



Annual Conference 2019

SATURDAY 21.09.19

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Setting a winning agenda for Labour

Priorities Ballot: How to vote

With a general election likely this year, subjects should be prioritised that help the Party present itself as united, moving forward with radical progressive policies and preparing to form the next government. The unions have already agreed which 10 subjects they will prioritise (see box, right) so these issues will be discussed by Conference. Draft Conference Motions, circulated by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, have been submitted to this year's Conference on 10 subjects. We would like to thank all those CLPs for their support in helping shape this week's agenda. Two of those subjects – NHS and Green New Deal – will be put on the Conference Agenda by the unions. The CLPs therefore do not need to prioritise these two, since they are already on the agenda. We are therefore recommending two sub-

CLP Priorities

Vote for the following subjects.

- Brexit
- Schools
- Ethical Foreign Policy (Palestine)
- Housing
- Electoral Registration
- Good Friday Agreement
- Kashmir
- Social Care
- Mental Health
- Yemen

jects in place of NHS and Green New Deal, namely Social Care and Mental Health. These are two vital issues that all too often are not given the priority that they should.

See the box above for subjects that CLP delegates are urged to vote for.

Trade Union Priorities

The trade unions will back the following subjects. That means they *will* be debated and CLP delegates do NOT have to vote for them in the priorities ballot. If you do vote for these subjects you are wasting your vote. DO NOT vote for these subjects.

- Industrial Strategy
- Insourcing
- NHS
- Working Hours
- Royal Mail
- Employment Rights
- High Streets
- Homelessness
- Corporate governance
- Green New Deal

Support Reference Backs on the CAC Report

Annual Conference is our Party's sovereign body, and the principle of CLPs and Trade Unions to have their motions heard is an important one. This year motions concerning the internal organisation of the Party have been ruled out of order. We think this precludes discussion on important issues. In addition, motions on immigration that are substantively similar have been ruled to be part of different subject areas. We're calling for conference to "refer back" these parts of the CAC report, asking the CAC to reconsider this ruling. Please support delegates who move reference back.

Fast Track to Injustice? Oppose NEC Rule Change on Discipline

Labour Party members join together, in pursuit of our fundamental values and beliefs. We are united as a collective body to defend and promote justice and equity. We embrace our collective strength to fight the abuse of power and to uphold fundamental human rights.

The proposed NEC fast track disciplinary process exhibits a disregard for members' rights and natural justice and is simply a disciplinary 'travelator' which will load up a Party member and then sweep them inexorably towards expulsion and ignominy.

It has numerous technical failings, many of which could open the Party to future legal liability. An accused member will have very limited opportunity to present their own case or to challenge evidence being put against them. If witnesses are involved no right or opportunity for cross examination appears to exist. No regard for members who are mentally ill is built in and there is no clarity which cases will qualify for fast track so it could be many rather than the very few originally talked about.

No consultation has taken place with the NCC, which now has new, fairer, more transparent procedures designed to speed up the process. Instead, what is being proposed, is that the NEC is both prosecution and judge.

Will this reform work? Did last year's rule change on member discipline fix things? What evidence is there that a new draconian system will improve anything for members? This rule change must be rejected.

Daily briefing for delegates pub-



NEC Report: what's going on?

The NEC met last night to finalise conference business following a mammoth 9-hour meeting on Tuesday. This is what was decided.

- A last minute rule change to abolish the post of Deputy Leader was ruled out of order by the NEC chair, Unison's Wendy Nichols. A challenge to the Chair by the CWU's Andy Kerr was lost (17 for, 10 against, not a 2/3 majority).

- CLP reps raised members' concerns about poor communication and lack of clarity around PPC selections. The NEC asked the office to bring forward proposals for truncated procedures, including CLP involvement, as a matter of urgency. The NEC called for urgent action to address the under-representation of BAME candidates and agreed to support a rule change to improve representation (by lawful measures).

- Women's Conference 2020 has still not been booked and publicised. Assurances were given that this would take place before Annual Conference, but General Election issues made this difficult to plan.

- CLP reps supported a series of CLP rule changes (but were defeated)

and successfully proposed some changes to the standing orders to democratise conference. They also ensured that action promised to improve equalities structures arising from the Democracy Review was not lost, although it has been delayed.

- Several CLP reps expressed grave concerns about, and voted against, proposals for the NEC to have the power to expel members – given these are out of step with natural justice, rely on untried and untested processes and have subjective, unshared definitions of “serious” and “straightforward”. (See article on front page.)

- A resolution was passed detailing a series of issues regarding the organisation of Labour Students. These have been discussed over many meetings. The NEC asked the General Secretary to devise a plan urgently to establish a Labour Students organisation which meets its rulebook obligations.

- Given the political situation in Ireland with Brexit, the SDLP and other considerations, it was agreed that it would not be a responsible position for the Labour Party to stand candidates there.

Withdraw opposed CLP rule changes – to fight another day

CLPs have submitted important rule changes to Conference: however, the NEC is opposing most of them. We need longer term campaigning on these in order to be successful at a future conference. This year CLP delegates are urged to withdraw the rule changes that the NEC opposes.

This is because if they are defeated in a vote today, Conference can't consider them for four years (under the mis-named “three year” rule). If the rule changes are withdrawn, we can campaign on them and re-introduce them next year, when more comrades can be won over.

Ironically, one of the rule changes which should be withdrawn is one amending the ‘three year’ rule itself, so that we can build more support for it for next year.

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CLPD RALLY

**6pm, Saturday
The Queen's Hotel,
1 Kings Rd**

Speakers:

**Diane Abbott MP
Katy Clarke
Margaret Greenwood MP
Cllr Tosh McDonald -
ASLEF
Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP**

**Rachel Garnham – NEC
Andy Thompson –
CAC Disability candidate
Gary Heather/Stephen Marks -
NCC members**

**PLUS
Delegates' Briefing**

Health Campaigns Together Fringe Meeting 6pm, Saturday, September 21st Holiday Inn

Speakers:

**Jonathan Ashworth MP,
Shadow Health Secretary
Cllr Steve Cowan
Leader, LB
Hammersmith & Fulham
Cathy Augustine,
Co-Chair LRC
Dr Sonia Adesara,
NHS doctor and campaigner
John Lister, Editor, *Health
Campaigns Together*
& Secretary
Keep Our NHS Public**

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