

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2025

MONDAY 29.09.25

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Yellow Pages
is sponsored
by ASLEF.



Stop the genocide! Vote for “Peace in the Middle East 2”

Delegates from CLPs and trade unions stood up to ministerial pressure to ensure Conference has a motion before it (entitled “Peace in the Middle East 2” and moved by Unison) that calls for a comprehensive arms embargo and fully calls out the crime of genocide in Gaza. It respects the self-determination of Palestinians.

Motion 1 stops short of the

measures needed to put real pressure on Israel, and suggests there is a “risk of genocide”, misreporting what the UN has said and the mass slaughter we are witnessing in real time.

It is time for our Labour Government to lead serious action to stop the genocide.

●Vote for Peace in the Middle East 2 and against motion 1.

Rail nationalisation and workers’ rights — key policies for Labour

When I joined the railway (as a guard, back in the day, before I became a driver on freight and passenger trains) and when I joined the labour movement (because I’ve always been union) and when I joined the Labour Party, well, I never thought I would end up chairing meetings in Downing Street!

Because we (and I don’t just mean ASLEF, I mean all the trade unions affiliated to the Party) have had more engagement with government, and more opportunity to put across our points of view, in the last twelve months than we had in the previous 14 years.

The new Labour Government’s first Bill, last year, was to renationalise the railway. It isn’t perfect; it doesn’t include the rolling stock companies. But they said they would do it and they did.

They also told us that, in the first 100 days, they would bring forward A New Deal for Workers. And they did. We haven’t got everything we wanted but this is – and let there be no mistakes or misunderstandings – the biggest step-change for workers in this country in a generation.

By Mick Whelan
General Secretary of ASLEF

That, colleagues and comrades, is why I’m a member of the Labour Party and that is why I always vote Labour. Before we rush to complain – and I have complained, too! – let us not forget how the Conservative Party treated us between 1979 and 1997 and from 2010 to 2024.

Let’s not forget, either, that Nigel Farage and his cronies in Reform voted against the Employment Rights Bill at every stage as it went through the House of Commons.

A Labour government is always better than a Tory government or – heaven forfend – what would happen to us under Nigel Farage and Reform

●Mick Whelan has spent 41 years on the railway, and 41 years as an active trade unionist. He was elected General Secretary of ASLEF in 2011; became Chair of TULO, now Labour Unions, in 2016; and was elected to Labour’s NEC in 2017.

A wealth tax is necessary to deliver change

By Richard Burgon MP

Today, the Chancellor will be giving her speech, and delegates will discuss the economy and “kickstarting growth”.

Unfortunately, one of the reasons the Party has been plummeting in the polls is because the Government has not tackled the cost-of-living crisis – the number one issue in British politics.

With disability benefits cuts and the later-reversed cut to the Winter Fuel Allowance, they instead chose to balance the books on the backs of the poor and disabled. But there is an alternative.

People have been facing crisis after crisis, yet one group has been doing very well. Britain’s billionaires have seen their wealth more than double since 2010, while millions have plunged into hardship. The top 50 families now own more wealth than the bottom half of society.

People are worse off because the very wealthiest are taking more and more. That’s what we need to change and we can do that with a Wealth Tax.

Taxing extreme wealth isn’t just about fairness – it’s about raising the resources we need to help rebuild our key public services and tackle poverty.

To help step up the pressure for the Government to increase taxes on the very wealthy at the Budget, I’ve launched a new campaign.

●Sign up here: bit.ly/wealthtaxes

VOTE TODAY BY 4PM:

National Constitutional Committee (NCC)

Rachel Garnham

Nicodemus Leo

Dave Levy

Conference Arrangements

Committee (CAC)

Jack Ballingham

Jean Crocker

CAC – Disabled Members’

Representative

Barbara Roberts

Stand with Palestine!

In Gaza, civilians continue to be starved, bombed, and displaced with impunity. The UN Commission of Inquiry, B'Tselem, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and leading genocide scholars have all named this for what it is: genocide.

This atrocity is enabled by governments supplying weapons and political cover. Our Labour Government must end that complicity. This

**By Jess Barnard
NEC Member**

week conference must demand a total arms embargo on Israel and call on the Government to do everything within its power to end the genocide. Justice requires breaking ties of complicity, ending the flow of weapons, and standing unequivocally with the Palestinian people.

For a CAC that enables open debate

Our Party is experiencing a very difficult period. We face electoral threats on all sides.

We cannot afford to be insular, and Conference should be where we have a comradely debate on Labour's direction. Our Government cannot afford to become un-moored from the movement that put it in office.

But the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) has obstructed debate by blocking dozens of motions from CLPs. Several of these motions called on the Government to do much more to stop the horrors being perpetrated in Gaza, and specifically raised the issue of ending the arms trade and military co-operation with Israel. The CAC claims

this issue is substantially addressed in the NPF Report, but it is not.

This raises questions about the other blocked motions on Palestine, council housing and trans rights – subjects that delegates should have the opportunity to discuss.

We are glad to hear emergency motions on Palestine have been accepted.

We need CAC representatives who are committed to transparency and accountability, and will fight for a broad, open debate.

●Please vote for us – **Jean Crocker** and **Jack Ballingham** (Candidates for CLP Section of CAC).

●Please vote also for **Barbara Roberts** (Candidate, Disabled Members' Rep CAC).

Going from bad to even worse

On Sunday morning Conference had outgoing Party Chair Ellie Reeves, followed by newly appointed Party Chair Anna Turley in quick succession. Ellie has not been a friend to party democracy, regularly ignoring left NEC members' attempts to speak at NEC. However, the fulsome (and well deserved) tribute to Mick Whelan and recognition of trade unions in her speech was in stark contrast to Anna ignoring the trade unionists in front of her altogether.

Cranking up the Council House Revolution

Why the government needs to invest more to end the housing crisis

1 - 2.30pm, Monday, 29th September
Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane

Panel Members:

Matthew Brown; Leader, Preston City Council.

Florence Eshalomi MP; Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee

Adam Taylor; National Officer, FBU

Charlie Trew, Shelter

Carol Wilcox, The Labour Land Campaign

Chair: Ben Clay, Labour Campaign for Council Housing

●Restore Our NHS!

Organised by:

Socialist Health Association

6pm, Monday, 29th September

Quaker Meeting House,

School Lane, Liverpool L13BT

With: Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP;

John Puntis KONP; Dr Helen

Neary, BMA; David Rowland,

CHPI. Chair: Esther Giles, SHA.

●¡Viva la solidaridad!

Stand with Latin America

Against Trump!

6:30pm, Monday, 29th Sept.

Racquet Club Hotel & Ziba

Restaurant, 5 Chapel Street,

Liverpool L3 9AG

With special guests from Latin

America: Martina Pesce,

Argentinian campaigner against

the far-right; Dr. Francisco

Dominguez; Colombian

speaker; María Perez Ramos,

MORENA supporter, Mexico.

Plus: Richard Burgon MP; Jess

Barnard, NEC; Louise Regan,

NEU; Maryam Eslamdoust,

TSSA; Matt Willgress, "Arise";

Gawain Little, General Federation

of Trade Unions;

John McDonnell MP.



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To contact us at Conference email: info@clpd.org.uk

