

REPORT: WHAT HAVE WE DONE SINCE THE REFERENDUM?

It is now almost a year since the result of the EU referendum, and in that time the political landscape has changed beyond recognition. Britain is led by the inventor of the ‘go home’ van and Donald Trump is President of the United States. Narratives which were once confined to the far right fringes are becoming mainstream, while basic assumptions – like the idea that parliament, not the executive, makes the law – are now up for debate. At the same time, there is a groundswell of resistance and defiance against racism, Trumpism and British nationalism.

Campaigns

Our flagship campaign, the **Progressive Deal**, seeks to build a platform around the six progressive aspects of EU membership – workers’ rights, environmental protections, freedom of movement, human rights, education and innovation, and science and research funding. We launched it on the day Article 50 was triggered, and we’re in the process of building an alliance around the six points.

The most central, as well as the most challenging, topic after Brexit is free movement. Even many of our allies have begun giving ground to the idea that immigration is a problem. So we’ve formed the **Alliance for Free Movement**, working with colleagues in NGOs, trade unions and campaign groups in an attempt to shift the debate. Other campaigns, such as

our viral videos of cross-border couples **#LoveKnowsNoBorders**, have sought to demonstrate the human value of migration.

Our campaigning efforts are also focussed on the technical and procedural aspects of the Brexit process – which in many ways are the most dangerous. Since the referendum result, we have argued for transparency and democracy in the process, and for the people, rather than Theresa May, to have the final say. We ran a series of small campaigns over the **Article 50 vote** in parliament, urging MPs and Lords to back amendments to the government’s Brexit Bill.

We’ve launched a flagship campaign on **The Great Repeal Bill**, which currently threatens to hand sweeping ‘Henry VIII powers’ to the government, allowing our rights and freedoms to be taken away without even a parliamentary vote. We’ve produced and disseminated a comprehensive briefing to MPs, and have an array of creative campaigning activities planned.

Another Europe has played a central role in setting up the new **Stop Trump coalition** – a broad movement which is promising to organise the biggest demonstration in British history over Donald Trump’s state visit, and which is committed to fighting racism and misogyny at home.

Meanwhile, we’re also a major partner to a series of events organised by The World Transformed. Provocatively titled **‘Take Back Control’**, these meetings will tour areas of the country often neglected by politics to discuss Brexit, immigration and power.

Events

Since the referendum result, we've organised a series of high profile events.

In the aftermath of the referendum result, we organised or supported a series of demonstrations and rallies, giving voice to the anger felt by many and raising slogans in support of free movement. In September, we held our first big post-Brexit event 'Brexit Britain: what went wrong and what next?' at the LSE. Around 450 people attended the conference and we approved a statement of aims.

Later on in 2016, attention turned to the terms of Brexit and the role of parliament in the process. We hosted a meeting at the Emmanuel Centre – 'Democracy, Europe and the deal we need' which again brought hundreds of people together. Then, when Nigel Farage threatened to march on the Supreme Court in December, we led calls for a counter-demonstration which saw thousands pledge to march. In the end, Farage and the EDL called off their protest, so did we.

In January and February, we were a core part of organising the massive Stop Trump rallies which took place across the country, providing much of the logistical and office support. These protests struck a chord with the public mood, and played an important role in illustrating that Trump and Brexit are part of the same process – even directly partnering with campaigns for the rights of European migrants, like One Day Without Us and the 3 Million.

Coming up after this conference are the series of Take Back Control events, where we will run sessions covering the content of our

Progressive Deal and engaging in a genuine exchange of ideas with people across the country.

Areas for development

We do a lot for a campaign of our size (until late January, when we received grant funding, we had no staff or reliable resources) but there are a number of areas that we clearly need to develop.

During the referendum, Another Europe was a big campaign. We had local organisers in most cities, distributed hundreds of thousands of leaflets and had a big grassroots activist base, drawn from all parts of our coalition – from Labour, to Scottish and Welsh nationalists, to the Green Party, to independent activists and progressives.

That has undoubtedly fallen back in recent months, and our campaigning work is much more centred around high level lobbying and alliance-building. While this work is vital, we know that our aims will never be achieved without a bottom-up campaign. **We need to become a grassroots campaign with activities and groups in the real world again, and that's down to us all.**

Crucially, we need to expand our activities **outside of London** and build the Another Europe coalition across the country, re-establishing links with our allies during the referendum campaign.

So, if you've got ideas and energy, we need you: sign up as a local organiser and run to be on the Another Europe Steering Group.