

David's statement

I feel tremendously let down by the Conservative Party in relation to Chris Grayling's recently revealed comments and the lack of any credible response from the party leadership. When forced to respond on the BBC, both William Hague and Theresa May summed up that Chris Grayling had "... made his position very clear", which I think is very true – but the clarity they clung to was perhaps not the clarity that I then saw in the party.

Under David Cameron's leadership I had felt able to persuade gay people and others who had no trust in the Conservatives that the party had changed and was ready to represent them. How wrong I was. Whilst Mr Cameron may have this vision, his party seems unwilling to move with him from their old values to those of a party to represent a modern, fair and equal Britain.

There are three fundamental problems at the core of the Conservative philosophy in this issue:

1. As David Milliband said on last week's Question Time, Chris Grayling's values seem to be determined by "camera on, camera off" and this is simply unacceptable.
2. The party has effectively endorsed his views in its handling of yet another Grayling blunder
3. This man who aspires to occupy the great office of Home Secretary advocates that it is acceptable to select the laws by which we abide according to our religious beliefs. This is dangerous for our society.

This raised three questions in my mind:

1. How can you create the 'Big Society' by discriminating against parts of it?
2. How can the Conservative Party provide change when it remains the same at its very core?
3. How could I be part of such a superficial set of beliefs?

This is why I took the decision to resign from the Conservative Party both as a member and as an Approved Parliamentary Candidate. My own political beliefs mean far too much to me to have them sullied by the false values of the Conservative Party.

Having removed my blue-tinted glasses and looked seriously at other parties, I am proud to say that I have joined the Labour Party.