

# GENERAL ELECTION 2010

## THE SALVATION ARMY MANIFESTO



# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. Faith-based service delivery</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Social exclusion</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Housing and Homelessness</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. Addictions – alcohol, gambling and drugs</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. Long-Term Unemployment (Employment Plus)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. Social care – older people</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7. Families, Children and Young People</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Anti-Human trafficking</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9. Armed Forces – Red Shield Support Centres</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>10. Prison Ministries</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>11. Debt Issues</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>12. The Sanctuary Pledge</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>13. International development</b>	<b>19</b>

# GENERAL ELECTION 2010

## THE SALVATION ARMY MANIFESTO

### Executive Summary

This document comes out of The Salvation Army's deep conviction and passion for serving a hurting world. As we all prepare for the General Election we encourage you to take seriously the challenges which we perceive as being the responsibility of all of us. We know that as you prepare for your own participation in this election, there will be a number of demands on you and your time. Please see this document as coming to you from us with the highest motives and best intentions for how we work together in the communities which have been entrusted to us.

### Introduction

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its mission and ministry are motivated by the love of God. The Salvation Army therefore seeks to meet human needs in his name without discrimination. Today, The Salvation Army is an apolitical international Christian church and charity operating in 120 countries.

In the UK and the Republic of Ireland, The Salvation Army has over 800 centres and is one of the largest and most diverse providers of social welfare after the UK Government. Every day, we address a broad range of social policy programmes – from homelessness to human trafficking to help for the elderly and much more besides.

This document outlines some of the key areas of The Salvation Army's work, and how our charitable response relates to Government policy. These areas of work are rooted in who we are and what we do. We urge Government to a key and ongoing task – that of enabling individuals to find and achieve their true potential.

## 1. Faith-based service delivery

The Salvation Army offers its services to all people without discrimination, regardless of who they are. We retain the values that make us distinctive whilst not seeking to impose our views on others. We already work closely with the Office of the Third Sector, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission in order to support the equality agenda.

Faith-based charities need to be free to express why they exist without the assumption from commissioners of public services that faith is idiosyncratic or, worse, inappropriate. Faith is a legitimate motivation for public service provision. The Salvation Army lives by the principle that our Christian belief is expressed through social action providing hope for the hopeless.

***The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to ensure that faith-based charities which provide a public service are allowed to maintain their ethos and 'distinctives'. We call for clear endorsement of charities like The Salvation Army so that we may continue to provide necessary services to society, without the threat that accepting public money will mean that we will be required to dilute or distance ourselves from our faith-based cultures or which would result in those cultures being removed entirely from the service provision.***



## 2. Social exclusion

The Salvation Army's high-profile research programme, *The Seeds of Exclusion*, has been in place since 2006. It investigates how patterns of early-life experience contain the seeds of future social exclusion. It also provides an insight into the nature, complexity and severity of problems facing homeless people in Salvation Army social service centres.

The reports, produced in collaboration with the University of Kent and the University of Cardiff, involved a series of in-depth interviews with homeless people using Salvation Army centres in various regions of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

The studies focused on interviewees' current needs in relation to their early-life experiences, relationships, mental health issues, substance misuse and the support respondents received for their complex needs. This research was supplemented by consultations with several focus groups and detailed interviews with leading experts in the areas of social exclusion, social reform, mental health and spiritual matters. So far, the research has resulted in three major reports – *The Seeds of Exclusion 2008*, *The Seeds of Exclusion 2009* and *The Seeds of Exclusion Belfast and Dublin Report, 2009*.

*The Seeds of Exclusion* programme challenges us all to do more to address the causes and outcomes of social exclusion, and highlights the importance of the role of third sector organisations which currently provide much of the support received by this marginalised, and largely forgotten, group. The current financial and economic climate makes this an even greater challenge, but it is one that must be addressed if social exclusion is not to become a perpetuating cycle of deprivation in our society.

In order to help address poverty, The Salvation Army is a member of the European Anti-Poverty Network and a member of Church Action on Poverty's Get Fair Campaign. The Salvation Army also supports a micro tax on financial transactions. A small tax on the banks could raise billions of pounds for poverty alleviation at home and abroad. The Salvation Army is a member of the Robin Hood Tax coalition.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to**

- **give greater recognition to the role of third sector and faith groups that are working in communities to identify families and individuals at risk. This is particularly true for people with complex and severe problems**

who would otherwise fail to engage with statutory services which they may perceive as threatening or inaccessible.

- *develop support services which facilitate the nurturing of good-quality relationships between children and their parent(s). Families at risk of social exclusion need to be engaged with services that reach the wider community, with the emphasis on building social networks and consequent social capital. Faith-based organisations are already well placed to do this and their role should not be underestimated.*



### 3. Housing and Homelessness

Fighting against homelessness remains central to the mission of The Salvation Army. After the Government, we are the largest provider of services to homeless people in the UK and Ireland with 82 residential and day services. We also have a network of over 700 churches providing services to the community and to marginalised groups.

We are currently undergoing a radical rebirth of our homelessness strategy, returning to the work which William Booth, the Founder of The Salvation Army, outlined in his groundbreaking book of 1891, *In Darkest England and the Way Out*. This philosophy is one which aims to restore people permanently and is not just providing a 'quick fix' through solving short-term housing and financial issues. We do not believe that housing solves homelessness. Providing a sense of purpose and positive personal relationships are the key factors in providing a solution to social exclusion. 46% of homeless people state that relationship breakdown is the reason for their homelessness.

96% of our residents are unemployed, and therefore we determined to develop services to tackle this. The Salvation Army has launched an innovative, nationwide initiative to employ over 900 young unemployed people referred from Jobcentre Plus. These young people will support our staff in providing meaningful activities to our homeless residents and also engage them in community action. In addition, we have created the first relationship service for homeless people so they can learn the skills to (re)build broken family ties and develop new strong relationships. We confirm our continuing commitment to social enterprise and to providing on-the-job training and life skills.

#### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- **provide an integrated response** involving Government departments, agencies and the third sector for 'people in transition'. Currently there is only extremely limited provision for the most vulnerable – those moving out of prison, mental healthcare or the armed forces (some of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress).
- **secure engagement from the Department of Work and Pensions to get homeless people back to work.** We believe the current Government's Places of Change programme proves that work and training schemes within hostels have been a major success in increasing the numbers of people moving on. However, there remain barriers and disincentives, such as the 16-hour rule, which make it difficult for residents in our homeless centres to return to work.

- **recognise the growing problem of those homeless people forced into destitution with no recourse to public funds.** We encourage the continuation of good work being done by the Department for Communities and Local Government to find pragmatic solutions in tackling the exponential growth of rough sleepers who are from A8 and A2 countries. We do, however, believe that extra funding is required to provide residential centres for those who are being reconnected to their home country or looking for work. Without this such people quickly develop high support needs and live in destitution on the streets. We also believe that the hardship grant for failed asylum seekers does not succeed in stopping the disturbing levels of destitution in that population, many of whom remain for several years before being deported. There should, at least, be some consideration around the rules regarding them volunteering or working to help them to remain independent while awaiting decisions on their futures.



## 4. Addictions – alcohol, gambling and drugs

The Salvation Army operates six residential projects specifically helping those with addiction issues. We have many years' experience of dealing with the consequences of substance misuse, particularly of alcohol and drugs.

The Salvation Army welcomes the recent report on binge drinking prepared by the Health Select Committee.

The Salvation Army actively participates on the Gambling Commission's Community Liaison Group and works closely with officials and ministers from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, including the Minister.

The Salvation Army seeks to ensure that all legislation and regulation in this sensitive area puts the protection of children and vulnerable adults as its priority.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *apply a single minimum per unit price for alcohol, combined with restrictions on licensing hours, drinks promotions, advertising and sponsorship. These measures could save thousands of lives and billions of pounds a year.*
- *ensure that treatment facilities for people with alcohol problems are properly funded and that third sector agencies in this field are adequately supported.*
- *prioritise treatment for drug addicts arrested for acquisitive crime, rather than incarceration.*
- *adequately fund research into problem gambling, particularly amongst young people, and commit to come into line with other EU countries by preventing children from gambling.*
- *maintain funding for the Gambling Commission and its work to hold operators to account.*



## 5. Long -Term Unemployment (Employment Plus)

‘Work for All’ has always been at the heart of The Salvation Army’s social provision. In fact The Salvation Army opened the first labour exchange in the UK in 1890 in London. The Salvation Army’s latest initiative, Employment Plus UK unit, was established in 2007, specifically to help and support the long-term unemployed and those furthest from the labour market into sustainable and satisfying employment.

We do this in several ways. We provide employment programmes for those with whom we already work – for example, those in our residential homeless centres or accessing our daycare provision. We work in partnership with Welfare to Work providers to enable them to reach into communities by using The Salvation Army’s community locations. Mainly, we provide delivery as a prime or sub-contractor.

The Salvation Army is currently engaged in several Flexible New Deal contracts, running a large Future Job Fund programme and delivering Jobcentre Plus Support Centre modules. We believe that providing work-focused programmes and activities in isolation will not lead to sustained employment and that the personal barriers to employment have to be removed in tandem with these activities. Due to our extensive experience in this area we are able to provide an holistic service to job-seekers, providing the wrap-around services required to address these issues alongside other work-focused providers.

Across the UK, The Salvation Army runs 10 dedicated Employment Resource Centres providing lifelong learning courses and apprenticeships, while a further 21 church and social centres have added employment programmes to their service provision. In the current year The Salvation Army’s Employment Plus UK anticipates that it will engage this year with around 5,000 unemployed people, helping to address these issues and placing them into work or training.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *continue to provide funding for sustainable employment services, which are the key to economic recovery, but to particularly ensure that sufficient funding is available to give the appropriate support to those furthest from the labour market to enable them to enter and sustain employment.*
- *take the appropriate steps to enable third sector and local providers to more substantially bring their innovative and special skills to contribute to tackling unemployment and the causes of long-term unemployment amongst the hardest to help.*

- operate a more 'joined-up' approach to long-term unemployment between Government department budgets, so that services are not offered in isolation.
- establish a high pay commission and/or a national maximum pay differential limit between the lowest paid and the highest paid. While low pay and the minimum wage require serious consideration, the effects of extreme income inequality are severe and numerous with a strong causal relationship to many social ills. No major political party has taken a strong enough stand in response to these realities.
- recognise the vital importance of the role of parents, both mothers and fathers, in the upbringing of young children by investing far more substantially in universal childcare and in extended, paid paternity leave.



## 6. Social care – older people

The Salvation Army does all it can to ensure that older people are treated with dignity, receive care when they require it, and have the opportunity to retain as much independence as possible. We aim to acknowledge and value older people and the contribution they make to life and society by continuing to provide a wide range of facilities to support their independence. In response to local needs and in conjunction with social services and other local agencies, we provide daycare programmes, luncheon clubs, drop-in centres, cafes, home visits, sheltered housing and 17 residential homes for those who can no longer manage in their own homes and require more constant care. The care provided in residential centres includes care for people with dementia and, as a Christian organisation, The Salvation Army also seeks to meet older people's spiritual as well as physical needs, when appropriate.

***The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to provide adequate funding for social care provision for those who cannot afford to pay.***



## 7. Families, Children and Young People

The Salvation Army recognises and affirms the place of strong families as a basis for a strong community. Throughout 700 of The Salvation Army's churches, community centres and residential family centres there are numerous programmes to support parents, in varied family structures, offer education and parenting skills and an environment to foster friendship and self-confidence. Extensive, creative programmes exist to develop and provide positive social education for children and young people geared to their needs, capacities and good.

As part of the wider community framework The Salvation Army works with schools to offer a safe environment through breakfast and after-school clubs and holiday club provision.

The Salvation Army responds to the challenge of excluded youth through innovative music education as a catalyst to engage with education, develop skills, build self-esteem and develop good relationships.

As young people develop, The Salvation Army encourages involvement as volunteers and seeks to develop personal initiative and leadership skills.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the Next Government to**

- *confirm the vital importance of family, children and young people, address and resource positive parenting, tackle the issues which may lead to social exclusion, encourage capacity and self-determination to enable people, even the youngest, to achieve their potential of body and mind and spirit.*

*It is right and essential for our society to confirm the place and values of faith groups as providing a positive and significant support to families and communities.*



## 8. Anti-Human trafficking

The Salvation Army works with governments, organisations and agencies around the world on the issue of human trafficking. In the UK we advise and work with the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and other associated Government and multi-agency groups on anti-human trafficking issues of national importance. We have a dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking Response Co-ordinator who leads on a support and education programme which aims to reduce human trafficking, restore abused women and respond practically to this modern-day slavery.

In the UK, The Salvation Army is one of the main charity/not-for-profit providers of safe accommodation for victims of human trafficking. Our centre (at an undisclosed site) provides not just housing, but also therapeutic and ongoing support and care for extremely vulnerable and victimised women. The Salvation Army receives no public funding for this work. Such public funding invariably comes with a condition that any assisted person give evidence to prosecutors. The Salvation Army will not insist on this, should a victim of human trafficking turn to us for help.

*Following recent indications (including media reports) that the resources currently being put into anti-human trafficking work may be reduced, including the disbanding of specialist anti-trafficking teams, **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government** not only to guarantee continuing resources for specialist anti-human trafficking teams but also to provide increased resources for non-conditional refugee accommodation for the victims of human trafficking.*



## 9. Armed Forces - Red Shield Support Centres

The Salvation Army Red Shield Defence Services has a clear role in supporting of members of the armed forces and their families in the UK, British Forces Germany and the Falkland Islands through ministries of hospitality and pastoral care.

Recent research, including the *Seeds of Exclusion* reports, suggests that members of the armed forces are particularly vulnerable to relationship breakdown, unemployment and/or homelessness in the years following return to civilian life.

***The Salvation Army calls on the Government to provide more integrated care and support for those leaving the armed forces and for those suffering from physical or mental injury.***



## 10. Prison Ministries

From its earliest days The Salvation Army has been involved in prison ministry. Initially the concern was to meet prisoners at the gate as they were released and accompany them either to their homes or to some place of safety.

Today, things are vastly different. Some of the spheres of work done by The Salvation Army in those days have been taken over by statutory agencies but we still have a strong commitment to working with prisoners. Salvation Army chaplains are in post in many prisons in the United Kingdom. Believing that the love of God is unconditional, Salvation Army chaplains work as part of established chaplaincy teams and come alongside prisoners in a ministry of practical, non-judgemental caring.

Our *Seeds of Exclusion* research shows that people moving from prisons can tend to gravitate to our homelessness centres. One of our strategies is to support those people in transition.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *Set out clear targets to ensure that prison overcrowding is diminished and that people are treated humanely*
- *Ensure that sentencing guidelines are proportionate and do not lead to further prison overcrowding*
- *Tackle re-offending rates for prisoners, especially short-sentence prisoners, by providing access to work or education courses. This step alone would save the taxpayer billions of pounds spent on re-offenders each year*



## 11. Debt Issues

In October 1890, the Founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth, launched his book and scheme *In Darkest England and the Way Out*. In this book Booth spoke of the submerged tenth, estimated at 3 million people in the UK. Today, 13 million people or a submerged fifth of people in the UK are living in poverty. So, 120 years after Booth's groundbreaking work, the rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. This can be additionally evidenced by the number of people in debt, the massive debt burden on people in the UK and the number of new homeless people due to job losses and inability to pay mortgages.

The Salvation Army is in discussion with the Financial Services Agency and their MoneyMadedclear programme to investigate closer working with them in budgeting training and signposting.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *Introduce a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) which should be targeted at assisting those working with the most vulnerable*
- *Ensure additional free debt advice services are made available through the third sector*
- *Instigate stricter regulations on the financial industry*
- *Ensure taxation, both direct and indirect, does not adversely affect the poor*



## 12. The Sanctuary Pledge

The Salvation Army believes that the UK's tradition of sanctuary is precious. We subscribe to the key values which the Independent Asylum Commission identified that the majority of British people want to underpin the treatment of people fleeing persecution, namely:

People fleeing persecution should be able to find sanctuary in safe countries like the UK.

The UK should have an effective system for controlling our borders that lets those seeking sanctuary in, as well as keeping irregular migrants out.

The UK should have a fair and effective decision-making body that takes pride in giving sanctuary to those who need it and denies it to those who do not.

People seeking sanctuary should be treated fairly and humanely, have access to essential support and public services, and should make a contribution to the UK if they are able.

Once a decision has been made, the UK should act swiftly, effectively and in a controlled way – either to assist integration or to effect a swift, safe and sustainable return for those who have had a fair hearing and have been refused sanctuary.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *Campaign responsibly, positively and sensitively, make clear the difference between sanctuary and economic migration, and not seek to gain electoral advantage by pandering to fears about people seeking sanctuary.*
- *Use 'sanctuary' instead of 'asylum' when communicating with the public. Promote greater understanding by using words like 'sanctuary' and 'people seeking sanctuary' which are positively understood by the public, instead of 'asylum' and 'asylum seeker' which the public do not understand and most people react to negatively.*
- *Support policies that will end the detention of children and families for immigration reasons.*
- *Promote understanding and neighbourliness between local communities.*
- *Work with local authorities, voluntary, faith and citizen groups to form sanctuary welcoming groups to bridge the divide between those seeking*

sanctuary and the local population and encourage positive encounters between communities and local people.

- Safeguard the long-term future of sanctuary. Once elected, contact all schools to ensure that no child leaves education without being aware of the UK's past and present role as a safe haven.



## 13. International development

The Salvation Army is heavily engaged in community development and social action in 120 countries worldwide. We are addressing these needs through educational provision, anti-human trafficking programmes, water and sanitation projects, work with individuals and families of those affected by HIV/Aids, support of orphans and vulnerable children, agricultural and health programmes, emergency relief and projects encouraging the development of fair trade, social enterprise and income-generating initiatives. The Salvation Army is also supporting initiatives to tackle climate change and help the world's poorest adapt to the effects of climate change they are already experiencing.

### **The Salvation Army calls on the next Government to:**

- *demonstrate a wholehearted commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by providing a clear strategy by the end of 2010 for how we will ensure the MDGs will be met within the next five years (as agreed in 2000), and how current Government policies that are harmful to developing countries will be addressed.*
- *commit to cutting UK carbon emissions by 40% by 2020 and by more than 80% by 2050 without resorting to offsets, and in addition supporting developing countries towards low-carbon development and green economies and providing these countries with additional funds for climate adaptation. We would also urge the UK Government to take a lead in the EU to agree to at least equal (to the UK) cuts in emissions and to provide sufficient and verifiable new funding and technology transfer to the developing world. The EU should be responsible for at least one third of the minimum £150 billion needed annually by developing countries by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation.*
- *commit to spending at least 0.7% of national income on effective aid by 2013 at the latest and cancelling all illegitimate and unpayable developing country debt through the creation of a democratic and transparent debt tribunal. We also call for a commitment to deliver this aid effectively and transparently through civil society (including faith-based organisations), co-ordinated by a strong voice within Government through an independent Department for International Development represented by a Secretary of State.*



## **The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and a Registered Charity**

The Salvation Army  
UK Territory with the Republic of Ireland  
101 Newington Causeway  
London  
SE1 6BN

020 7367 4500

[public.affairs@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:public.affairs@salvationarmy.org.uk)  
[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/publicaffairs](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/publicaffairs)

Registered Charity No. 214779, and in Scotland SC009359  
Social Trust: No.215174, and in Scotland SCO37691  
Republic of Ireland: Registered Charity No. CHY6399