

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2023 TUESDAY 10.10.23

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Palestine and Israel: support the call for immediate ceasefire

As I write on Monday evening, Israel has declared it is at war and ordered a “complete siege” of Gaza – and casualties are mounting fast. Currently there are reports of more than 1,300 dead and 5,000 injured, many of them civilians, both Israeli and Palestinian. These figures are likely to have risen considerably by the time you read this, particularly among Palestinians.

Violence begets violence. It follows decades of brutal, illegal military occupation in the West Bank and a situation of siege in Gaza, effectively the world’s largest open prison – blockaded by land, sea and air by Israel since 2007.

The world has turned a blind eye to violations of international law and ethnic cleansing, which have accelerated over the last year. Palestinians have had to endure

by **Marion Roberts**

the building of illegal settlements, attacks on their families and house demolitions among other deprivations of their human rights. There are more facts to add to these, but space does not permit their inclusion here.

The international community should not let this go on. We in the Labour Party must press for an immediate ceasefire and a peaceful solution. At the very least, the Party should recommit to the recognition of Palestinian rights and their legitimate demand for statehood. The National Policy Forum’s document changed the Party’s position from us recognising a Palestinian state to only working “alongside inter-

National Constitutional Committee (NCC)
CLP Section

BALLOT TODAY

VOTE FOR:

Annabelle Harle

Jabran Hussain

Dave Levy

Marion Roberts

Harry Stratton

Ballot 9am-2pm today

Please note:

the ballot closes early at 2pm

national partners to recognise the state of Palestine”. This is not enough. We should take positive action, not wait on others. We need an end to the military occupation, peace, human rights and dignity for all citizens in the land of Israel/Palestine.

Treat members fairly and involve us in policy-making

I am standing for election to the National Constitutional Committee (NCC) because I believe in the principles of natural justice.

All party members deserve to be treated fairly and where a member is subjected to a complaint, or makes a complaint, the investigatory process that follows needs to be entirely objective and impartial.

I believe that our rules should be interpreted in the context of UK law and human rights law.

From my experience as a CLP Secretary – and, more importantly, as a trade union accompanying representative – I am aware that partisan disciplinary processes under-

by **Dave Levy**

mine unity in an organisation and wreck lives. Unity and a reputation for justice is vital for our Party in our many electoral battles ahead.

Many members currently have concerns that disciplinary processes lack impartiality. These concerns are echoed in the Forde report and this is a problem the Party has to address.

Similarly in policy making, party members need to be listened to. The Conference this week sadly pushed the views of members

to the margins. Insufficient time has been allowed for delegates to contribute to the very brief discussions of important subjects and other important subjects have been excluded from the agenda.

The country needs a Labour government to solve our problems – the cost of living crisis, infrastructure decay, wealth inequality and corruption. Labour’s leadership needs to unite the Party and recognise that our members have good ideas. The clamour for clarity on the policy offer is growing, but the leadership is effectively closing down and ignoring the views of the membership and undermining conference sovereignty.

CLPD Conference Assessment meeting

6.30pm, TONIGHT (Tuesday, 10th October)

Friends Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT

Speakers including:

Jess Barnard (National Executive Committee)

Billy Hayes (Conference Arrangements Committee)

Rathi Guhadasan (Socialist Health Association)

Ruth Hayes (National Women’s Committee)

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Daily briefing for Conference delegates published by:



**CAMPAIGN for
LABOUR PARTY
DEMOCRACY**

The New Deal will begin to restore trade union rights

Since Starmer's election as Leader, Labour and its affiliated trade unions have worked together, through the Power in the Workplace Taskforce, to look at how the world of work can be transformed for the better, with strengthened collective and individual rights and protections for all working people. This resulted in the New Deal for Working people that passed Conference in 2021.

Keir Starmer, along with Andy McDonald and Angela Rayner, were key architects of the New Deal – along with the affiliated unions – and we look forward to working with Angela closely in government to implement it.

We are proud to have submitted a motion to reaffirm our commitment to implement the New Deal for working people in full. No backsliding, no regression but full implementation.

Along with the CWU we have brought together a radical, bold commitment to reaf-

**By Matt Wrack
General Secretary, FBU
President, TUC**

firm the commitments made in the New Deal for Working People.

Strengthening individual and collective rights must be at the heart of Labour's plan to create good, secure jobs and shift balance towards labour, away from capital – this motion affirms that.

We can never trust the ruling class and the Tory government to protect workers. Their response to the cost of living crisis has revealed their utter contempt for workers, and we must be alive to their future attacks. The New Deal for working people should be used to begin to respond to 40 years of attacks on our trade union rights.

The labour movement and affiliates is stating this loud and clear – and so should the Labour Party.

Stop racism being the driver of immigration and asylum policy

We have an immigration system:

- that fosters a hostile environment for people from overseas;
- is used politically to whip up racism;
- that does not allow the workforce we need to enter Britain and be recruited;
- and treats those who flee war, famine and persecution as if they were criminals.

Our Party should reject this reactionary Tory framework in its entirety. Rhetoric about using anti-terrorism legislation feeds the hostility the Tories are whipping up. Contrary to right wing rhetoric, this is about human rights. Labour should say this loud and clear.

Our policy should firmly back our international legal obligations to refugees and allow people to exercise their rights to seek asylum.

Once here refugees should:

- be treated humanely by government;
- not be housed on ships;
- have the right to work;
- have access to public services.

Parallel universe

Not content with claiming that "Getting our CLPs election ready" means excluding equality officers as voting EC members, concentrating power in the hands of the few not the many, and doubling the workload of whichever poor volunteer ends up in the CLP Vice Chair position, there also appears to be a concerted effort to claim we have party unity – despite all the evidence to the contrary:

- removing the whip from Jeremy Corbyn, our most recent Leader who inspired unprecedented party growth and a wave of youth activism...

- and from Diane Abbott, Britain's first Black woman MP, a giant of the women's and anti-racist movements, who has huge support amongst the Black population...

- not to mention the rejection by the leadership of longstanding and popular policy positions on NHS re-nationalisation, ending the 2-child cap on benefits, and free school meals.

● "I'm sorry, we're full"

Last year we had the problem of the pre-conference disappearing passes, as CLP delegations were ruled out just before Conference. This year, it is reported that a member whose pass, which had been working, has been cancelled because the conference is... "oversubscribed". What a bizarre way to treat members. *Yellow Pages* is endeavouring to find out what on earth is going on.

This is a matter for the people of Ireland

Keir Starmer's reported comments that, as far as he is concerned, an Irish border poll is "not even on the horizon" are very disappointing.

This assertion is not in keeping with the wording of the Good Friday Agreement which clearly states that it will be for the people of Ireland alone to exercise their right of self-determination by consent.

In government our Party must take account of the changing views in Northern Ireland, note recent local government elections that indicated an Irish nationalist majority, also the Northern Ireland Assembly elections in which Sinn Fein secured the

most first preference votes. The SDLP, Labour's sister party in Northern Ireland, has called for a border poll in 2030 and the Taoiseach of Ireland believes Ireland will be united in the not too distant future.

The terms of the Good Friday Agreement - an international treaty - should be fully respected. It is an important achievement of the last Labour Government.

- Edited version of statement by Labour for Irish Unity

Yesterday at conference

Monday's conference was reminded what the policy of a transformative Labour government should look like. Rather than back Reeves's austerity agenda, Conference called for the delivery of infrastructure projects including HS2 in full; stood in solidarity with workers taking industrial action; and demanded that UK energy be brought back into public ownership. This approach was underlined by Mark Drakeford's powerful contribution on the value of a bold Labour government genuinely delivering on Labour values in Wales through policies such as public ownership and addressing child poverty.

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