



# annual review

2013-2014



IDEAS



DISCUSSION



ACTION



@CompassOffice



CompassGoodSociety



compassonline.org.uk

# annual review

2013-2014

Welcome to the Compass Annual Review 2013-14. The world of politics is changing fast - and we are changing with it.

From our campaigns and initiatives to our events and publications, this has been an exciting year for Compass. We have put together this brief review to give you a better idea of what we've been up to and firstly we would like to thank those of you who have joined us and contributed along the way.

Compass is a unique organisation with links to both grassroots activists and to progressive Westminster politicians. Over the next twelve months we will work to link these two worlds up to ensure progressive manifestos whilst also doing the longer term work of building a network capable of creating a Good Society.

We would be nothing without our amazing Compass members. So many of our projects have come from our members including our Education Inquiry, our railway campaign and our Open Tribe interview series which was inspired at a conversation at our AGM last year. To get more of an idea about what Compass means to our members see our short video [here](#).



## values

This past year, more than ever, Compass has strived to live by the values of a Good Society. Last November at **Change:How?** our (un)Conference, we created a space for people to think, connect, dream and share. It was a political conference like no other- with talks outdoors, comedy, top politicians, activists, mindfulness and an Open Space session where the 600 attendees led the conversation and chose the agenda. We had a gender balanced list of speakers in a sustainable venue where everyone agreed it felt like a day in the Good Society. (See *the two minute summary video* [here](#)). Politics isn't just about what happens in the Westminster bubble, it's what happens in our living rooms, parks, workplaces and around the dinner table. Equally important is how we have these conversations - with respect, open-mindedness and laughter which is why we are experimenting with our events to make sure they match up with our values.

We have also been working hard to ensure we create space for marginalised groups to have their say by having gender quotas on our Management Committee, blogs, events and publications. There is still a long way to go to ensure Compass lives by its values, especially in BME representation which we recognise as an ongoing challenge.



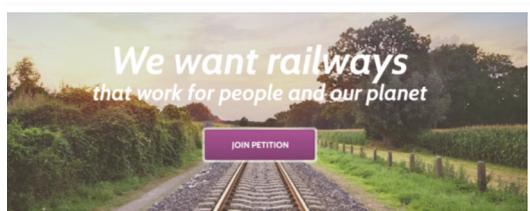
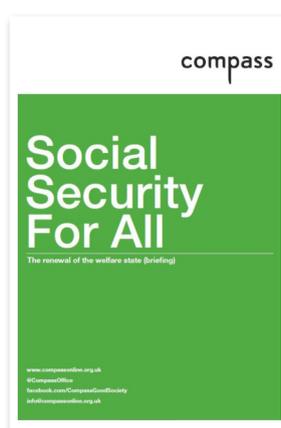


# publications

Our publications have again been leading the way in progressive thought and radical ideas. Highlights include:

- **The Bridge: how the politics of the future will link the vertical to the horizontal:** This publication examines how the way we do politics is changing. The rise of online grassroots activism and social media is replacing the old Westminster version of party politics as the outlet by which people express themselves politically. The Bridge shows how to link these two worlds and harness the potential of both. By Neal Lawson and Uffe Elbæk
- **In Place of Anxiety:** This publication presents an alternate vision on what a fair, kind and effective social security system could look like in Scotland. By Willie Sullivan and Ailsa Mackay.
- **Could the postal workers take back Royal Mail?** This publication shows how despite its privatisation, postal workers could themselves become the owners of the Royal Mail. By Joe Guinan and Thomas M.Hanna.

[Click here to access all of our publications for free.](#) We are always on the lookout for new ideas that spark thoughts and debate so if you want to write for us please get in touch. We are especially appealing for any women or members of the BME community.



## campaigns & projects

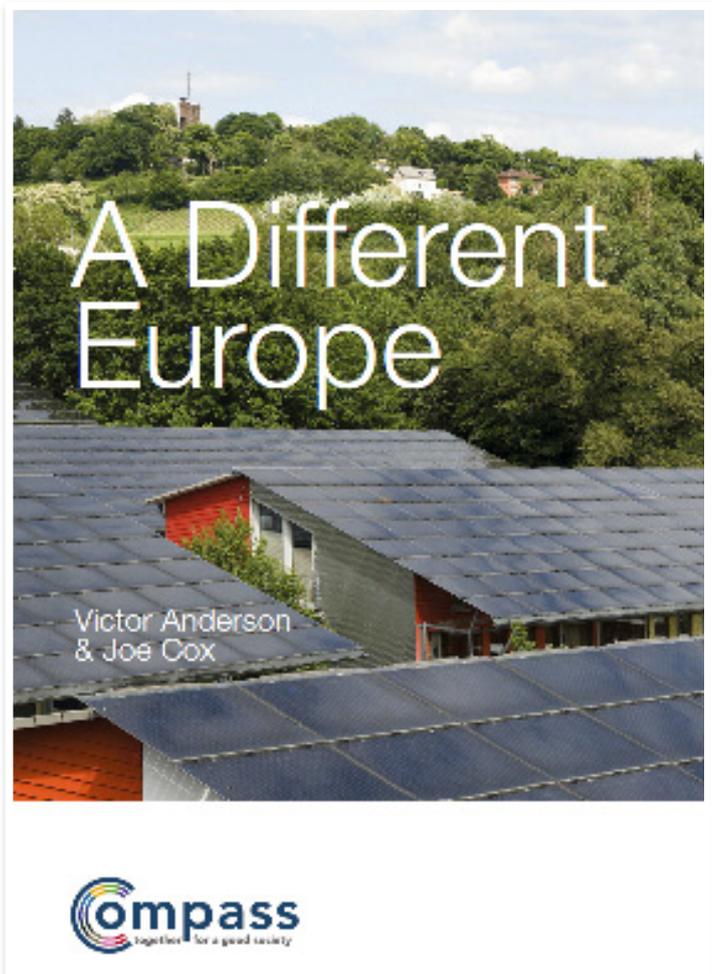
Compass has been creating space for radical change with progressive campaigns and initiatives this year including:

- **Education Inquiry-** Initiated by Compass members this has been busy developing a new model for education based on democracy and equality. Chairing the inquiry is Dame Jane Roberts, and the **Advisory Council** includes the Director of Employment and Skills at the CBI, teachers, headteachers, local government, education academics such as Prof. Sir Eric Thomas, student organisations such as the NUS and Student voice and many more. In January we held an interim conference with speakers including Labour's Shadow Education spokesperson Tristram Hunt MP about the Inquiry and its initial findings which you can listen to [here](#) and [here](#).
- **Living Wage Commission-** The Living Wage Commission, set up by Compass and launched by the Archbishop of York, brings together leading figures from business, trade unions and civil society to report this summer on how we can expand the living wage. The Commission has already made the news with reports setting out the scale of low pay in the UK.
- **All on board campaign-** Compass is set to launch the 'All on Board' campaign to bring the rail back into public ownership, but set up in a way that puts the workers, users and the environment at its heart.
- **Open Tribe Interview series-** After a conversation at the Compass 2012 AGM around the importance of pluralism, generosity and openness to new ideas whilst at the same time as valuing solidarity and collective action, Compass began the Open Tribe Project. Management Committee member Sue Goss has been interviewing some of the best and brightest thinkers around, including Lisa Nandy, Hilary Cottam, Victor Adebowale, Jon Cruddas, Natalie Bennett and more, about this topic. These interviews are all available to watch [here](#). Sue is publishing a book on this subject which will be available this summer



# creating alternatives

- **A Different Europe-** Compass has been contributing to the effort to build a positive vision for Europe, releasing the publication of 'A Different Europe' that came about through consultation with our members. The aim of this publication is to start building a pro-European alternative to the current status quo, and can be downloaded [here](#).
- **Social Security-** Building on a briefing we did last year '**Social Security for all**' in which a group of campaigners and activists contributed, we are producing a piece of work attempting to shift the discussion from 'welfare' to one of genuine 'social security' which is to be released soon.
- **Political Economy-** Compass has been working with a range of organisations and individuals to help build a coherent piece of work focusing on the whole economy, from the local to the European, a final publication will be published soon.
- **New Times-** Compass is developing the idea of 'New Times' which you can read about [here](#). Politics is increasingly done from the bottom up via new ways of organising online and on social media. Reflecting on these 'new times' we have been looking at how to bridge the gap between the new and old style politics. This will be an on-going project and we would love to hear your thoughts.



## other highlights

- **Movement Review-** In this joint project with NEF (the New Economics Foundation) we are exploring how we build an ecology of groups and activists who share the same goals and have the tools and resources they need to build effective campaigns and shift the public consciousness.
- **Front page news-** We made front page news with our open letter to the Labour party calling on them to adopt radical principles in their manifesto. The values we put forth were suggested by Compass members and we had a broad range of signatures including Progress, The Fabian Society and Class. We also widespread coverage across the media, we helped create a radical voice within Labour's policy review.
- **Neal Lawson on Novara media:** Our chair Neal Lawson joined Aaron Bastani on Novara FM media to talk 'New Times', the future of progressive politics and lots in between. To listen to the interview click [here](#).
- **Progressive Alliance:** Every month we host a breakfast event with speakers and topics with progressive organisations, thinkers and activists to connect our work and grow the progressive community.



# thoughts & writing

Our blog has grown in readership these past two years, and has consistently produced thought provoking debates. Some of our most read pieces include:

- **Why I am not renewing my Liberal Democrat membership** - Richard S.Grayson
- **It's simple: our current economic system can't be repaired, it has to be replaced** - Natalie Bennett
- **Our social recession** - Tom Clark
- **'Do as I say not as I do!' Why radicalism requires self-awareness** - Liam Barrington-Bush
- **In New Times change happens while you are not looking** - Indra Adnan

You can access all of our blogs [here](#) and if you have a piece you would like to see published on our blog please get in touch. Generally blog posts are no more than 500 words long and we are particularly looking for female and/or BME writers.



## local groups

Local Compass groups are dedicated to building a Good Society in local areas. They meet to have debates, discussion, campaign and to connect with like minded people. Over the past year new local Compass groups have formed and there have been exciting initiatives and events from existing groups. Some of the year's highlights include:

- The Merseyside Compass group started a series of events around the emerging alternate culture in the north, the first of which had author Andrew Simms speaking
- New Compass groups have been set up in Taunton, West London and South Wales.
- Other local compass events have been in Birmingham, Cambridge and Newham

Overall Compass has held 13 local group events in this past year. If you want to start your own local group please get in touch with Rosie in the office.

## online community

This past year our online presence has grown significantly. Our **Twitter** account has gained over 11k followers, making it one of the most followed progressive accounts in Britain. Our **Facebook** group has also continued to grow and our **Youtube** account now regularly uploads videos of interviews and events. We also have the audio for many of our events free to listen to on our website [here](#).



# national events

National Compass events this past year have been hugely successful, in particular ‘Change:How’, the first (un)Conference of its kind. We set out to try something different from the usual political conference, and appeal to people other than the usual Westminster crowd. With participatory sessions, open space technology, stand up comedians, walking tours and over 600 people coming we showed that political events can be fun and full of learning and connecting. Have a look at this two minute compilation video to give you a taste of the day.

Our Education Inquiry Conference continued this trend, with a day focused on harnessing the knowledge of conference attendees to help build a new model of education. Speaking at the conference were Labour’s shadow Education Spokesperson Tristram Hunt MP, Dame Jane Roberts, Prof. Ken Spours, Yas Necati, Fiona Millar and Christine Blower from the NUT – you can hear the audio of the event [here](#).

Compass Scotland held a conference looking at how to build a Good Society in Scotland. The day had a whole range of different speakers and some great debates and discussions. You can see videos from the day on the Compass Scotland page on our [website](#).

**You can enjoy lots of videos and audio recordings on the Library section of our website [here](#)**



## catch up

Here are some of the most listened to and watched recordings from our events:

- **Can Labour learn to trust people?** - A joint event with Progress, the speakers Steve Reed MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Liz Kendal MP, Anna Coote Head of Social Policy at NEF
- **Lisa Nandy interviews Steve Rotheram and Margaret Aspinall a session at 'Change:How?'**, Lisa Nandy discusses about the inspirational Hillsborough Justice campaign
- **Labour Party Conference: Labour- an open tribe?** With speakers Francesca Klug, Clive Lewis, Labour PPC, Linda Jack Liberal Left, Zoe Williams, Guardian, Owen Smith MP, Sue Goss, John Harris, Guardian, Lisa Nandy MP
- **Education and business of the future** - An Education Inquiry event, with speakers: Robin Murray, LSE, Rob Wall- Head of Education and Employment Policy the CBI, Dame Jane Roberts- Chair of the Education Inquiry
- **Jon Cruddas interviews Mike Rustin** - At 'Change:How', Jon Cruddas interviews change maker and author of the Kilburn Manifesto Mike Rustin

## governance & finances

Compass has an A+ rating on 'Who Funds you', meaning we disclose our annual income, display funding information on our website and name our funders and how much they give us. Our most recent financial report can be read below.

Ensuring the financial sustainability of Compass remains a tough challenge. We don't want just want money for projects, but we need funds to build a movement for change - if you can contribute even a little every month then it helps us remain independent and focussed on the big picture of changing the world. Please donate [here](#) or join as a member [here](#).

## management committee

We have had a fantastic Management Committee this year. Our MC is voted in by our members and decides strategic direction of Compass. A full list of the MC along with short bios of the MC can be found [here](#).



# get involved

Join Compass and help make a good society a reality:  
[www.compassonline.org.uk/join/](http://www.compassonline.org.uk/join/)



Visit our Website: [www.compassonline.org.uk](http://www.compassonline.org.uk)



Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/compassgoodsociety](http://www.facebook.com/compassgoodsociety)



Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/compassoffice](http://www.twitter.com/compassoffice)

This is just some of the things we did in 2013-14. It's a lot for an organisation with only three full time members of staff. We achieve so much and give a political home because so many volunteer their time, energy and experience. As the old politics continues to frustrate, it's essential we keep on innovating and experimenting in the search for a better politics and a Good Society.

Thank you to everyone who makes Compass what it is and what it is going to be.



## treasurer's report

As we have not held an AGM since the 2012-13 year end, I am reporting on both of the last two financial years together.

For the last three years we have needed to manage our finances very tightly as we entered the period with a large accumulated deficit, and were effectively insolvent.

As a result of achieving modest surpluses over each of the last three years we have managed to bring ourselves back to a positive position. However, we cannot be complacent. We have only a limited amount of agreed project funding for the current year, and could easily fall back into deficit.

While we have been succesful in obtaining substantial amounts of project funding over the last few years, we have been less succesful at building our income from members. As a result of some generous donations we have been able to establish a development fund, which we have reserved for this work. We are about to purchase a new membership system, which will improve our ability to collect subscriptions and donattion; we have also invested in fundraising work.

Establishing a regular flow of income, independent of funders' priorities will greatly strengthen Compass' ability to pursue its own strategy. Can I thank everyone who has contributed to Compass financially, and encourage other members and supporters to do so - however small or large the amount you can afford, it all comes together to build our organisation.

Mark Cooke, 26-May-14



# annual accounts

Can I thank everyone who has contributed to Compass financially, and encourage other members and supporters to do so - however small or large the amount you can afford, it all comes together to build our organisation. Mark Cooke, 26-May-14

**COMPASS** Income and Expenditure for the years ended 31 March

	£2014	£2013	£2012
<b>General Fund</b>			
<b>Member income</b>			
Members' subscriptions	29,022	38,670	42,394
Members' donations	30,178	34,342	47,594
<b>Event income</b>	11,213	4,213	25,692
<b>Grant income</b>	153,482	128,382	190,080
<b>Other Income</b>	7,839	5,750	15,122
<b>Total Income</b>	231,734	211,357	320,882
<b>Staff costs</b>			
Payroll costs	62,660	61,668	104,078
Consultancy - Chair's service	60,000	65,000	50,000
VAT on Consultancy	12,000	13,000	10,000
Other staff costs	7,101	8,759	20,841
<b>Office costs</b>	33,258	35,460	39,433
<b>Activity costs</b>			
Event costs	16,691	11,405	37,252
Publication costs	1,695	4,069	16,416
Project Costs	2,560		
<b>Other costs</b>			
Bank Charges	1,487	2,955	
Fundraising costs	5,005	6,905	4,301
Membership recruitment	3,245		2,068
Other costs	1,987	117	7,822
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	207,689	209,338	292,211
<b>Surplus on General Fund</b>	24,045	2,019	28,671

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## Development Fund

<b>Balance Brought forward</b>	23,900	0	
Income	0	25,000	
Expenditure	7,420	1,100	
<b>Balance remaining</b>	16,480	23,900	
<b>Total net surplus for year</b>	16,625	25,919	28,671

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March

	£2014	£2013	£2012
Debtors and accrued income	£34,932	£8,188	£15,953
Cash	£34,797	£54,439	£19,561
<b>Total Assets</b>	£69,729	£62,627	£35,514
Creditors	£15,273	£26,263	£40,377
Deferred Income	£38,567	£37,100	£21,792
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	£53,840	£63,363	£62,169
<b>Net Assets /(Liabilities)</b>	£15,889	(£736)	(£26,655)
Representing:			
General Fund	(£591)	(£24,636)	(£26,655)
Development Fund	£16,480	£23,900	-
<b>Net Assets /(Liabilities)</b>	£15,889	(£736)	(£26,655)



# major funders

- individuals and organisations providing funding of £5,000 and over during the year

## 2011-12

<b>Friedrich Ebert Stiftung</b>	£75,455	Multiple projects
<b>Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust</b>	£25,000	Economic Reform Project
<b>Franks Family Foundation</b>	£25,000	Core Funding
<b>Barrow Cadbury Fund</b>	£21,500	Banking Project
<b>Ruth Lister</b>	£12,000	Core Funding
<b>Age UK</b>	£5,654	Ageing Project
<b>HCI</b>	£5,250	Loan sharking Project
<b>Betterworld Ltd</b>	£5,000	Banking Project

## 2012-13

<b>National Union of Teachers</b>	£47,100	Education Project
<b>Ruth Lister</b>	£25,000	Development Fund
<b>Freidrich Ebert Stiftung</b>	£17,200	Multiple Projects
<b>Betterworld Ltd</b>	£14,600	Red/Green Project and Core Funding
<b>Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation</b>	£13,720	Red/Green Project
<b>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust</b>	£12,500	Living Wage Commission
<b>Barrow Cadbury Fund</b>	£9,600	Good Economy Project
<b>National Union of Students</b>	£6,000	Higher Education Project

## 2013-14

<b>Frank Lowe</b>	£40,000	Parliamentary Work
<b>Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust</b>	£37,500	Living Wage Commission
<b>Isvara Foundation</b>	£19,680	Red/Green Project
<b>Barrow Cadbury Fund</b>	£14,400	Good Economy Project
<b>Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation</b>	£14,250	Red/Green Project
<b>Betterworld Ltd</b>	£10,000	Core Funding
<b>Webb Memorial Trust</b>	£8,400	Social Security Project
<b>Trades Union Congress</b>	£7,500	Living Wage Commission
<b>Network For Social Change</b>	£5,169	Red/Green Project
<b>LA Chandler</b>	£5,000	Core Funding



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June 2014