

harriet harman

Harriet's  
Blog



## Harriet Harman Resigns From Labour, Defects to Tories (PRESS STATEMENT)

Posted by Harriet in [Campaigning](#) | *April 25th, 2008*

To friends, foes and fans,

Below is a copy of the resignation letter that landed on Gordon's desk this morning. I couldn't be bothered to type a completely new one, seeing as Quentin Davies (LO-SER!) had written a perfectly good one [here](#), I thought I'd just change the relevant sections... a swap for a swap if you like. All opinions are welcome. For an explanation of what led to this landmark decision, please read my much more interesting [blog here](#)

### **Harriet Harman Resignation from the Labour Party: Letter to David Cameron and statement to Press** **Letter to David Cameron**

Rt. Hon.Gordon Brown M.P.  
Leader of the Labour Party/Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
London  
SWIA OAA

25 April 2008

I have been a member of the Labour Party for over 30 years, and have served for 26 years in the Parliamentary Party, in a variety of backbench and front bench roles. This has usually been a great pleasure, and always a great privilege. It is therefore with much sadness that I write you this letter. But you are entitled to know the truth.

Under your leadership the Labour Party appears to me to have ceased collectively to believe in anything, or to stand for anything. It has no bedrock. It exists on shifting sands. A sense of mission has been replaced by a PR agenda.

For the first 25 years of my time in the House, in common I imagine with the great majority of my colleagues, it never occurred to me to leave the Party, whatever its current vicissitudes. Ties of familiarity, of friendship, and above all of commitment to constituency supporters are for all of us very strong and incredibly difficult to break. But they cannot be the basis for living a lie – for continuing in an organisation when one no longer has respect for its leadership or understanding of its aims. I have come to that appreciation slowly and painfully and as a result of many things, some of which are set out below.

The first horrible realisation that I might not be able to continue came last year. My initial reaction was to suppress it.

You had come to office as Leader of the Party **committed to break a solemn agreement we had with the country to give them a referendum on the European Constitution, now known cunningly as the Lisbon Treaty.** For seven months you vacillated, and during that time we had several conversations. It was quite clear to me that you had no qualms in principle about tearing up this agreement, and that it was only the balance of prevailing political pressures which led you ultimately to stop short of doing so i.e You are a wimp, Gordo!  
You also broke your promise to let me be Deputy Prime Minister and run the Deputy Leadership elections unopposed, just like you.

Of course I knew that you had put yourself in a position such that if you gave the referendum you would be breaking other promises you had given to colleagues, and on which many of them had counted in voting for you at the leadership election where of course you were the only contestant. But that I fear only made the position worse. The trouble with trying to face both ways is that you are likely to lose everybody's confidence.

Aside from the rather significant issues of principle involved, you have of course paid a practical price for your easy promises. You are the first Prime Minister of this country to be completely upstaged on his recent visit to America, by his holiness the pope, who by all accounts is a dodderly old man. Up to, and very much including, Tony Blair, your superior predecessor.

I have never done business with people who deliberately break contracts, and I knew last year that if you did not give the European Referendum, or make me Deputy Prime Minister I could no longer remain in a party under your leadership.

In fact you held back and I tried to put this ugly incident out of my mind and carry on. But the last year has been a series of shocks and disappointments. You have displayed to the full both the vacuity and the cynicism of your favourite slogan "When I wake up every morning, something or other".

One day in January, I think a Wednesday or Thursday, you and Alistair Darling discovered that David Cameron was to make a speech on your disgraceful 10p tax cut. You wished to avoid the hassle. So without any consultation with anyone – experts, think tanks, the industry, even the Shadow Cabinet – you announced a visit to the US, which was so cack-handed you managed to be upstaged by His Holiness. The PR pressures had overridden any considerations of economic rationality or national interest, or even what would have been to others normal businesslike prudence.

Equally it seems that your hasty rejection of Fidel Castro as a Hero of the Left nuclear energy as a "last resort" was also driven by your PR imperatives rather than by other considerations. Many colleagues hope that that will be the subject of your next u-turn.

You regularly (I think on a pre-arranged PR grid or timetable) make apparent policy statements which are then revealed to have no intended content at all. They appear to be made merely to strike a pose, to contribute to an image.

You thus sometimes treat important subjects with the utmost frivolity. Examples are "Britishness", "Anti-Terrorism", most recently, mass promotion of people who are not even Labour Party Members like Digby Jones to the government (In view of your complete failure to consult with anyone, within the Party or outside it, on many of the matters I have touched on, or on many others, the latter was perhaps intended as a joke).

Of course I could go on – but I'm tired.

Believe it or not I have no personal animus against you. You have always been perfectly courteous in our dealings. You are intelligent and charming. As you know, however, I never supported you for the leadership of the Party – even when, after my preferred candidate (Myself) chickened out as she didn't think she had a snowball's chance in hell of winning. It was blindingly obvious that you were going to win. Although you have many positive qualities you have three, dithering, dourness and a terrible habit of picking your nose in public which in my view ought to exclude you from the position of national leadership to which you currently hold and which it is the presumed purpose of the Conservative Party to achieve.

Believing that as I do, I clearly cannot honestly remain in the Party. I do not intend to leave public life. On the contrary I am looking forward to joining another party with which I have found increasingly I am naturally in agreement and which has just acquired a leader I have always greatly admired, who I believe is entirely straightforward, goodlooking and who has a towering record, and a clear vision for the future of our country which I fully share.

Because my constituents, to whose interests of course I remain devoted, are entitled to know the full background, I am releasing this letter to the press.  
Statement to press

“The more I thought about it the more I realised that the only logical and honest thing to do was both to leave the Labour Party and join the Conservative Party, with which I have found myself in practice regularly in agreement.”

## 24 Comments [Add your own](#)

- 1. [Guido Fawkes](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 4:47  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Here here.

- 2. [The Creator](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 6:49  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Oh Harriet, McNutter will be upset now. You are very, very naughty.

- 3. [Mountjoy](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 6:59  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Congratulations, Harriet - a noble choice. The Conservatives are the party for real people.

- 4. [Gordon Brown](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 7:26  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Harriet, call my office immediately.

Ask for the U-Turns department and we'll get this sorted out.

- 5. [Kev](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 7:27  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Brilliant.....

- 6. [Philip A](#) | April 25th, 2008 at 7:37

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

How late do Labourites get up then...still up at 8.36.

For Christ's sake don't defect.....we don't want you...just go..along with your mate Bottler and dear Darling

- **7. David Cameron** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:37

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

I'm sorry Harriet but we need people with brains in the Conservative party and you're just too thick.

- **8. Gordon B** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:39

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

Now....ahh....come un Harriet...ahh.....give me a ring first...ahhh.....or at least let me defect with you.....or not....oh...yes....I will...maybe

- **9. Mr McBottler** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:44

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

I see the light.....oh my God.....you are right.....and I have had enough.....Tony said it wasn't that easy.....

- **10. Mr T Bliar** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:46

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

Well done H. My hearty congrats on doing the right thing. Gordy has always made me sick....just like Johnny.

- **11. Marco** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:54

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

At least this is a computer security issue that isn't going to affect the rest of us.

- **12. Mike** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:56

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

Superb.....typical Labour cock up.....not long now!

- **13. Kev** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:57

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

It's getting better.....

- **14. Harriett Harman** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:57

[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. \(What's this?\)](#)

I'm a bit disappointed with David Cameron's comments....I am gud, and kan tipe grate. I vill a gud person for the Tories... I am full of greed.

Pretty please Davie darling, CAN I join?

- **15. Graham** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:58  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

And this is the party that want to give us a computerized ID Card system.... now thats going to be difficult to hack..

Give me strength please. How incompetent does a Government need to be before they Get the Boot..

ITS TIME FOR A CHANGE...

- **16. king chillout** | April 25th, 2008 at 7:59  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Let the mass defections start. NuLabour, same old communists.

And they expect us to trust them with the ID card data !

- **17. Mr Moron** | April 25th, 2008 at 8:01  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

I fink ure comentsb are rubbish if it werent four this wundrfool labor govr...  
goverm....govermint....i woodnt av ad the edukasion that i as got

- **18. Rugfish** | April 25th, 2008 at 8:02  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

First sensible decision you've made - well done.

- **19. Serf** | April 25th, 2008 at 8:03  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Harriet, we don't want you. You help our cause much more by remaining where you are. So does Gordon, but don't let him know that.

- **20. John Prescott** | April 25th, 2008 at 8:05  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Dear Harriet,

Have you gone mad?  
You make me feel sick.

Oh, hang on a minute....  
That could just be be the 'full english' I quaffed 10 minutes ago.

John.

- **21. Denise Brook** | April 25th, 2008 at 8:05  
[E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable.](#) ([What's this?](#))

Best laugh I,ve had in a long time shame there,s no truth in it - she,s more faces than a town hall clock!!!

- **22.** Steve Basford | April 25th, 2008 at 8:05  
E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. ([What's this?](#))

Harriet you will come on stevezone said

Home is closing down and david laugh at me

I am angrymad and will do smashdown

Harriet make owlettes my friend

You eat your own mugs said atall

- **23.** Simon Pearce | April 25th, 2008 at 8:06  
E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. ([What's this?](#))

Well done Harriet! You made the right choice 😊

- **24.** Save Britain | April 25th, 2008 at 8:06  
E-mail us to report this comment as unsuitable. ([What's this?](#))

Save Britain and scrap the Treaty too.

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