

# **COMPASSION IN POLITICS**

## **POLLING TO DATE**

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### **POLL ONE: OCTOBER 2018**

- 1009 people surveyed by Suration
- Full results: <https://www.suration.com/majority-60-of-the-public-think-that-politicians-are-not-compassionate-enough/>

#### **60% THINK POLITICIANS ARE NOT COMPASSIONATE ENOUGH**

- 28% say they are, 12% not sure
- 68% of Labour voters agree politicians are not compassionate enough, 51% of Conservative voters
- 80% of those who say that politicians are not compassionate enough think this is detrimental to the political system.
- 61% say that if politicians were more compassionate then they would be more likely to engage in politics.

### **POLL TWO: JUNE 2019**

- 2003 people surveyed by Opinium
- Full results: <https://www.opinium.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/OP12494-Compassion-in-Politics-tables.xlsx>

#### **66% THINK BRITAIN HAS BECOME LESS COMPASSIONATE**

- Only 12% disagree
- Results are similar across age groups and genders
- Supporters of Labour (79%), the Liberal Democrats (70%), SNP (74%), and Green (68%) are most likely to agree but Conservative voters (60%) are not far behind.

#### **66% PEOPLE WOULD LIKE THE NEXT CONSERVATIVE LEADER TO BE MORE COMPASSIONATE**

- Just 6% disagree
- That includes 61% of Conservative voters
- For other parties, the result is very high: Labour 81%, Liberal Democrat 76%, SNP 72%, and Green 74%.

#### **86% THINK THERE SHOULD BE SOCIAL SAFETY NET FOR THOSE WHO FALL ON HARD TIMES**

- The support increases with age: 77% amongst 18-34 year olds up to 92% amongst those who are 55+

- Conservative voters represent the average across society - 86% of them agree with there being a safety net.
- For other parties the results are even higher - all of them are around 90% agreement.

### **74% THINK POLITICS IS TOO FOCUSED ON THE SHORT-TERM AT THE EXPENSE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 42% agree strongly
- Results were broadly similar across age groups
- There was strong agreement from each group of voters: 69% of Conservatives, 83% Labour, 88% Liberal Democrat, 84% SNP, and 80% Green.

### **79% AGREE POLITICS DOES NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC**

- 18-34 year olds had the lowest score on this question but they still came in at 70%. For those aged 55+ the figure was 84%.
- 72% of Conservative supporters agree with the statement, 80% of Labour, 84% of Liberal Democrats, 89% SNP, and 83% Green.

### **68% AGREE SOCIETY SHOULD BE JUDGED ON HOW IT TREATS THE LEAST WELL-OFF**

- Just 7% disagree
- 58% of Conservative voters, 82% Labour, 82% Liberal Democrat, 80% SNP, and 76% Greens agree.

### **64% THINK GOVERNMENT POLICIES SHOULD BE JUDGED FIRSTLY BY THE IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THE POOREST**

- Only 9% disagree
- Results are broadly similar across ages and genders
- 52% of Conservatives agree - 14% disagree
- 84% of Labour supporters agree, 70% of Liberal Democrat, 79% of SNP, and 76% Green.

### **82% THINK POLITICIANS ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH INSULTING EACH-OTHER THAN SOLVING BRITISH POLICY ISSUES**

- 50% agree strongly
- Only 3% disagree
- Older generations are most likely to strongly agree - 56% of 55+ strongly agree compared to 40% of 18-34 year olds.
- All parties show similar results for agreeing with this statement: Conservative 81%, Labour 84%, Liberal Democrat 81%, SNP 84%, and Green 83%.

## **POLL THREE: JUNE / JULY 2019**

- 2000 people surveyed by Opinium

- See full data tables:

[https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7\\_d1f268f8a1a7466dae06f9cd1e92784a.xlsx](https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7_d1f268f8a1a7466dae06f9cd1e92784a.xlsx)

### **PEOPLE THINK GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF TOUCH**

- When asked how they would describe the UK government, 49% said distant and 36% bureaucratic.
- Just 7% said it represents them, 7% think it responds to the opinions of people like them, and only 4% said they think it is compassionate.
- Opinions are broadly similar across genders but the older generation are more likely than the young to think of the government as distant: 37% of 18-34 year olds think that compared to 58% of 55+.
- Conservative voters were less likely to think of the government as distant or bureaucratic but still roughly 1 in 3 believe that to be the case (33% and 36% respectively). Just 6% of Conservative voters think the government is compassionate to them – the same figure as for Labour and Liberal Democrat.

### **71% AGREE WITH OUR PROPOSAL TO CREATE CONSTITUENCY BOARDS, SELECTED BY SORTITION, TO MEET WITH THEIR MP FOUR TIMES A YEAR**

- 36% strongly support.
- The strongest support is with the older age group: 62% of 18-34 year olds back the idea compared to 79% of those who are 55+.
- Just 6% oppose the idea.
- Support is evenly spread across political parties: 74% of Conservative and Labour supporters back the idea.

### **70% WOULD LIKE TO SEE MINISTERS DO WORK EXPERIENCE IN THEIR PORTFOLIO**

- 39% strongly support.
- Only 7% oppose.
- Women are more likely than men to back the suggestion: 76% are in favour compared to 63% of men.
- As above, older people are even more enthusiastic: 78% of those 55+ like the idea of ministers doing work experience.
- 67% of Conservative voters endorse the idea; 75% of Labour voters.

### **67% WANT MPS TO DO WORK EXPERIENCE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCY**

- Only 8% oppose.
- Women are the most enthusiastic about the idea: 72% like the idea compared to 63% of men.
- Support is broadly even across parties: 66% of Conservative, 69% Labour, and 64% of Liberal Democrat voters are in favour.

### **69% WANT MPS TO BE INVOLVED IN REWRITING MPS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Support is fairly even between men and women.
- Only 7% oppose the idea.
- Those who are older are keener to take part in such a consultation: 79% of 55+ would like to see it happen, 56% of 18-34 year olds and 67% of 35-54 year olds.
- The support across parties is pretty uniform: 70% of Conservative voters are in favour, 75% of Labour voters, and 72% of Liberal Democrats.

### **POLL FOUR: AUGUST 2019**

- 2002 people polled by Opinium
- Full results: <https://www.opinium.co.uk/op12850-compassion-in-politics/>

### **POLITICIANS ARE LEAST TRUSTED PROFESSION IN THE UK**

- Asked to rank professions according to how much they trust them, the public produced the following list: 1. Nurse. 2. Doctor. 3. Teacher. 4. Police officer. 5. Civil servant. 6. Diplomat. 7. Journalist. 8. Banker. 9. Politician

### **43% WOULD WORRY ABOUT THEIR CHILD GOING INTO POLITICS BECAUSE IT IS DISTRUSTFUL**

- 22% would not be worried

### **40% THINK POLITICS IS NOT AN ADMIRABLE CAREER**

- 20% think it is

### **54% DO NOT RESPECT POLITICIANS**

- 18% do

### **34% WOULD DISCOURAGE A FRIEND FROM ENTERING POLITICS BECAUSE IT IS A SELFISH PROFESSION**

- 24% would not

### **40% WOULD NOT WANT A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND TO DATE A POLITICIAN**

- 21% wouldn't mind

### **POLL FIVE: AUGUST 2019**

- 2000 people polled by Opinium
- See full tables: [https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7\\_ce86f23c8c22491ab0f3ca94cc36bf74.xlsx](https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7_ce86f23c8c22491ab0f3ca94cc36bf74.xlsx)

### **43% ARE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A PARTY IF IT SUPPORTED OR PROPOSED THE COMPASSION ACT**

- 8% are less likely

- Results are even between genders and across ages
- Support is strongest in the North East (53%), London (53%), South East (47%), and West Midlands (47%).
- Of the three main parties, support is lowest among Conservative voters (34%) and highest with Liberal Democrats (57%). 51% of Labour supporters would vote for a party proposing or promoting the Compassion Act.

## **POLL SIX: SEPTEMBER 2019**

- 2004 polled by Opinium
- See full data tables:  
[https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7\\_5ccffe51381547f3a1056da6982d6632.xlsx](https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7_5ccffe51381547f3a1056da6982d6632.xlsx)

### **42% LIKE THE FACT MPS HAVE BEEN COOPERATING CROSS-PARTY**

- 29% oppose it
- Support is strongest with 18-34 year olds: 48% are in favour of this kind of behaviour.
- Support is broadly even across genders.
- Geographically, support is strongest in London (61%), the North West (45%) and Yorkshire and Humber (47%)
- Conservative voters were least supportive (23% in favour) – Labour (68%) and Liberal Democrats (77%) much more in favour.

### **38% WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE CROSS-PARTY COOPERATION**

- Once again support was higher for 18-34 year olds (44%) than 35-54 (37%) or 55+ (33%).
- Support was again strongest in London (48%) and Yorkshire and Humber (42%).
- As above, Conservatives were less enthusiastic (20% would support more cross-party cooperation) but Labour (60%) and Liberal Democrats (70%) are certainly in favour.

### **51% ARE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE WHO PUTS COMPASSION BEFORE PARTY**

- Only 11% are less likely
- 18-34 year olds are most likely to vote for this (59%) compared to 55+ (45%)
- 37% of Conservative supporters would back a candidate who put compassion ahead of party – 67% of Labour and 67% of Liberal Democrat supporters.

## **POLL SEVEN: NOVEMBER 2019**

- 2001 people polled by Opinium
- Link to full tables: <https://www.opinium.co.uk/op13453-compassion-in-politics-tables/>

## **PUBLIC PERCEIVE BEHAVIOUR OF CANDIDATES DURING AN ELECTION AS A HUGE PROBLEM FOR OUR POLITICS**

- 79% of people think the language politicians use is a problem
- 86% think candidates at election time do not show one another enough respect
- 87% think candidates don't really put the interests of the public first
- 83% agree that the way candidates behave in an election creates greater divisions in society
- 53% say the behaviour of candidates puts them off politics.

## **CANDIDATES WHO ARE PERCEIVED AS BEHAVING RESPECTFULLY MORE LIKELY TO GAIN VOTES**

- 79% of people say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who they perceive as behaving with respect to others.
- This statement received support across all parties: 77% of Conservative voters agreed, 85% of Labour, and 87% of Liberal Democrats.

## **THERE IS A LOT OF SUPPORT FOR A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MPS**

- 76% of people support the idea of introducing a new code of conduct for MPs to government behaviour.
- Again this gains cross-party support from Conservatives (76%), Labour (85%), and Liberal Democrats (85).

## **POLL EIGHT: NOVEMBER 2019**

- 2003 people polled by Opinium
- See full data tables:  
[https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7\\_93bda0f3afb441aaaa102616c48c9486.xlsx](https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/455da7_93bda0f3afb441aaaa102616c48c9486.xlsx)

## **THE PUBLIC DO NOT SEE POLITICS AS A CAREER FOR PUBLIC-SERVICE MINDED PEOPLE**

- Only 22% think this is the case with only 7% agreeing strongly.
- One in four disagree strongly with this statement.
- Overall 48% disagree.

## **PEOPLE WANT POLITICAL PARTIES TO SPEND LESS TIME CRITICISING EACHOTHER**

- 78% agree with this statement
- Just 5% disagree.

## **THE PUBLIC AGREES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF POLITICIANS RECEIVED COMPASSION TRAINING TO HELP THEM RECONNECT WITH THE PUBLIC AND THEIR COLLEAGUES**

- 63% agree with the idea of introducing compassion training to parliament.
- Just 10% opposed the idea.