

# INDEPENDENT

# Nessa Childers

## MEP

## Dublin's Independent Candidate for Europe

[www.nessachilders.com](http://www.nessachilders.com)

# European Election Manifesto

## Introduction

We need to get back to a fairer and kinder way of living - with proper jobs for Dubliners. Unreasonable and unfair demands are being made of the Irish people. Services for our most vulnerable have been cut, pensions are being plundered. While other cuts will cannibalise whatever economy we have left. If we keep this up we simply will not be able to create long term decent jobs.

We have now reached a position where a choice must be made between compliance and morality, between so-called stability and freedom. We must ask ourselves - to whom do we owe allegiance, the banking and financial sector across Europe or our citizens?

Every reasonable person knows our bank bail-out debts cannot be paid back and because of this I strongly believe we must robustly negotiate relief from our bail out debts and do it soon. Demand for a complete write-down of our debt, and the introduction of a levy, or citizens dividend, on financial trading through the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax is the message at the centre of my election campaign.

## What I stand for

### **Justice and fairness**

Disability rights and access to quality health services as a right, not a privilege.

Haling the slide towards a low-wage economy, providing a guaranteed basic living wage, and supports for the self-employed and small businesses.

### **Community**

Writing off the bankers' gambling debts unfairly foisted on Irish citizens thereby allowing the Irish Government to create jobs and protect the vulnerable.

### **Environment**

Keeping climate change and climate justice at the top of EU global policy agenda - its effects are already being felt around the world, the heaviest price being paid by those living in poorer developing nations.

Driving an ambitious energy efficiency retrofitting plan for homes and businesses which will reduce energy bills, create jobs and combat climate change.

## **There is an alternative to austerity**

***“These elections are about the direction of Irish society and how we shape the future”***

Ireland as part of Europe needs an alternative policy with a better way of ultimately fixing the public finances, a way that prioritises jobs and economic development over short term balancing of the books. The drive to please the international markets and financiers is unravelling too many of our social protections. We need a new, alternative European and national policy based on promoting fairness, equality and solidarity.

We need to stop the free rein for financial institutions that allows the less well-off unfairly shoulder bank gambling debts. The policy of reducing spending on health, education, pensions and other cutbacks in public services – called austerity – is being driven by conservative governments and MEPs who dominate the European Parliament.

That is why the people need to make the first real dent in the austerity policy by electing an MEPs who has a proven track record in taking a stand and refusing to support damaging government and EU policy. There is a clear alternative but we have to stand up and fight for it in the European Parliament election.

***“Sustainable employment and access to quality health services are a right not a privilege”***

Research shows that the austerity agenda has impacted disproportionately on the lower paid and vulnerable people in Ireland. It does not have to be like this. There are clear, workable alternatives to austerity.

At European level, the government must call for the Irish and European bailout debt to be tackled through a clear, transparent arbitration process that could include debt restructuring or cancellation. At home, we must prioritise an economic stimulus programme, investing in capital and people, with job creation as the primary target of policy.

We must reverse policy and protect health services, improve education from pre-school up to university and restore a social protection system that defends the most vulnerable. The main way in which this new policy can be paid for is through a fair tax system – where those who earn more, pay more, and where minimum taxes are levelled on wealth and where the banks, multinationals and big business pay their fair through the EU-backed Financial Transactions Tax.

***“We need a new European policy that gives priority to building a social Europe that creates jobs and promotes fairness, equality and solidarity”***

## **Creating jobs through investment & fairer taxation policies in Ireland and Europe**

- Prioritising an economic stimulus programme, investing in capital and people, with job creation as the primary target of policy
- A Financial Transaction Tax on bankers & speculators
- Ensuring fairness in the Irish Corporate Tax system – multinationals based in Ireland who avail of our already low 12.5% corporate tax should actually pay that rate of tax to assist our budgetary problems.
- An EU wide commitment to tackle the critical issue of global tax avoidance and evasion

## **A more democratic and transparent Europe**

- Transparency in political decision making and stronger regulation of lobbyists and freedom of information legislation
- Human rights, enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, must be guaranteed throughout the EU by every government

## **The right to quality health care**

- Ring-fencing frontline services to protect the most vulnerable
- Positive mental health strategies & community based primary mental health services
- Greater EU supports for research and prevention of chronic illness, cancer and heart disease.

## **Environmental protection**

- Keeping climate change and climate justice at the top of EU global policy agenda. Climate change threatens to destroy life as we know it: its effects are already being felt around the world, the heaviest price being paid by those living in poorer developing nations.

## **Protecting food safety**

- Defending food safety and stronger food labelling to protect European and Irish producers and consumer health

## **International justice and solidarity**

- Fighting EU trade agreements that do not protect third countries and weaken EU citizens' current rights such as labour laws, environmental protection, and food safety regulations
- Protecting Ireland's positive neutrality, and supporting a strong UN peacekeeping role