

## Build Back Better

Published: January 13, 2026, 4:36 pm

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I co-signed this [statement issued by Compass today](#). You can too.

### **Build Back Better**

### **As we emerge from this crisis, now is the time to Build Back Better.**

*To do so we must heed the lessons it has taught:*

*That as a society, for many years, we did not listen to the scientists about the risks of such a pandemic and were not prepared.*

*That for decades our health and social care systems were both dangerously under-resourced and in need of reform.*

*That many key workers in our economy - many of them women, and many not born in this country - are among the least valued and lowest-paid.*

*That longstanding inequalities in our society have left too many vulnerable.*

*And that no country can stand alone in the face of common threats.*

***Yet we can also draw on new sources of hope:***

***That when faced with a crisis, government can spend wisely, at speed and at scale.***

***That care, neighbourliness and mutual support are the threads that bind our communities together.***

***That clean air and a concern for wellbeing can inspire more sustainable and enjoyable ways of living.***

***And that by working with other countries we can find common solutions to***

***the gravest problems.***

***Some have compared this crisis to the Second World War. Then, as now, it was widely agreed that there was no going back.***

***But #BuildBackBetter must be more than just a slogan. We must answer these profound questions:***

- \* How to ensure health, social care, housing and other vital public services are properly resourced and able to meet our future needs.***
- \* How to mend the inequalities in our society so that everyone, no matter their background or race, can live a decent, fulfilling life.***
- \* How to create secure, well-paid and rewarding jobs for all who want them, particularly for young people.***
- \* And how not just to build our resilience to future pandemics, but to tackle the climate and environmental emergency already upon us.***

***Many will have other questions too: like how to create a better democracy, to harness technology for public good, to build a fairer and more cooperative world.***

***Answering these questions, and more, is a challenge to us all; to governments, businesses, trade unions, civil society and citizens.***

***But it is a challenge to which, together, we can rise.***

***With the best of human values, and the determination of politicians and citizens, we can emerge from this crisis a stronger, fairer, greener country.***

***We must #BuildBackBetter.***