The Voice of Firefighters

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Topics coming up today at Conference

NHS
With a General Election approaching, Labour’s commitment to the NHS will be a key campaigning theme in persuading the public we need a Labour Government. Conference must commit to the NHS being publicly owned, publicly funded, publicly provided, publicly accountable and free at the point of use.

All sections of the Party need to join with patients, health-workers, trade unions and all other NHS supporters in sustained and visible public campaigning for adequate funding; an end to privatisation and PFI-related indebtedness; adequate numbers of properly paid staff; no service closures or “reconfigurations” without proper local consultation and consent. Given the threat of a trade deal with Trump, the exclusion of the NHS from any free trade agreement must be restated as Labour policy.

SCHOOLS
Today Conference can follow up last year’s important composite calling for all schools to be taken back under local democratic control, including winding up Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs).

This has been built on by the Early Years, Education and Skills Policy Commission in their consultation, but it must be firmed up ready for a manifesto commitment and action. Despite efforts of CLP members of the Commission, the commitment last year to offer support and encouragement to activists resisting academisation has only been followed up where CLPs have prioritised it locally.

Opposing academisation should continue to be a priority, and delegates should support efforts to adopt robust policies against academisation and for publicly funded schools to be brought under the control of new local education committees as supported by the Socialist Education Association.

IMMIGRATION
Under Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott, Labour’s immigration policy has shifted in a positive direction. The Party champions the rights of the ‘Windrush generation’ and of EU citizens who have come here. We have pledged to end the “hostile environment” and to repeal the 2014 Immigration Act which underpins it.

Detention will be ended for all children, all those with mental ill-health, any victim of physical or sexual abuse and anyone who has been trafficked. Yarl’s Wood and Brook House detention centres will be closed and there will a review of the entire detention estate.

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Some Labour Councils/Mayors are passing on government cuts in funding for Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND provision), or even making their own cuts.

If you a Councillor or party activist interested in forming an alliance to oppose these cuts, please email: sendcrisistowerhamlets@gmail.com

Composites are being finalised as and after the Yellow Pages are printed. Watch out for, and support, the Composites which support the above policies!

Unite behind a radical policy to tackle climate change!
We haven’t got time to lose – 1°C of global warming has already taken place and the Tories are not tackling this crisis. They are cozying up to global climate-change denier-in-chief Donald Trump, cutting support for green energy and pushing fracking.

Jeremy Corbyn has led the way. He led the UK Parliament in declaring a climate emergency and Labour has already developed a package of transformative, world-leading policies to rapidly decarbonise the economy. At the heart of this green agenda is a plan to lead a renewables revolution and retrofit millions of homes to make them energy efficient and tackle fuel poverty.

The Labour Party is behind the school strikes, Extinction Rebellion and supports a ‘Green New Deal.’

Conference presents a massive opportunity to unite behind a radical, transformative, ambitious and deliverable plan of action that a Labour government could start implementing from day one. We should use this opportunity to popularise Labour’s radical green agenda and build support for the Party among young people who are highly motivated on this issue.

Last night’s compositing meeting on the Green New Deal was adjourned in the hope agreement will be reached when it reconvenes tonight; a composite supporting Labour’s bold agenda must be agreed. In addition to the leadership’s developed policies, it has been suggested that an incoming Labour Government should instruct the UK Committee on Climate Change to develop a plan to get to zero carbon by 2030.

Let’s go into a General Election with a united, radical, transformative and credible policy on climate change. Support a composite which commends Corbyn’s leadership on the climate agenda.

Daily briefing for delegates published by:

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy
A degree of change for students

The recognition last week by the NEC that, when it came to Labour Students, Things Could Only Get Better can be seen as a major step forward for democracy and socialism in the Party as a whole.

The NEC suspended Labour Students after it became clear that a narrow clique had ignored the majority of our student members and carried out mass disenfranchisement in order to preserve their own control – excluding thousands of potential activists in the process.

Many have tried to argue that the NEC decision was reckless, given a likely General Election in the coming months. In fact the opposite is true. The disenfranchisement of Labour Students was the right call precisely because we have an Election approaching.

A genuine commitment to democracy encourages rather than frustrates active involvement, which is an indispensable component of any Labour election campaign. Debate now must turn to what a re-founded student organisation should look like. This week in Brighton will hopefully mark the beginning of this long overdue discussion.

“Engaging Labour’s 100,000 Young Members”
CLPD Youth Fringe Meeting
Queen’s Hotel, Tuesday 6.30pm
(all ages welcome)
Speakers: Lara McNeil ( NEC), Lauren Townsend (CWU), Lily Madigan (Labour Students Women’s Officer), Danny Filer (Labour Students Left), Hasan Patel (@CorbynistaTeen), Asif Mohammed (Unite), Jake Rubin (CLPD Youth). Chair: Gemma Bolton (Co-Chair, CLPD)
Pub Social afterwards at the Druid’s Head

MEET LABOUR CND
Labour Conference 2019

Our publications
available at the CND Stand, 109 on the 1st floor & around conference

BRIEFING – our ‘Conference Special’ newsletter
CONTACT CARD – how to get in touch
SIGN-UP SHEET - get regular news from CND and Labour CND’s monthly e-newsletter

COME TO A MEET-UP SESSION
Join us for a chat at the 1st floor coffee bar, in the exhibition area opposite conference hall
SUN 22nd – 15.30 to 16.15
MON 23rd – 10.15 to 11.00
TUE 24th – 14.15 to 16.00
WED 25th – 10.15 to 11.00

Text or give us a call
Carol at conference on 07903 160 280

CND Fringe meeting
6pm, Sunday, 22nd September
St Paul’s Church, West Street
5 minutes from Brighton Conference Centre

NEC Report
Jeremy ensured that Saturday’s NEC came together around a proposal to review the position of Deputy Leader and other positions to increase democratic accountability and ensure that they reflect the diversity of our society.

CLP reps were clear that many members are desperate to see the back of Tom Watson’s constant undermining of the Party and its Leader. However, it is important in the run up to a General Election that we are focussed at this Conference on Labour’s positive agenda for the country.

The review leaves scope for future changes, and we must argue for improved democracy and accountability.

The NEC meeting also had an initial discussion of our Brexit strategy. There was majority support for Jeremy’s position of uniting around opposition to No Deal and offering a referendum on a deal negotiated by the Labour Government - let the people decide Brexit.

Getting General Election ready with CLPD!
CLPD’s fringe meeting was the place to be for delegates wanting to maximise support for Jeremy Corbyn and his radical, transformative agenda at this year’s Conference.

As the Party gears up for the imminent possibility of a General Election we discussed how this week’s Conference should be used as an opportunity to build unity and momentum for a Corbyn-led Labour government.

We were joined by our Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott MP who gave a rousing speech on Jeremy Corbyn’s formidable record as a socialist and the historic opportunity we have to elect him to lead a “transformative, radical and socialist government.”

We also heard from Margaret Greenwood MP, Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP and Tosh McDonald from ASLEF.