



CLPD statement on leaked report, April 2020

CLPD wishes to condemn in the strongest possible terms the alleged pattern of extensive misconduct set out in the 860-page document leaked yesterday. This document suggests that some Labour Party staff members have been making massive efforts over the last few years to undermine our democratically-elected leadership, compromise our General Election campaigns and impede the fight against anti-Semitism within our party. The report also indicates a widespread and pervasive culture of bullying, sexism and racism within the party machinery.

Many Labour members rightly feel acutely disappointed, frustrated and angry at the details revealed in this report. They have volunteered their time and energy, often putting the party before themselves, to bring about a better society through a Labour government. To find they were apparently being thwarted from within, their efforts often mocked by those who were supposed to be supporting them, has left them wondering why they made such efforts in the first place.

Clause 1 states that the purpose of the party is “to organise and maintain in Parliament and in the country a political Labour Party” and, as such, these staff members would appear to be in complete breach of the Labour Party Constitution. If found to be true, their membership of the party must now be in question.

We stand in solidarity with those who have put themselves at risk to commission and write this report, and those whistle-blowers who have leaked its content to the public. We demand that these individuals be protected going forward and that safeguarding measures be established for those named in the report as having suffered abuse.

We welcome the urgent investigation heralded today by Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner but are concerned that no NEC officers appear to have been contacted in this regard. Internal matters should be dealt with by the ruling body of the party and not the leadership alone and the decision to hold an inquiry, as well as the Terms of Reference of that inquiry, should be set out by an emergency NEC meeting. Furthermore, to put the content of the report and the method of its release on an equal footing for consideration within this investigation is wholly inadequate.

As CLPD we support the Socialist Campaign Group’s call for immediate actions. In particular, we call for:

- a) An emergency NEC meeting to be convened to discuss the report’s contents.
- b) That NEC meeting must establish a transparent process to investigate the conduct alleged in the leaked document, with the terms of reference set by the NEC officers.
- c) This process must produce a report that is publicly available and which restores faith among Labour members in the practices of our party.

We also call for those named in the report for possible gross misconduct to be suspended from the party, pending investigation.

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