

Funding the Future

Keir Starmer: the broken promises

Published: February 12, 2026, 8:35 am

It is occasionally worth reminding oneself about promises made in the past and then forgotten.

These were the pledges made by Keir Starmer to become leader of the Labour Party:



The image shows a document titled 'Keir Starmer MY PLEDGES TO YOU'. It features a red header with the text 'Keir Starmer' and 'MY PLEDGES TO YOU'. Below the header is a grey banner with the text 'ANOTHER FUTURE IS POSSIBLE'. The document is divided into 10 numbered sections, each with a title and a brief description. The sections are: 1. Economic justice, 2. Social justice, 3. Climate justice, 4. Promote peace and human rights, 5. Common ownership, 6. Defend migrants' rights, 7. Strengthen workers' rights and trade unions, 8. Radical devolution of power, wealth and opportunity, 9. Equality, and 10. Effective opposition to the Tories. The text is in a white sans-serif font on a red background. The bottom of the document includes a signature and a small note: 'Promoted by Jenny Chapman on behalf of Keir Starmer, both at Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London, NW1 3ER'.

1. Economic justice	Increase income tax for the top 5% of earners, reverse the Tories' cuts in corporation tax and clamp down on tax avoidance, particularly of large corporations. No stepping back from our core principles.
2. Social justice	Abolish Universal Credit and end the Tories' cruel sanctions regime. Set a national goal for wellbeing to make health as important as GDP; invest in services that help shift to a preventative approach. Stand up for universal services and defend our NHS. Support the abolition of tuition fees and invest in lifelong learning.
3. Climate justice	Put the Green New Deal at the heart of everything we do. There is no issue more important to our future than the climate emergency. A Clean Air Act to tackle pollution locally. Demand international action on climate rights.
4. Promote peace and human rights	No more illegal wars. Introduce a Prevention of Military Intervention Act and put human rights at the heart of foreign policy. Review all UK arms sales and make us a force for international peace and justice.
5. Common ownership	Public services should be in public hands, not making profits for shareholders. Support common ownership of rail, mail, energy and water; end outsourcing out NHS, local government and justice system.
6. Defend migrants' rights	Full voting rights for EU nationals. Defend free movement as we leave the EU. An immigration system based on compassion and dignity. End indefinite detention and call for the closure of centres such as Yarl's Wood.
7. Strengthen workers' rights and trade unions	Work shoulder to shoulder with trade unions to stand up for working people, tackle insecure work and low pay. Repeal the Trade Union Act. Oppose Tory attacks on the right to take industrial action and the weakening of workplace rights.
8. Radical devolution of power, wealth and opportunity	Push power, wealth and opportunity away from Whitehall. A federal system to devolve powers – including through regional investment banks and control over regional industrial strategy. Abolish the House of Lords – replace it with an elected chamber or regions and nations.
9. Equality	Pull down obstacles that limit opportunities and talent. We are the party of the Equal Pay Act, Sure Start, BAME representation and the abolition of Section 28 – we must build on that for a new decade.
10. Effective opposition to the Tories	Forensic, effective opposition to the Tories in Parliament – linked up to our mass membership and a professional election operation. Never lost sight of the votes 'lost' to the Tories in 2019. Unite our party, promote pluralism and improve our culture. Robust action to eradicate the scourge of antisemitism. Maintain our collective link with the unions.

What have we got?

None of those things.

We have, instead, a dying Labour Party superating the stench of rotteness from every one of its remaining pores.

Some legacy and proof that breaking promises can have consequences.