

## A moral economy in the service of all

Our hope and vision for 2020 is of an economy that is in service to every person irrespective of their wealth or the market value of their labour. An economy as responsive to the poorest communities as it is to the wealth and power of the richest. An economy that respects God's creation as well as the people living within it.

*“The best measure of society is how we treat the poorest and most vulnerable. A good society is one where the richest contribute most to eradicate poverty and improve society as a whole.”*

### Discussion Questions for Parliamentary candidates

- What can Government do to put morality back at the heart of global and national economic policy-making?
- What more can Government do to close the gap in wealth and incomes and tackle tax dodging at both domestic and global levels?

## Enough homes for all to flourish

Our hope and vision for 2020 is that reasonably priced homes where people can flourish are available for everyone who needs them; house prices are stable and alternative investment vehicles for savings and pensions are widely available; good quality rental properties are found at fair rents and there is a reliable safety net for all homeless people.

*“Everyone should have a clean safe bed.”*

### Discussion questions for Parliamentary candidates

- What would you do to find the money and the land to build the affordable homes both to rent and to buy that are needed?
- How can we cut the number of empty homes and reduce both overcrowding and under-occupation?

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# 2020 Vision of the Good Society

## The Good Society and the General Election

Our society is facing some fundamental challenges – rising levels of poverty and inequality, an increasing cost of living, the prospect of climate crisis. This isn't new, but whoever forms the next government will have a tough job and key decisions ahead. These will ultimately shape the type of society that we become.

The '2020 Vision' is drawn from a common desire to see a society that works for all – in which each of us are valued and which respects the Earth. In short - a society for the common good.

The 2020 Vision focusses on five key areas – wealth and inequality, home, children and young people, livelihoods, and the environment and climate. Whilst these are not the only fundamental issues of our time, they do represent areas where we feel that the churches have something particular to contribute right now.

As in other areas of life, much has been said about negativity in politics. There seems to be a growing awareness within faith and secular communities alike that, if we truly want to create a more just and sustainable society, we need a positive vision to work towards. Our starting point is therefore positive: A vision of the Good Society we want to live in by 2020, and how we can work together to build it.

This document is offered as a discussion resource by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, working with member bodies and others.

## Fulfilled lives for children and young people

Our hope and vision for 2020 is that all children and young people are enabled to live fulfilling lives, to flourish in their friendships, families and local communities; their contributions are respected and valued, and they are allowed and enabled to grow and achieve their potential.

*“A good society values everyone, regardless of age or ability.”*

### Discussion questions for Parliamentary candidates

- In what ways might you show that children and young people are valued? What can you do to ensure their voices are heard?
- What action is required to reduce the impact of poverty and neglect to enable all children and young people to fulfil their potential?
- What will you do to create an environment where all children and young people can flourish and grow?

## Secure livelihoods and dignity for all

Our hope and vision for 2020 is that all citizens have access to sufficient income to enable them to live with dignity. For the majority this comes from secure work and regular hours, paid at a Living Wage. For those on the lowest incomes, including people unable to work, the social safety net guarantees a secure minimum income, enabling people to live free from fear of destitution or the stigma of poverty.

*“A good society involves a sense of community, underpinned by justice, fairness and the inclusion of all.”*

### Discussion questions for Parliamentary candidates

- What concrete steps can be taken to put the safety net principle back at the centre of the welfare state and ensure that no one needs to be referred to a foodbank by 2020?
- What more can Government do to promote the Living Wage or in other ways to encourage employers to provide good work which enables families in employment to live with dignity?

## A global climate deal that works for us all

Our hope and vision for 2020 is that greenhouse gas emissions are falling rapidly in the UK and the Government has stood firm on its commitments in the 2008 Climate Change Act. The Government has shown leadership on this issue within the EU and UN and has helped agree a global climate deal which limits global temperature rises to 2 degrees centigrade – and works in ways which are fair for the poorest.

*“A good society is a place where we don’t just care about the present but learn from the past and prepare a better place for future generations.”*

### Discussion questions for Parliamentary candidates

- What can Government do to ensure that the transition from a high-carbon to a low-carbon economy happens in a way which is least harmful to those living in poverty, both in the UK and overseas?
- Will the UK Government exercise global leadership to secure international agreement to reduce greenhouse gases by 2020?