The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is the UK’s largest representative body with over 500 affiliated national, regional and local organisations, including charities, schools and mosques. It is an independent, democratic body established to promote consultation, cooperation and coordination on Muslim affairs in the United Kingdom, working for the common good of society as a whole.

The conflict in Kashmir is of significant concern to many British Muslims. As a result, the MCB hosted a roundtable for the Labour Party on Monday 20 July to provide a platform for human rights lawyers and community members with expertise on the Kashmiri conflict to share their concerns with the new leadership of the Labour Party, and assist the Labour Party in its policymaking on the issue.

This report includes papers from the panellists with suggested actions the Labour Party should take. All views expressed in this paper are by the respected panellists, and are not necessarily the policy positions of the Muslim Council of Britain.

For more information about the MCB, please visit mcb.org.uk
Biographies

Salma Yousef
MCB's Legal Affairs Committee
Salma is a barrister specialising in Criminal law and Rule of Law reform. She also serves on the MCB's Legal Affairs Committee. During her career she has served with the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo (the EU's biggest ever mission abroad) and has advised the Head of Mission on human rights issues, drafting responses to the Human Rights Review Panel and UN Human Rights Advisory Panel where required.

Mirza Saaib Bég
Kashmiri Lawyer
Mirza is a Kashmiri lawyer, Kofi Annan and Weidenfeld-Hoffman scholar and a candidate for Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. He has been a legal practitioner in India for over six years, and regularly contributes to the dialogue on legal and political issues of Kashmir. He also delivers talks on these issues at universities and lawyers groups across India and the UK.

Ben Emmerson QC
Lawyer, Monckton Chambers
Ben is an international lawyer. He has previously served as a judge of the UN International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Between 2011 and 2017 he was the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism. Prior to that, he was Special Adviser to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He has advised the Prime Minister and Government of Pakistan on the situation in Jammu-Kashmir.

Shaista Safi
Kashmiri Activist
Shaista was born in Indian Occupied Kashmir, and lived her in exile as a refugee in Pakistan Administered Kashmir and Islamabad, Pakistan. She is an academic and researcher specialised in social justice, and women and children in conflict zones. She is an advocate for the Kashmir cause, having worked for the Kashmir Institute of International Relations and the International Kashmir Lobby Group, working with government officials and heads of states.

Tayab Ali
Lawyer, Bindmans
Tayab Ali is a Partner of Bindmans LLP. He is an internationally recognised and highly respected Solicitor Advocate. His practice encompasses criminal and civil/public law in both the UK and international jurisdictions. He is recognised in the field of Civil Liberties by the Legal 500, ranked as a leading lawyer by Chambers & Partners, who describe him as “an irresistible force - he's fearless and he always gets the right results for his clients”.

Qaiser Malik
QMT South Woodford Mosque
Qaiser is a banker by profession and has over 40 years of experience in management positions in banking, property management and legal practice over 40 years. He has been involved in community work and social projects for 28 years, and is one of the founding members of South Woodford Muslim Community Centre and the Federation of Redbridge Muslim Organisations.
The Curfew
In just two weeks, it will be one year since the curfew on Indian occupied Kashmir was imposed. We have just started to come out of a 3 month period of lockdown light:
- Communication channels were still open
- Hospitals were still open
- People could still go out for essentials

Despite this many reports are coming out regarding the physical and psychological impact of lockdown. Then what of the people of Kashmir who have been living under varying degrees of lockdown for almost a year. The Kashmir curfew has been a completely different type of lockdown where basic rights were taken away. Some aspects of the government crackdown, activists said, were almost appear reminiscent of abusive Chinese government practices.

Amongst the measures imposed during the curfew the government blocked phone lines and access to the internet. While authorities started gradually restoring landlines and some mobile phone services, it denied internet services. After the Supreme Court said on January 10 that access to the internet was a fundamental right, the authorities relented – only to set up government-controlled internet kiosks, with firewalls permitting only some websites and forbidding social media.

During the curfew many thousands have been arbitrarily arrested – from lawyers to shop owners, traders, students, rights activists – some now been released, but reportedly only after promising not to criticise the government. The recent report by watchdog Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society raised shocking allegations of torture by government troops that include detainees being beaten, stripped naked and in one case a teenager having his lips sewn up. Police admitted at least 144 children had been detained, and now the chief of defence staff has spoken of putting children in “deradicalisation camps.”

Indian authorities have sought to justify their rights violations on the grounds of national security. National security and terrorism cannot be a catch all to dispense with all human rights and hold an entire population prisoner. It is deeply troubling and we are all too aware of the debates that happen domestically that whilst national security remains a concern everywhere, this is no justification to take away basic human rights of entire groups.

Indian occupied Kashmir has a population of c12 million people of whom 70% are roughly Muslim – In Kashmir itself this is actually 97%. For those in the region and observing it from afar, it is clear that the measures being taken by the present Indian government are part of the Hindutva strategy. There is ample evidence of this ideology becoming more widespread in India and extending beyond the actions in Kashmir. During the Delhi riots in February, which came in response to protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, mobs descended on poor mixed neighbourhoods, attacking Muslims and ransacking their houses and businesses.
This mindset is being allowed to spread, in fact encouraged by the ruling BJP government. Senior BJP leaders have not hesitated to make their views regarding Muslims known spreading hate and violence. In April a BJP member of the Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) was caught on camera threatening a Muslim vendor and then openly telling people not to buy from Muslim vendors.

In August, another BJP MLA on the revocation of Article 370 said that Muslims in the country should be happy that they can now marry "gori" (fair) Kashmiri girls without any fear and buy plots of land. In June 2019, Sunita Singh Gaur, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttar Pradesh's posted on Facebook that Hindu men should enter Muslim homes and rape the women. "There is only one solution for them (Muslims). Hindu brothers should make a group of 10 and gang rape their (Muslims) mothers and sisters openly on the streets and then then hang them in the middle of the bazaar for others to see," Gaur's post in Hindi says. But most disturbingly, in October, Rajeshwar Singh openly boasted of his governments intent to ethnically cleanse 200 million Muslims and 28 Million Muslims from the country by the end of 2021.

Against the backdrop of this far right narrative, the revocation of Article 370 shows the intent of the Indian government to annex the territory and launch its Hindu settler colonial project. Many parallels can be seen between this and what has happened in Israel since the Nakba in 1948. And this is extremely disturbing. Last week we commemorated 25 years since the Srebrenica genocide. 8000 Muslim men and boys - on the ground of their faith as part of a programme of ethnic cleansing. To many commentators it is clear that the rationale behind the amendment to Article 370 is part of a strategy to change the demographics of Jammu and Kashmir The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in its 2020 report has categorised India as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC). India had got this shameful tag once before — after the 2002 Gujarat carnage which happened under Narendra Modi's watch as Chief Minister for the region at the time.

Concerns expressed within the report highlight that intellectuals who express concerns about the atmosphere of hate created by TV anchors on behalf of politicians and regressive rightist ideology have been ridiculed in India. The judiciary too has not shown the requisite eagerness to stand up to the challenge. It did not consider the newly enacted Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir or the violation of civil liberties, post abrogation, important enough to be heard. In fact, the Supreme Court supervised the exclusionary and divisive NRC process in Assam.

Why does Kashmir matter?
The unsolved issue of Kashmir is a remnant of the British Rule in India and the partition plan. The issue is now 73 years years old. In some families four generations have lived through this. This is also not just a political problem. Given the catalogue of human rights abuses over the past seven decades it is incumbent upon us to take action. As one of the five permanent members of Security Council, the UK has particular responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Stability in the region is paramount. Both parties are nuclear powers and this is clearly a matter of global concern if the situation remains unresolved and escalates.
Recommendations
It cannot be right we only call out the human rights abuses of those whom we, or our allies across the pond fall out with. It cannot be right we say it is timely and then ignore those human rights abuses. It cannot be right that we make equivocal statements or simply say a situation is deeply troubling’ when the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing couldn’t be clearer.

The time to act is now. I recall many politicians speaking about how they watched Srebrenica happen and the guilt. HRH Prince Charles spoke last week of how it was a blemish on our conscience’ therefore on Kashmir it is essential we act now.

17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice, the anniversary of the ICC’s founding in 1998. Given our role on the UNSC – incumbent upon us to not just make statements but take action. In relation to the human rights abuses consideration should be given for the UK to:

1. Lead on the establishment of a People’s Tribunal on India to investigate the cases of human rights abuses raised both since August 2019 but also the numerous cases evidenced in this roundtable.
2. A delegation should go out to Kashmir and present a report on their findings to Parliament.
3. As one of the five permanent members of the UNSC, the UK should lead on building an international coalition to look at the most effective way of holding the perpetrators of this to account.
1. The UK’s legal obligation on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Domicile law and other illegal/irreversible changes taking place.
3. The unfettered right of Self-determination is neither anti-India nor anti-Pakistan.
4. The flawed portrayal of Kashmir as an issue of human rights alone.

My first argument is that the United Kingdom is not a mere observer in this dispute. It is party to the most controversial document on which India bases the legality of its claim—which is an international treaty known as the Instrument of Accession, 1947. Article 370 is a representation of that Treaty. On this point it is essential to understand that the issue in Kashmir is not about restoring Article 370 but rather about enabling the right of Kashmiris to decide our own future.

a. The UK’s obligation to resolve the issue of Kashmir and adopt a clear position on the issue— is not merely a moral obligation—it is a legal obligation.

b. The failure of the UK to do so is an abdication, a dereliction of duty.

My second argument is of an urgent and immediate nature on the legislative changes that India is furiously pursuing to disenfranchise the people of Kashmir and cause irreversible damage. The most recent being the domicile law, passed in during the Covid pandemic in 2020, which grants eligible Indians the right to settle in Kashmir in an attempt at engineering homogeneity and demographic change in Kashmir in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention Rule 130.

My third argument is on the Right of Self-determination (RSD). Supporting the unfettered and unconditional right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people is not an anti-India position. The UK must understand that supporting India and supporting Hindutva are two different things. Advocating for the RSD is not an anti-India position—it is anti-Hindutva. It is anti an illegal occupation.

a. It needs to be highlighted here that on the Pakistani side, the Prime Minister himself has spoken of an equitable position that Kashmiris are free to choose any future—whether to join Pakistan or to remain independent.

My fourth argument pertains to the language of human rights discourse on Kashmir—Human rights violations do not take place in a vacuum. They are the effect/result of something. If we do not discuss what the Kashmiris are asking for that is causing the human rights violations, it is an intellectual dishonesty. Look at the etymology, not just the effect because even if human rights violations stop, the issue of Kashmir is not resolved. Kashmir is not an issue of human rights alone. It is a political issue that requires clear and concrete political solutions.
Recommendations
It is now time to declare that India has breached international obligations.
The Labour Party must:
1. Prepare a comprehensive response using legal, political, economic, and even moral persuasion.
2. Assert that the UK has a right to claim a breach in the international treaty with the state of Jammu & Kashmir, as it existed in 1947.
3. Acknowledge that Kashmir is a political issue that needs concrete political engagement.
4. Stand against any posturing which abdicates the party’s internationalist responsibilities and places Labour on the wrong side of history.
7. Work with the UK Government towards effective multilateral engagement with representatives from India, Pakistan and both sides of Jammu & Kashmir (covering all 5 regions of Jammu & Kashmir) for justice, peace and an ultimate resolution of the conflict.
Shaista Safi - Kashmiri Activist

My earliest childhood memory is my mother protecting me, hiding me under her cloak, telling me everything is alright while I could feel her heart race at a million miles per hour. Trying to peak out of her cloak, I distinctly remember, Indian military, armed to the teeth ransacking our home, destroying our property and torturing my family members and neighbours. To this day, I can still feel the vibrations of destruction, the smell of weapons, and the sounds of wailing.

I am curious to know what everybody else's first memories are because every Kashmiri has a similar history as mine or even worse. Recall 3 years old Ayaad on 2nd July 2020. His earliest memory will be that of Indian armed forces shooting dead his grandfather before his very eyes, the traumatic picture of him sitting on his dead grandfathers chest not understanding what is happening, represents what the life of a child under Indian occupation is.

The alternative is Nihaan who happily went out with his father to go shopping only to be carried back dead in his father's arm to a mother and family having to explain that their baby was killed by Indian occupational forces.

Children of Kashmir are not familiar with snow white or Cinderella the way they are familiar with Asiya and Neelofar who were kidnapped, raped, killed, and thrown into the river by Indian forces.

We grow up learning about Kunan Poshpora, twin villages where women between ages of 8 and 80, some pregnant, were raped, and gang raped, in front of their entire family by Indian occupational forces. The same occupational forces raped and ganged raped Mubina Ganni on her wedding night along with her pregnant aunt, while she was on her way to her Husband's house.

We grow up with Indian army stationed every 10 yards. We see them while going to school, work and even the market, fingering their triggers, passing vulgar comments. They are everywhere, on every street corner. Not even our schools and hospitals are safe.

In the last one-year lockdown which predates Covid-19, reports of pregnant women trying to get to the hospital to deliver their babies, been stopped by the Indian occupational forces. Some even have given still births because of India's strangle hold on Kashmir. Funerals have not been able to take place and so the deceased have been buried in backyards and those who have dared to perform last rites were brutally beaten or killed.

None of what I am saying is ancient history. Its all recent events, as reported by the BBC, Washington Post, New York times and other reputable news agencies as well as Non-governmental institutional reports like the United nations, amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, who documented and published gruesome cases. Among tens of thousands of cases one such case that caught my eye is of 5 years old Nasir, where the Indian army punctured his left eye by needles and poured sand into his eyes.

The impact of Indian occupation and illegal draconian laws is not limited to physical abuse, but also the psychological, international organisations including Doctors without Borders and Physicians for Human rights, Kashmiri civil society and even Indian civil society have reported alarming statistics.
Labour Party must not just recognise in their manifesto that the unresolved issue of Kashmir is because of decolonisation, but actively pursue India, Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir to come to the negotiating table. It was Britain's "fault" so to speak after partition.

Demand an end to human rights violations, but also recognise where the violations stem from and their reason. In addition, demand fact finding missions to ascertain the extent of abuses. Right to self-determination is paramount, and labour must recognise conflict solution is granting this basic fundamental right, enshrined in international law and supported by numerous UN resolutions.

Call on the Indian Government to revoke draconian laws, release political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, return Kashmir to its legal position as mandated by UN. Seek justice for victims, support the investigation of crimes, particularly those in contravention of Geneva conventions.

At least 45% of adult population suffers from physiological distress, at least 20% are suffering from PTSD, 35% anxiety, 41% depression. We have to remember these are just reported cases, as Mental health is still a taboo so many cases go unreported.

It's not just the victims of Indian brutalities who suffer, but also their families. Families of pellet victims where India have fired upon even 18-month-old children, blinding them. Families of the forcibly disappeared, those who have been abducted by India never to be seen again, giving rise to the term "half widows", women whose husbands are missing and not knowing if they are dead or alive. Families of prisoners, like journalists, social media users, political activists and even children. An Indian civil society reported more than 13,000 children were abducted last year alone without charge, and sent to jails all across India and families too poor to afford bail or visiting.

Asif Sultan, a journalist, has been imprisoned for 2 years while his 2-and-a-half-year-old baby girl barely recognises him.

Political prisoners include people like 48-year-old Masrat Alam who has spent more than 23 years in prison. Qasim Faktoo, who has spent 27 years in prison, or his wife, Asiya Andarabi, another prominent political prisoner is currently in jail for the last 3 years along with Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen.

Despite all forms of Human Rights violation in Kashmir that break the UN resolutions, international law and the Geneva conventions, the issue and resolution is not limited to gender, education, child rights economy, ecology or anything else. The solution lies within the right to self-determination, and until that is recognised and granted, violations will continue. I end by reminding you that violations exist because of illegal Indian occupation. We are not seeking band aids we are curing cancer. The cancer of occupation.

Recommendations:
1. Labour Party must not just recognise in their manifesto that the unresolved issue of Kashmir is because of decolonisation, but actively pursue India, Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir to come to the negotiating table. It was Britain's "fault" so to speak after partition.
2. Demand an end to human rights violations, but also recognise where the violations stem from and their reason. In addition, demand fact finding missions to ascertain the extent of abuses.
3. Right to self-determination is paramount, and labour must recognise conflict solution is granting this basic fundamental right, enshrined in international law and supported by numerous UN resolutions.
4. Call on the Indian Government to revoke draconian laws, release political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, return Kashmir to its legal position as mandated by UN.
5. Seek justice for victims, support the investigation of crimes, particularly those in contravention of Geneva conventions.
Qaiser Malik - Community Leader

Overview
The actions initiated by BJP govt in India on 5 Aug 2019 unilaterally changing the constitutional status of J&K has also changed the bilateral nature of the dispute under 1972 Simla Agreement; it has once again internationalised the Kashmir issue which has cost the Kashmiri people more than 100,000 lives in their struggle to establish their right of self determination. The two neighbours have since been nuclear armed and have failed to reach a bilateral agreement in the last 48 years since Simla. More than a thousand innocent young citizens have lost their eye sight by pellet gun wounds in a year and more than 10,000 have been incarcerated in jails thousands of miles from their homes.

The Labour Party has neither condemned these human rights violations nor put any pressure on the Indian Government for release of political prisoners. While the UK was in lockdown for four months due to Coronavirus, the people of Kashmir are in a continuous lockdown under Indian guns for the last 12 months.

The failure of UN to enforce its own resolutions to hold a plebiscite promised to the people of Kashmir 72 years ago, which lacked the will of Security Council members - comparing it with East Timor and South Sudan, where oil was the deciding factor for a quick referendum. The UN Human Rights Commission issued a report in June 2019 condemning the atrocities committed by the Indian occupying forces on civilians in Kashmir and the matter has already been raised twice in the UN General Assembly since last year, yet no action has been taken.

After Brexit, the UK has to assume and establish its independent position in international affairs. The UK, as the Head of the Commonwealth, must use this position to help amicably resolve this historical dispute affecting 12 million human beings, a legacy of its colonial past, between two nuclear member states.

Recommendations
1. Look at what positive steps the Labour Party can take other than restating its position on bilateral negotiations to address the conflict in Kashmir.
2. Put pressure on the UK Government through a cross-party working in the House of Commons to immediately raise the conflict in Kashmir at the UN Security Council.
3. Encourage and assist the UK Government to use its role as Head of the Commonwealth to help amicably resolve this conflict.
Tayab Ali - Lawyer

Overview
The UK Government uses sanctions and trade licences to promote UK foreign policy. These can also be used to set the standard by which we do business with regimes. India is a key trade partner to the UK, with scope for growth. In 2010, UK defence exports to India were £966 million, up from £34 million in 2015. Since 1 April 2017, £1 billion worth of UK military exports to India have been approved.

Unfortunately, it is likely that British military technology is contributing to death, torture and violations of human rights in India and Kashmir.

Sanctions can be used to make clear what we expect from regimes we do business with. The UK Government and the Opposition must be very clear about what the values are that they are trying to promote. The Labour Party should consider exploring Global Human Rights Sanctions and Export Licences.

Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020
This has been designed to deter and provide accountability for State activities or omissions which would violate:
- Right to life
- Right not to be subject to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Right to be free from slavery, not to be held in servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

The designation of a person under these regulations can be done where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the person is involved in such activity or omission and the designation will have a significant effect. The effect is to freeze the person’s ability to deal with their assets and makes it an offence to make funds available to them.

The manner in which they are being used is already subject to criticism. For example, the day after the sanctions were applied to 20 Saudi nationals over Jamal Khashoggi’s death, the UK Government announced it would resume selling arms to Saudi Arabia even though the UK Government had assessed the arms could be used to commit war crimes.

Export Control Act 2002
In any event for the moment, the Export Control Act 2002 and its various regulations and orders limit the transfer of strategically controlled military items and related technology identified on the UK military list from the UK to certain end destinations, end users and end uses. This is principally due to:
- National security
- Foreign policy
- Non-proliferation
- Concerns about internal repression and human rights violations.
Decisions made by the Department for International Trade are made in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Exports Licensing Criteria which includes:

- Whether the exports contravene the UK's international obligations and commitments, or
- Whether there is a clear risk that the items might be used in the commission of a serious violation of humanitarian law, or to provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravated existing tensions in the destination country.

**Recommendations**

1. Establish a clear position on human rights standards expected by foreign States in order for the UK to trade with them;
2. Assert leadership with UK based interest groups about what is expected from them when engaging with the Party. No tolerance of UK based groups that excuse or ignore human rights violations by foreign States.
3. Review the human rights violations in Kashmir and India.
4. Strongly hold the UK Government to account on the application of Global Human Rights Sanctions.
5. Call for a review of Export Licences to ensure when issuing with India they are compliant with human rights standards and that UK equipment will not be used to assist in human rights violations.
Ben Emmerson QC - Lawyer

The most important question for the Labour Party to consider is whether or not the circumstances in Kashmir are such that the international community is under an obligation to no longer view this as a matter which is an internal issue for India. It needs to be assessed as to whether this is a legitimate concern of the international community, which many States ping pong around in order to meet their own national interests.

Human Rights Abuses
It is evident that across the world, there are incidents where states are taking steps towards genocide and genocidal intent, and this mostly concerns minority Muslim communities. For example, the Tatar Muslim community in Crimea, the Rohingya in Myanmar, the Uighurs in Xinjiang and the Muslims in Kashmir. We have seen sustained and substantial human rights violations over several decades. In Kashmir, we have already discovered numerous mass graves, with forensic examination proving the remains within them were not incursion events from the Pakistani side, but that these were local homegrown Kashmiris put to death in their own villages. It must be recognised that this is the slide towards genocidal policy.

Right to self-determination
Regardless of whether or not this is looked at as an internal or an international issue, the people of Kashmir have been had recognised for several decades the right to determine their own future. This is ensconced in the 1972 Simla Agreement and in all of the UN resolutions since. This is the first and fundamental human right spelt out in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. There has not been an explanation as to why it has been legitimate for this length of time to deny to the people of Kashmir the right which international law accords them and which they were guaranteed by the international community.

The revocation of Article 370 by the Indian Government was part of a much wider attack on the Muslim population within the territorial boundaries of India at the moment. The protection that was given by Article 370 was enacted specifically to preserve the right to self-determination, a constitutional autonomy within the Indian constitution so that action couldn’t be taken that would irrevocably prejudice the right of the Kashmiri people to reach a decision democratically about their own future. The decision that has been taken to revoke Article 370 was designed in order to achieve demographic change to alter the possibility of people of Kashmir ever reaching that conclusion.

For something as significant as this, accompanied by a blackout making the documenting of human rights violations exceedingly difficult, to only have one country on the UN Security Council speak out against is greatly disappointing. China was the only country prepared to say that this is not purely an internal matter for India, despite having to now use this defence with regards to its actions against the Uighurs in Xinjiang.
Recommendations

1. Clearly state that what is happening inside Indian-occupied Kashmir is a matter for the international community, and not an internal issue, acknowledging that the boundary of saying this is sovereignty-only is has evidently been crossed.

2. Examine whether this is a targeted attack designed to eradicate or severely undermine the protected rights of the targeted minority. If this is the case, it is no longer just a matter for national authorities but for the international community.

3. Commit to, when it is in government, ensuring the issue of Kashmir is not something that is brushed off the agenda of the UN Security Council in the way that it has been because of permanent and non-permanent members accepting this wasn't an issue for the Security Council.
Key Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made to the Labour Party to address the ongoing conflict in Kashmir:

1. Acknowledge that Kashmir is a political issue which needs concrete political engagement, and is an issue for the international community, not just an internal issue in India.
3. Lead on the establishment of a People’s Tribunal on India to investigate the cases of human rights abuses raised both since August 2019.
4. Establish a delegation of experts from the UK to go to India to investigate, and present a report on their findings to Parliament.
5. Demand an end to human rights violations, but also recognise where the violations stem from and their reason. Seek justice for victims, support the investigation of crimes, particularly those in contravention of Geneva conventions.
6. As one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, call on the UK Government to lead on building an international coalition to look at the most effective way of holding the perpetrators of this to account.
7. Commit to, when it is in government, ensuring the issue of Kashmir is not something that is brushed off the agenda of the UN Security Council in the way that it has been because of permanent and non-permanent members accepting this wasn’t an issue for the Security Council.
8. Work with the UK Government towards effective multilateral engagement with representatives from India, Pakistan and both sides of Jammu & Kashmir (covering all 5 regions of Jammu & Kashmir) for justice, peace and an ultimate resolution of the conflict.
9. Right to self-determination is paramount, and Labour must recognise conflict solution is granting this basic fundamental right, enshrined in international law and supported by numerous UN resolutions.
10. Call for complete demilitarisation of Jammu and Kashmir, and for the Indian Government to revoke draconian laws, release political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, return Kashmir to its legal position as mandated by UN.
11. Encourage and assist the UK Government to use its role as Head of the Commonwealth to help amicably resolve this conflict.
12. Establish a clear position on human rights standards expected by foreign States in order for the UK to trade with them.
13. Assert leadership with UK based interest groups about what is expected from them when engaging with the Party. No tolerance of UK based groups that excuse or ignore human rights violations by foreign States.
15. Call for a review of Export Licences to ensure when issuing with India they are compliant with human rights standards and that UK equipment will not be used to assist in human rights violations.