

Annual Conference 2024

SUNDAY 22.09.24



This bulletin is sponsored by the FBU.

Priorities Ballot

Conference needs to discuss meaningful change, that will improve people's lives, not continue the talk about doom and gloom. This is our only chance to debate the ongoing genocide in Palestine. Also note that the subject "Patient safety" is misnamed – it offers a progressive option on the NHS, unlike the "Health Mission" subject. "Pensioners" addresses the cut to the Winter Fuel Allowance and "Child Poverty" the two child limit.

So, CLPs are recommended to vote for the following subjects:

- •Child Poverty
- Housing
- Israel-Palestine
- Patient Safety
- Pensioners
- •Tax Reform

The unions will back the subjects below, meaning these will be debated. So, CLPs should NOT vote for these subjects: •AI And Automation •An Economy For The Future •Future Of Local Government •Infrastructure •Making Work Pay For Public Services •Procurement

> National Constitutional Comittee: Vote Rachel Garnham Emine Ibrahim Dave Levy Khaled Moyeed

Rule changes – Support party democracy! CLP-submitted rule changes: support all 3!

If the CLPs that submitted these three rule changes move their proposals, they should be supported.

• The so called **"Due Diligence"** checks, recently introduced in the procedures for selecting candidates, are being factionally abused. Exceptional potential candidates from the centre and left of the Party have been excluded because of their views, not because they have acted in any way that could harm the Party. However, candidates on the right whose conduct has been questionable have been

CAC Report

Some delegates are hoping to raise questions on the CAC Report. A motion submitted on migrants' rights should be included on the agenda. Also some Emergency Motions have been ruled out that should be on the agenda.

Delegates raising these and other democratic issues should be supported.

•Vote against the CAC Report if the issues raised are not resolved.

CLPD Conference Assessment

Tuesday, 24th September, 6.30pm

Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool L1 3BT deemed suitable.

•As the Forde Report recommended, **party staff** ought to play a neutral organisational role in the Party's internal democratic processes, including Annual and Regional Conferences, internal elections and selection of candidates. The NEC rejected Forde's recommendation. It should be accepted and included in the rules.

•MPs are over-represented on the NEC – Leader + Deputy +3 PLP + 3 Front Bench (appointed by the Leader). Democratise the NEC!

NEC submitted rule changes Oppose these sections

- •Regional and local governance
- •Updates to selection procedures

No position on these sections:

- •Party conference (which includes elements of Leadership elections)
- •Administrative updates
- •Membership rates



Lessons from Forde

Despite the Forde report two years ago proposing a series of recommendations to address the systemic issues of racism, misogyny and monoculture of Labour's workplace, there is little evidence that lessons have been learned.

The horrendous treatment of Diane Abbott MP, Faiza Shaheen and Lloyd Russell-Moyle in the run up to the General Election – alongside the ongoing suspension of CLPs in areas with high Muslim populations – show there is much work to do to fulfil Labour's claim to be a democratic socialist party.

Martin Forde has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with the Labour

"BITE-BACK"

"The country voted for change and all we have changed so far is to deprive all but the poorest pensioners of their winter fuel allowance."

Labour MP, quoted in the Sunday Times

"QUOTE" – "UNQUOTE"

"At the Labour Party Conference 'Labour Together' is co-hosting fringe events with Vodafone, EY and Uber. The risks of conflicts of interests are all too real." *The Guardian* leadership's response to his report.

Further evidence that Forde has been ignored comes in the failure to implement the new democratic structures for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic members and for Disabled members now in the Rule Book. No conferences and no committees are in sight, despite their presence in the Rule Book. Delegates may wish to raise these issues if there is an opportunity in the General Secretary's Report discussion today.

Hobson's choice on GS?

The hurried nature of the General Secretary's departure left the NEC little time to appoint his successor. As a consequence, the NEC was only presented with one candidate to interview.

Even if they were a great candidate, the NEC would have been better placed to appoint a new GS if they had interviewed at least two candidates. This would also have given the successful candidate more authority when assuming their role.

Delegates should vote against the NEC recommendation so that a genuine choice is available to them after a wider recruitment process.

Women deprioritised again

Yesterday's Women's Conference was its usual mix of inspirational contributions from delegates – unfortunately much too squeezed – and deep frustration at the conference being treated as a regrettable sideshow to Annual Conference by Labour HQ.

CLPD has previously documented a whole litany of democratic and organisational failings, and it was clear delegates were annoyed. Complaints ranged from poor communications to lack of visitor passes; from motions being unfairly ruled out to lack of food and seating at the reception (feedback from last year clearly went unheeded).

Fewer fringes and stalls were noted, as was Women's Conference's own relegation to a fringe event and the lack of accountability and activity of the National

By Rachel Garham (former NEC member)

Women's Committee.

A long line of women queued up to question the WCAC report but only 3 were taken, with calls to return to a 2day, standalone, spring Women's Conference met with cheers. Points of order went unheard and there was far too much top-down being talked at.

Some reasonable policy was passed, thanks to the trade unions, with the call to entirely end zero hours contracts notable as well as important emergency motions on Afghanistan and violence against women and girls.

As previously, a much curtailed Women's Conference proved itself worthy of greater priority.

Fringe Meetings

Sunday 22 September 12.45pm-2pm

Stand Up To Racism

After the Far Right Riots: Why a Labour Government must challenge racism, Islamophobia and anti-semitism Holiday Inn Express, Britannia Pavilion, Albert Dock

4pm-5.30pm, **CND**

A new agenda for peace: what we need from Labour's defence review Albert Room, The Hilton Speakers: Alex Gordon, RMT President; Bell Ribeiro Addy, Labour MP; Jess Barnard, Labour Party NEC; Peter Burt, Nukewatch; Sam Mason, CND Vice-Chair. Chair: Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary

Monday 23 September 12.30pm-2pm **Palestine Solidarity Campaign** Labour, Palestine & Islamophobia ACC Room 3B 6pm-7pm **Palestine Solidarity Campaign** Justice for Palestine Hilton Hotel, Albert 4 6.30pm



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