

# YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2025 **WEDNESDAY** 01.10.25

We hope you have enjoyed reading *Yellow Pages* this week, produced by volunteers. Please scan here if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of paper and toner.



## Labour needs to change direction – and a Deputy Leader to fight for that

Labour was born out of struggle. From trade unions and working-class communities who refused to settle for injustice, our movement was built to give working people a voice in Parliament. Yet too many now feel we've drifted from that mission.

With the Tories collapsing under the weight of their own failures, Labour should be the natural home for everyone demanding change. Instead, we risk offering little more than managed decline.

Our communities are crying out for the basics of a just society: se-

**By Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP**

cure jobs, decent homes, properly funded public services, and a fair green transition that tackles inequality as well as the climate crisis.

These are not radical dreams, they are necessities. People want hope, not hesitation. They want a Labour Party that stands proudly with working people and speaks with clarity about equality, justice and the change we need.

That is why the role of Deputy Leader matters. It cannot be a ceremonial title or a safe pair of hands.

It must be a platform for members' voices and a guarantee that our grassroots will be heard. A Deputy Leader must be a proven fighter: for party democracy, for bold policies rooted in our values, and for keeping Labour connected to the struggles of ordinary people.

When Labour listens to its members, we get it right. Our victories come from courage, not caution. To inspire trust, win power, and deliver real change, Labour needs to change course, and we need a Deputy Leader ready to fight alongside our members every step of the way.

## Election of Deputy Leader

Our Party's current undemocratic rules give MPs a veto over which candidates are included on the ballot for the election of our Deputy Leader and Leader. MPs can block candidates who have significant support among members and affiliates.

With Bell Ribeiro-Addy now blocked from the ballot paper, the choice is between just two candidates (see table, right).

Votes in this election are cast in a single section by party members and affiliated supporters.

• The ballot opens on Wednesday, 8th October and closes on Thursday, 23rd October, with the result announced on Saturday, 25th October.

Candidate	Bridget Phillipson	Lucy Powell
Frontbench?	Government minister	Sacked from government
Media claims candidate is associated with a potential leadership challenge	No	Yes - and the claims are denied
Position on Gaza genocide?	Not on the record opposing Gaza genocide	Not on the record opposing Gaza genocide
Parliamentary votes		Recorded vote
Motion to block winter fuel payments cuts	No	No
Bill proposing cuts to Personal Independence Payments & Universal Credit (2nd & 3rd Readings)	Aye	Aye
Nominations		
from MPs	175	117
from Trade Unions	6	3
from CLPs	165	286
from Socialist Societies	4	8

# Listen to the members!

The platform at this Conference has had its head in the sand – elaborating policies which are part of the same framework that is already failing in the eyes of the voters. The slogan “Renew” is useless – people need “Change”.

Front bench speeches, with rhetoric crafted for a party audience, generated applause, but sadly that won't solve our problems. If the Government sticks to its framework – making cuts, treating migrants harshly, and exporting arms to Israel – the electoral consequences for our Party look bleak.

Beleaguered by attacks on our Leader's inappropriate choices for US Ambassador and senior staff, the collapse of his approval ratings and our Party's support, this Conference has been organised to minimise all discussion about improving the Government's policy framework. The majority of CLP motions were ruled out of order and debate factionally controlled.

A few progressive motions from affiliates and CLPs did manage to get through, so some excellent policy has been agreed. This includes union motions securing party support for wealth taxes and the capping of energy prices; plus union and CLP motions combining to ensure our Party now recognises Israel's genocide, supports a full arms embargo and an end to military co-operation.

Sadly, it looks like the Government won't implement party policy not aligned with its failing framework. It is increasingly out of touch with our voters, members and affiliates – precisely the people it needs to listen to.

Trade unions members' disenchantment with the Government was voiced at this month's TUC, and fed through into our Conference. Our government needs to change course and implement progressive policies – otherwise we will face disaster.

## Celebrate diversity, fight racism

The rising support for Reform UK shown in the polls and by-elections, the big far-right demonstration recently, and the increasing number of St George's flags appearing on our streets are all deeply worrying and are increasingly intimidating for our multicultural communities. Unless Labour changes course to rebuild support, we face the very real prospect of the far right in government.

At September's National Executive Committee meeting I asked Keir Starmer why the Government had allowed far-right, racist figures like Valentina Gomez and Morten Messerschmidt, leader of Denmark's Danish People's Party, entry into the

**By Yasmine Dar (NEC Member)**

UK, knowing the real risk they pose of inciting hatred, division, and violence. I hope he does look into this issue as promised. The “stop the boats” rhetoric Labour seems to have adopted does not suit us – it only benefits Reform.

I believe Labour could do much better in championing diverse communities, in celebrating the role of migrants and in calling out Islamophobia. Let's come together to defeat the far right.

## Quote Unquote

“We are not the enemy. We are the solution.”

Mick Whelan, General Secretary of ASLEF at the Socialist Campaign Group rally (challenging Keir Starmer's ludicrous attempts to equate the left with the right in his Leader's speech)

## Uniting the Party?

“Labour to Win” have once again managed to be allocated a prime spot immediately outside the Conference Centre. Apparently, they are “uniting the Party”!

Given their cheerleading for government policy, refusal to recognise genocide in Gaza and promotion of mechanisms that stop members selecting their own candidates, it appears an entirely inaccurate slogan selection. Perhaps factionalising or homogenising the Party would be more appropriate.

## Blink and miss it

On Sunday some delegates were surprised to find they were asked to vote on the whole National Policy Forum report with no debate or discussion, and no mention of the references back noted in the CAC report (which CLPs hadn't been advised they could submit). In the past Conference has voted on the report in sections, following a discussion, with some pretence that the NPF process has a smidgen of democracy.

## National Demonstration for Palestine

END THE GENOCIDE!  
STOP ARMING ISRAEL!  
STOP STARVING GAZA!

**Saturday, 11th October**

Assemble: 12 Noon, Central London

Organised by: Palestine Solidarity Campaign and other campaigns



### CLPD is not just for Conference

Join the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD) and receive regular bulletins and newsletters explaining the mysteries of Labour Party procedures and advance news of what's going on.

You can't afford to remain on the sidelines!

[www.clpd.org.uk](http://www.clpd.org.uk)

[info@clpd.org.uk](mailto:info@clpd.org.uk)



### Biteback – Cost Of Living!

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) predicts the UK will have the highest inflation rate among G7 nations this year.