

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2021 **TUESDAY 28.09.21**



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Support unions and students to defend education

One of the first indications that Keir had no intention of sticking to his promise of “integrity, authority and unity” was his decision to sack Rebecca Long Bailey MP. It appeared that a major reason for this was that Rebecca was working closely with education unions in the frontline of the Covid crisis. The sacking cleared the way for Keir’s shameful “No ifs, no buts” article on schools reopening to all children in the *Daily Mail* last summer in the face of all evidence and the well justified concerns of teaching staff and parents.

As Conference debates Early Years, Edu-

cation and Skills today, delegates may wish to reiterate the value of listening to workers on the frontline – including those in non-affiliated, but hugely important, education unions.

We also need to defend our commitments to a National Education Service and abolition of tuition fees – where there have been worrying signs of retreat.

And with university workers likely to strike this autumn to defeat yet another attack on their pensions, let’s make sure they can rely on the Labour leadership to stand on their picket lines once again.

Oppose the Tories’ social care and health agenda

Today Conference will discuss social care and health. Our Party needs to set out clear policies to tackle the crisis in these services. The Tories put forward no plans for social care in their recent announcement – just a tax rise. Our previously discussed policy, of a National Care Service, is what is required and we should say so.

On the NHS, our Party is not doing enough to fight the ongoing privatisations and back NHS workers’ pay claims. We really should not return to the Blairites’ policies.

On the health issue which has most affected us over the last 18 months, regrettably our Party has gone along with the

Tories’ disastrous approach. On current official figures, which understate the Covid pandemic: 130,000 plus have already died; there are 1,000 deaths each week and 30,000 plus new cases every day; and Covid hospitalisations are rising again – pressuring the overstretched NHS.

The high number of deaths, long Covid and economic disruption have been exacerbated by government policy. Countries that rejected “herd immunity” and engaged in maximum elimination of the virus, like New Zealand, have not suffered like our population here.

Our Party should put people’s health first and stop supporting the Tory agenda.

Stay and fight (part 1)

Anti-democratic rule changes have been pushed through in a cavalier fashion this week, which will do the opposite of help Labour win elections as their backers claim. But the left has demonstrated that it is still alive and kicking despite the best efforts of the current leadership:

- passing a CLP rule change, against the NEC recommendation, which will give CLPs more say in snap elections and by-elections;

- the overwhelming support for a socialist Green New Deal and other left policies shows grassroots members and trade unions still recognise the agenda we need to win;

- yesterday’s policy on Palestine – supporting sanctions, despite opposition – shows real commitment to fighting for peace and justice for Palestinians.

Already delegates are hearing from back home that party members following the news from conference are resigning in despair. We have to get the message out to them that left policies are still popular at Conference – and we must stay together if we want these Labour values to be the basis of our next manifesto.

TONIGHT: CLPD Conference Review

Tuesday 28th September, 6pm
The Old Ship, King’s Rd, BN1 1NR

Bell Ribeiro-Addy 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

Entry: £2, £1 concessions

Daily briefing for Conference
delegates published by:



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Black Lives Still Matter!

It was disappointing that the Black Lives Matter topic was not prioritised for debate, but delegates have the opportunity this afternoon in the Justice and Home Affairs debate to raise the ongoing issue of institutional racism experienced by People of Colour in the justice system and the need for a progressive and inclusive immigration policy.

It was also disappointing that CLPD's model motion was ruled out as an "organisational matter". It had listed Labour's current failures to take a clear stand against racism – including leadership statements

made in relation to Black Lives Matter; anti-traveller election literature; and Islamophobic press briefings by senior Labour staff. The ongoing failure to publish the Forde report, over a year after the NEC deadline, and address the issues of racism raised in it could be added to the list.

The long overdue development of Labour's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic structures is a step in the right direction. However, the leadership needs to do much better to oppose all attempts by the Tories to promote racism and get our own house in order.

How to inspire the voters

As Leader, Jeremy Corbyn MP inspired Conference and gave us effective policies to fight for. So popular were they that at the 2017 General Election there was the largest swing to Labour since 1945. These were the ten points Jeremy presented to Conference early in his leadership:

1. Full employment. Create a million good quality jobs across our regions and nations and guarantee a decent job for all.
2. A secure homes guarantee. Build over a million new homes in five years, with at least 0.5 million council homes through our public investment strategy. And introduce rent controls, secure tenancies, and a charter of private tenants' rights.
3. Security at work. Give employees stronger employment rights from day 1, end exploitative zero hours contracts, and create new sectoral bargaining rights.
4. A secure NHS and social care. End health service privatisation and bring services into a secure, publicly-provided NHS and integrate the NHS and social care.
5. A national education service. Build a new NES and ensure there is universal child care. The progressive restoration of free education for all.
6. Action to secure our environment. Use our National Investment Bank to invest in public and community-owned renewable energy. Kerb energy bill rises for households.
7. Put the public back into our economy. Give people a real say in their local communities with increased local and regional democracy. Bring our railways back into public ownership.
8. Cut inequality in income and wealth. A progressive tax system. Shrink the gap between the highest and lowest paid.
9. Action to secure an equal society. Ensure that the human rights of all are respected and that everyone is protected from discrimination and prejudice.
10. Peace and justice at the heart of foreign policy. Put conflict resolution and human rights at the centre of foreign policy. Build human rights and social justice into trade policy.



Bitebacks

"After eighteen months of your leadership, our movement is more divided than ever and the pledges that you made to the membership are not being honoured."

Andy McDonald MP, letter to Keir Starmer after McDonald was forced to step down from Labour's Shadow Front Bench for supporting a £15 minimum wage, 27th September 2021

"'Labour will be tougher than Tories on benefits,' promises new welfare chief" *Observer headline, 2013, describing Rachel Reeves's agenda for social security*

"Before I was elected I stood with @BFAWUOfficial members to call for a £15 hourly wage for fast food workers. Now that I have been elected I stand with them still."
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Twitter, 27th September 2021

Controversy over UNISON's rule change vote

UNISON's vote on Sunday to severely restrict the field of candidates in leadership elections was key to this anti-democratic measure being agreed. It was a close vote: the rule change passed with only 54% of Conference voting to raise the MPs threshold in leadership elections from 10% to 20%.

Since that vote, a statement has been issued by TimeForRealChange candidates standing in UNISON's Labour Link election, criticising UNISON's conference delegation for voting against their union's policy. They state that the Labour Link has clear policy supporting a threshold of 10% and that the union had a proud record of standing for diversity and equality – which will be undermined by voting for such a high threshold.

Out of Touch Reeves ignores Party's sovereign body

Just hours after Conference passed Composite 5 on Public Ownership on Sunday, Shadow Chancellor Rachel "tough on welfare" Reeves declared on BBC News that "this is not the moment to be looking at nationalising companies."

Meanwhile, millions of people in Britain face sky-rocketing energy bills and no fewer than SEVEN energy firms have gone bust in the last few weeks.

The private sector cannot be trusted to run our public services and utilities. Labour's shadow front bench must listen to the Party's sovereign body, Conference, and commit to bringing them under public control.

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>



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