

Paper I10

Mission Committee

The 2017 General Election

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a) Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Syrian War continues to wreak havoc on the lives of innocent civilians, and the wider humanitarian crises taking place in countries like South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen have not abated. But if they feel forced to leave their countries, refugees and asylum seekers continue to face immense challenges in attempting to rebuild their lives in a new country. **While the UK has donated generously to affected regions, is there also a larger role for the UK to play in hosting displaced persons? What sort of treatment should we provide for asylum seekers when they arrive in the UK?**

b) Poverty and Economic Inequality in the UK

The face of UK poverty has changed over the past two decades. Poverty in the past was tightly linked to unemployment and old-age. Today pensioners are the age-group least likely to experience poverty, and the majority of poor families are in work. Brexit will have a huge effect on the UK economy. For those in poverty the most important questions are around how wealth within the country will be distributed. An incoming government could choose to emphasise post-Brexit policies that target money on poorer areas and on the least wealthy. **Many adults are unable to work full-time or at all due to illness or care responsibilities. How should a new Government ensure that they and their children can avoid poverty?**

c) The UK's Role in the World

After leaving the European Union, the UK will want to develop further positive relationships with European and other nations. A key national interest will be the UK's trade relations with other nations. But at what cost should these trade relations be pursued? **How can the UK ensure that its achievements in the areas of human rights, climate change and international development will not be eroded by new trade agreements with large, powerful economies?**

d) The Future of the Welfare State

Doctors, nurses and teachers report finding it increasingly difficult to perform their duties amidst shrinking budgets. The rapid growth of food banks over the past five years is also raising questions about the role of the Welfare State in the UK. **How**

5.2 Charities, which include church groups, are regulated under the Charities Acts and may not support or oppose a particular political party, candidate or group of candidates, but are allowed to work and campaign in order to bring about changes in the law or government policy. During periods of campaigning, charities a