGOs will be conducted.

**3.34** We will ensure strict financial control of the Executive's budget and cap public spending at 35% of Gross Domestic Product. The Executive will be required to prepare a National Debt reduction plan and to submit it for the approval of the Commons.

**3.35** We would promote a research and development programme to implement a reliable and effective anti nuclear-missile defence system; will cancel the Trident nuclear missile replacement programme, but pause development of submarine design at a point which would save money and enable transferability. We would balance this with an expansion of a conventional vessel construction programme for the Royal Navy.

**3.36** We would make a commitment to use Gibraltar as a permanent forward base for a naval task group; and review the amphibious and aircraft carrier fleet. We would also propose a permanent RAF defence detachment and development of the airfield at Gibraltar.

**3.37** We would prompt the Foreign Office to take a robust stance with Spain while ever their sovereignty claim over Gibraltar is pursued. An extension of the territorial sea limit from three to twelve miles would be a priority.

**3.38** We will demand a Referendum on the Lisbon Treaty and every subsequent EU Treaty. In the event that the people reject the Lisbon Treaty we will demand a further Referendum on the future direction of the European Union. We would campaign for a changed relationship based on sovereign states and the common good, pursuing a Culture of Life and Love, and founded on the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity.

**3.39** We will propose a review of the UKs involvement and work at the United Nations to ensure that the founding principles of the UN are being maintained and to remove any distortion and misinterpretation of Charters, Conventions and Declarations.

**3.40** We will commit the UK to a consistent ethical foreign policy and fair trade agreements.

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Paul Kennedy – SCL, PO Box 1070, Tattershall, Lincoln, LN4 4WE