

A manifesto for the prevention of breast cancer



Over **55,000** people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year in the UK¹. **Half a million** women are living with breast cancer and countless more are affected in some way by the disease. A woman's lifetime risk of breast cancer has risen from one in nine to **one in eight** in just 15 years, with **one in five** cases now diagnosed in women under 50. **It's a trend that needs to be stopped.**

Our lifestyles and our environment are potential contributors to disease. Diet, lack of exercise and exposure to environmental pollutants, including endocrine (hormone) disrupting chemicals (EDCs) present in many everyday products, may increase the risk of hormone related diseases such as breast cancer.

Breast Cancer UK want the UK Government to:

Commit to identifying and addressing the causes of disease and ill health

- **Develop an Action Plan for the prevention of cancer** setting out new goals for education, research funding and policy interventions that help to prevent cancer developing.
- **Acknowledge in national cancer strategies that exposures to environmental chemicals are preventable risk factors.**
- **Increase research funding into the role of environmental pollutants in breast cancer risk.**
- **Publish a comprehensive guide for pregnant woman** which explains the potential risk of *in utero* environmental exposures and their possible effects on the unborn child.

Commit to maintaining consumer and environmental protections following BREXIT

- **Apply the precautionary principle²** to health, environmental and chemicals policy.
- **Adhere to the EU's system of chemicals regulation "REACH"** after Brexit, to ensure the continued protection of public health and the environment³.
- **Make the safeguarding of public health and consumer and environmental regulation a priority in future trade deals.**
- **Guarantee that any changes to EU derived chemicals legislation and regulation be subject to full parliamentary scrutiny and debate.**

Ask your MP what they will do to help prevent breast cancer.

For more information visit our website www.breastcanceruk.org.uk

Breast Cancer UK works to save lives and reduce breast cancer rates by tackling the environmental and chemical causes of the disease.

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¹ All statistics based on Cancer Research UK 'Breast cancer incidence (invasive) statistics' (accessed April 2017)

² Under the precautionary principle, if there is evidence that a chemical is hazardous and poses a risk to human health or the environment, then action should be taken to restrict or ban its use. If a consensus develops that it does not pose a risk, then action can be taken to lift those restrictions.

³ The UK can remain in the EU chemicals regulation system even after it leaves the EU.