Less State: More Family

UKIP’s Families and Children spokesperson, Alan Craig, begins to set out his vision for UKIP as the only pro-family party in Britain.

It’s an honour to be appointed UKIP’s first-ever Families and Children spokesperson.

The two-parent family is the bedrock of a healthy society and the best place to nurture the next generation, and I intend to be its champion. I also recognise that in a democratic society (and in a political party like UKIP) people are and must be free to choose, prefer and promote other forms of personal domestic arrangement.

UKIP is a small-government party and I aim to get the interfering state off the backs of families. My driving long-term aim will be Less State: More Family.

A sample of my policy priorities:

- **Grooming gang atrocities:** We must urgently develop a robust UKIP response to the national grooming gang scandal that has ruined thousands of young girls’ lives while politically-correct local authorities looked the other way.

- **Fiscal support for the family:** We need to develop policies to increase support for family and marriage, and to reverse the decline of the two-parent family. Britain has one of the most family-unfriendly tax and benefit regimes in the developed world according to experts, and there is a significant bias against single-earner couple households especially in the middle-income bracket. Further, welfare benefits decline rapidly for single mothers who admit to cohabiting (part of the “couple penalty”). This provides a major disincentive to entering into new permanent and supportive relationships. According to the Centre for Social Justice, a living-apart young couple with a baby could lose up to £7,100 a year if they move in together.

- **Feckless and absent fathers:** Boys are drastically underperforming on many fronts compared with girls. This is partly due to the increasing number of boys who grow up in a home with no father-figure or male role-model. We must develop policies that encourage fathers to be adult and to face up to their paternal responsibilities.

- **Transgenderism:** Although it is rising and right-on, the PC ideology of transgenderism undermines the family, sows confusion, is unscientific and irrational, and is based on untruth. UKIP must develop an urgent political strategy to combat it.

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