

NPC A MANIFESTO FOR OLDER PEOPLE

BY THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION



"Every older person has the right to choice, dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society".

NPC inaugural Declaration of Intent - 1979

The United Kingdom faces significant challenges - an ageing population, inadequate pensions, health and social care services in crisis, and rising poverty for millions of people, including older people. Access to essential services like housing, transport and health and social care is problematic, and is worsened by a digital-first approach that excludes many people.

Blaming older people for complex societal issues only perpetuates ageism and division. Everyone is affected by economic and environmental crises. Intergenerational fairness is important, but simply worsening the position for older people today won't solve the problems of tomorrow.

The National Pensioners' Convention urges all political parties to prioritise policies that will provide dignity and security for everybody, particularly people in later life.

The NPC represents around 1.15 million members in hundreds of different organisations across the UK. We campaign for both today's and tomorrow's pensioners. Uniting the generations in defence of the welfare state and public services is an important part of our work.

We call for:

- Urgent and sustained action on the **cost-of-living crisis**, with an effective strategy to address poverty, including a **fairer tax system** with the basic tax threshold to be retrospectively adjusted to account for inflation since its freezing, and thereafter index-linked to annual inflation rates.
- A **decent state pension**, set at 70% of the Living Wage (£294 weekly in 2024), and linked to the triple lock; maintenance of universal pensioner entitlements; a halt to the planned rise in State Pension Age.
- A **National Care Service**, funded from general taxation, free at the point of delivery, with its own independent monitoring unit, working alongside a fully funded and fully public NHS.
- Safe, dependable, accessible, and publicly owned, **public transport**; proper staffing on trains and stations, including ticket offices; improvements to the national concessionary travel scheme; and a reversal of the major decline in bus services, particularly in rural areas.
- A **major housebuilding programme** to solve the national housing crisis, including 85,000 sustainable homes yearly for older people.
- **Climate change action** to meet Net Zero targets: insulate existing homes to save energy, reduce bills and improve people's health; regulate energy profits; provide free basic energy to all households.
- An **end to digital exclusion**: ensure equitable and affordable access to information and services; maintain local access to cash.
- **Voter ID** to be scrapped. It has disenfranchised many people, especially from poorer, older, and ethnic minority communities.
- A **Commissioner for Older People** in all four nations to act as an independent champion and to ensure that policy and practice across government considers the needs of people in later life and the implications of our ageing population on society.

***"Together we can build a better future for
today's and tomorrow's pensioners."***

POST: National Pensioners' Convention, Unit 2.4
225-229 Seven Sisters Road London, N4 2DA.

TEL: 020 7837 6622 **EMAIL:** info@npcuk.org

WEB: www.npcuk.org **SOCIAL MEDIA:** @NPCUK

The logo for the National Pensioners' Convention (NPC) consists of the letters 'NPC' in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are outlined in black and have a slight shadow effect, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The 'N' and 'P' are connected at the top, and the 'C' is positioned to the right of the 'P'.