

Open letter to Keir Starmer

We welcome the fact that the Labour Party now has a policy that recognises that our voting system contributes to the distrust and alienation we see in our politics. We now call upon Keir Starmer to commit to meeting the scale of the problem with the appropriate solution: Proportional Representation for the House of Commons. This is in line with the views of the British public who, when polled, [consistently support changing to a proportional voting system](#).

Since Keir Starmer became leader, ordinary Labour members and the broader labour movement have rallied around the cause of electoral reform. We are looking forward to working with Keir Starmer and others to deliver this policy.

The UK is one of just two countries in Europe which use First Past the Post (FPTP), the other being the dictatorship in Belarus. FPTP is a distorting, undemocratic voting system that has done the UK immense damage.

With Labour's criticism of our decrepit voting system, we have a real chance to join the 87% of OECD countries that use voting systems more proportional than FPTP. When all votes count equally, countries have been shown to enjoy better social, environmental and economic outcomes - greater satisfaction with democracy, greater equality, and faster action on the climate crisis.

We urge Keir Starmer to listen to his party members and the public and include a commitment to Proportional Representation for the Commons in Labour's next manifesto, so we can finally make votes matter.

Signed,

Klina Jordan, Chief Executive, Make Votes Matter

Carla Denyer & Adrian Ramsay, Co-Leaders, Green Party of England and Wales

Andrew Boff, Conservative Chair, London Assembly

Richard Tice, Leader, Reform UK

Rhun ap Iorweth, Leader, Plaid Cymru

Mandu Reid, Leader, Women's Equality Party

Tommy Sheppard MP, Scottish National Party

Brian Eno, musician and artist

Jonathon Porritt, author and environmentalist

Mick Whelan, General Secretary, Aslef

Helen Pankhurst, activist, academic, university chancellor, author and speaker

Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy

Jennifer Nadel, Director, Compassion in Politics

Neal Lawson & Frances Foley, Director and Deputy Director, Compass

Naomi Smith, Chief Executive, Best for Britain

Marina Purkiss, political commentator

Owen Jones, journalist

Mark Kieran Chief-Executive Officer, Open Britain

George Monbiot, author, journalist, environmental activist