



Can't win the argument? Then fix the debate!

The current Leadership has no shame, it seems, in its craven efforts to deliver its anti-democratic reforms. Primarily it has done this through a wave of suspensions and expulsions of members starting in 2020 and rapidly accelerated in recent weeks – including the shutting down of CLPs.

Most recently we hear Co-Chair of Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) Leah Levane was refused entry at the door of Conference, having apparently been expelled overnight – just the latest JVL activist targeted by Labour HQ it seems.

Not content with excluding left delegates, Conference organisers seem to be using every trick in the book to stop the progressive majority in the Labour Party expressing itself.

This includes bringing forward a whole set of rule changes to curtail the rights of party members, and giving delegates next to no time to read and scrutinise them.

- Points of Order are refused. Apparently they are “pointless” according to CLP rep (sic) Gurinder Singh Josan or refused by

Mark Ferguson because he didn't see what they could be (perhaps he could take them, as he is constitutionally obliged to, and find out).

- Proper votes on the NEC report, and calls for card votes, have been denied.

- We hear some staff are up to their old tricks too – around 40 delegates were taken aside by a certain Deputy Director to be lectured by Shabana Mahmood MP about why they must vote for NEC rule changes.

- The “one speech” ruling, in the past a suggestion as a courtesy to other delegates, has left delegates in fear that if they speak on rule changes they won't be allowed to speak on policy areas prioritised by their CLPs later in the week.

Despite this, Conference still managed to pass a rule change to introduce much greater democracy into snap parliamentary selections, and the changes proposed to the leadership nominations threshold were repeatedly ridiculed.

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.”

We need our independent NCC

The NCC was created, after court action against the Labour Party, to guarantee that investigations and decisions to “prosecute” are independent from any decisions regarding guilt and punishment. This segregation of duties set out in the European Convention on Human Rights Article 6: the right to a fair trial. The need for those taking decisions in the disciplinary process to be independent from the Leader and NEC is at the centre of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission Report.

Our NEC, General Secretary (GS) and previous GSs have shown the proof of “power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely”. The NEC and the GS should not be the investigators, prosecutors, judge and jury.

The disciplinary processes for behaviour contrary to equalities law, agreed yesterday,

got things the wrong way round. Investigations should be done under the direction of professionally qualified lawyers, with the determination of guilt and sanctions performed by an independent committee receiving its own independent legal advice. It should be noted that our Party was criticised in the EHRC report for not permitting the NCC to receive independent legal advice. The powers of our independent NCC are currently being eroded, precisely when we need it most.

Solidarity with Palestine!

Conference's decision to prioritise this subject today reflects grassroots support for Palestine – lots of CLPs and unions have discussed this, and now the Party needs to be in step. As an internationalist and democratic socialist party, it is Labour's responsibility to stand with the Palestinian people and their fundamental rights, including to self-determination. This motion – consistent with the framework passed by the TUC Congress – does just that.

Earlier this year, the labour movement widely condemned Israel's militarised violence against the Palestinian people, including the attack on the Al Aqsa mosque, the forced displacements from Sheikh Jarrah and the deadly assault on Gaza.

Major reports by Human Rights Watch and the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem have added weight to the TUC's warning that Israel taking these steps would represent “another significant step” towards the UN Crime of Apartheid.

And the International Criminal Court is holding an inquiry into abuses committed in the occupied Palestinian Territories since 2014.

Labour must build on – not step back from – our commitments for an end to the blockade, occupation and settlements as outlined in the 2017 and 2019 manifestos and in the motions passed by conference in 2018 and 2019.

Also solidarity must mean action, not just words. This motion includes the vital call for support for “effective measures” including sanctions – as called for by Palestinian civil society – against actions by the Israeli state that are illegal under international law.

National Constitutional Committee (NCC) CLP Section

**Ballot today: make sure your ballot papers
are placed in the ballot box by 4pm.**

**Vote for: Rheian Davies, Anna Dyer,
Annabelle Harle, Emine Ibrahim**

We need bolder policy to tackle climate crisis

Yesterday Conference heard one delegate after another speak passionately on why our Party needs to step up on climate change. Two Green New Deal composites were passed, including Composite One calling for more radical action across government. The Party's powers-that-be should pay attention to what delegates said.

The climate crisis poses a huge threat to humanity. Global temperature is going up and extreme weather events are already here. Immediate action is required if temperature rises are to be kept below 1.5°C – which scientists say is necessary.

The developed countries, including Britain, are responsible for the bulk of carbon emissions already in the atmosphere. They also have the highest current emissions per head of population. They should make deep cuts in their emissions now – but they aren't doing that.

The UN COP26 conference is fast approaching. The Tories pretend Britain is leading the way in tackling this crisis – which is simply a lie. There are no serious plans to cut carbon emissions – just “targets”. The Tories continue to subsidise fossil fuels and support further oil and gas exploration, and they have cut the Green Home Grants.

If more wind turbines, tidal power and solar arrays had been built, we wouldn't be facing rising energy bills this winter.

Unfortunately Labour spokespeople have set out policies that fall well short of what's needed. The TUC has called for an investment of £85 billion in a Green New Deal to cut the substantial majority of carbon emissions by 2030 – and create 1.2 million green jobs. Our Party has only called for £30 billion.

Our Party's policies need to change to address the scale of the crisis, and we must challenge the Tories' deceptions.



Somewhat critical of Sir Keir's 14,000 word essay

The essay “is devoted to wearily familiar centrist themes: the need for the party to be patriotic and pro-family, to value community and ‘people who work hard’, and to be tougher on crime. Labour leaders have been saying these things, to diminishing electoral effect, for a quarter of a century. The Conservatives say them better.”

Guardian columnist.

Support emergency motion on AUKUS

An emergency motion on the military pact between the US, UK and Australia has been accepted for debate, most likely today.

It's supported by 5 CLPs. Shipley, Brighton Pavillion and Beverley & Holderness have agreed to composite their motions, and Pendle and Hazel Grove are also on board.

AUKUS is presented by the signatories as a return to rule-based international collaboration in the post-Trump era. Johnson describes it as a land-mark partnership to promote stability in the Indo-Pacific. In reality it will do the opposite, fuelling further tensions with China.

The pact covers artificial intelligence,

cyber warfare and underwater capabilities, as well as long-range strike capabilities. AUKUS also has a nuclear component.

The US-UK will supply eight nuclear-powered military submarines to the Australian navy, enabling it to operate undetected underwater for longer – supplying a non-nuclear state with weapons-grade uranium (the building block for a nuclear bomb).

This puts the UK in breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which stipulates that an exchange of nuclear technology can only take place for peaceful purposes. Labour has supported the NPT for decades – and must continue to do so.

Let's win the maximum number of seats

“There are many reasons why our Party should continue to fully support First-Past-The-Post and reject the entreaties of those pressing for Proportional Representation. In the North West in the Euros, we had a very clear lesson as to the damage PR does to Labour.

“Under FPTP we had 10 out of 10 MEPs. Under PR we went down to only two MEPs and a far right/neo fascist was elected MEP. I joined the Labour Party because I believe it offers the best way forward for the mass of the people. That obviously means winning the maximum number of seats, not losing seats!”

Andrew Gwynne MP, 1 September 2021
CLPD believes that Annual Conference should endorse First-Past-The-Post. Failure to do this will give a huge boost to the Far Right, to the discredited Lib-Dems and to the non-socialist Greens.

CLPD Conference Review

Tuesday 28th September, 6pm

The Old Ship, King's Rd, BN1 1NR

Entry: £2, £1 concessions

Diane Abbott MP,
Andrew Gwynne MP,
Nadia Jama (NEC),
Mish Rahman (NEC),
Billy Hayes (CAC),
Mick Whelan (ASLEF),
Ruth Hayes (NWC),
Jean Crocker (WCAC)
Chair: Gemma Bolton

Daily briefing for Conference delegates published by:



The Yellow Pages are produced by volunteers. When you see us today (and tomorrow) with our buckets, please be generous. The Yellow Pages will have a cover price of £3 for the week.

The Yellow Pages is produced as a service to delegates by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD). To receive the Yellow Pages by email, visit: <https://bit.ly/CLPD-delegates>



Scan this QR code to sign up for updates from CLPD this conference.

The form can also be found on:

- our Twitter page @CLPD_Labour
- our website clpd.org.uk

