



CLPD is taking an active approach to the post-election situation. We can all see what happens when a Labour Leader seriously challenges the status quo. Jeremy has been relentlessly attacked, from all sides, and to an unprecedented extent.

Right wing and "centrist" Labour MPs are queuing up to attack Jeremy, some claiming he was too pro-Brexit and others that he was too pro-Remain, united only by their opposition to everything he and we stand for. We have consistently supported Jeremy Corbyn and will continue to do so.

But we must also address the issues that lay behind the net loss of 59 seats, many of them in seats that have returned a Labour MP for generations. We also failed to break through in all but one of our target seats, many of them with Remain majorities.

Since the 1980s the sense of alienation has been steadily growing not only in ex-industrial regions, but also in many coastal communities. New Labour failed in 13 years of government to address their problems, and the 2016 Referendum became a lightning rod for their accumulated discontent.

At the same time, the party came under intense pressure from many staunchly Labour Remain areas and a membership that supported Remain 70%. The only solution was to reach out to both sides, as Jeremy tried and as the CLPD-sponsored motion to Conference sought to do.

But the anger in many deprived working class communities, particularly in the North and the Midlands, crystallised around the belief that the result of the 2016 referendum had not been honoured, and the Tories reaped the reward.

Without further detailed analysis, many conclusions can only be provisional at this stage, and we must dig deeper into the data in coming weeks to understand more clearly what has taken place, and have a thorough discussion at the next meeting of our EC.

In the meantime, we support Jeremy's call for a period of calm reflection rather than intense turmoil, and we fully support his intention to remain in post until a new Leader has been chosen.

Gemma Bolton + Lizzy Ali, CLPD co-Chairs. December 2019