

Migration is Britain's superpower, The Guardian 3 October 2025

The mask has slipped in British politics. Labour is capitulating to the anti-migrant talking points of Reform. But I am here to do what others won't. To tell the truth about what makes our country great and what makes it not so great. While others thrive on creating scapegoats, I am here to tell you a different story.

The tapestry of cultural life in Britain is what makes our nation strong. From the doctors, nurses and carers who staff our NHS and who look after our elderly people, to the entrepreneurs, artists and teachers who enrich our culture and economy. Migration is our DNA as a country, it is our superpower.

Britain has always been built on the contribution of people who've arrived here to build a better life, and our future depends on us embracing that truth, not denying it. Until we do this, we will always be handwringing and trying to ineffectually factcheck Nigel Farage's claims about migrants.

Our rents are high and our wages are low. Our services are crumbling while our debt is growing. But these crises weren't caused by migration. They were caused by political choices made in Westminster. It was austerity that stripped our communities bare, privatisation that handed public goods to people seeking profit, and tax breaks that showered wealth on the very richest.

Meanwhile, in villages, towns and cities across the UK, people are facing the same problems. Families wondering how they'll pay the rent or the gas bill. Pensioners cutting back on heating while energy companies rake in astronomical profits.

Labour directs them to be angry at those who have less than them – making demonstrably false claims that “cheap overseas labour” is driving down wages. I say the opposite. We are now one of the most unequal countries in Europe. The richest 1% hold more wealth than the bottom 70% combined. Public services are stretched to breaking point, but private shareholders keep cashing in. It is not a lack of resources. It is a lack of political will from the very politicians who take money from the richest 1%.

There is an alternative. An end to rip-off privatisation so water, rail and energy work for people, not shareholders. Universal free childcare, to give every child the best start, and every parent real freedom. Rent controls and investment in warm, affordable homes. Real investment in green jobs and infrastructure, and a Green New Deal that doesn't just cut carbon but transforms communities, lowers bills and creates opportunity.

This isn't just possible. It is essential.

By Zack Polanski is the leader of the Green party

'Try again': McDonald's women's day stunt criticized as hollow gesture

The move to flip its arches to a 'W' for Women's Day was questioned by people who called on McDonald's to pay its employees a living wage



📷 McDonald's 'M' logo is turned upside down in honour of International Women's Day in Lynwood, California. Photograph: HANDOUT/Reuters