

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2014

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UCATT

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Priorities ballot: how CLPs can set the agenda

In today's "priorities ballot", CLPs and the unions can each choose four issues for debate. To maximise the number of important subjects that are debated, the four subjects the CLPs pick should be different from the four subjects the trade unions have already chosen. As the four union issues are guaranteed to be on the agenda, CLPs should not waste their votes on the same topics.

After the ballot, compositing meetings on the successful topics will take place from 6.30pm-8.00pm in the Midland Hotel. Delegates need to ensure the composites finally agreed establish clear policies setting us apart from the Tories and Lib Dems. Party staff will suggest draft composites that should be treated with caution.

There are four important subjects CLPs can put on the agenda – in addition to those put forward by the unions:

- NHS
- Middle East
- Housing
- Anti-Semitism & Islamophobia

The four subjects the unions have already put on the agenda – Low pay and insecurity, Work in the contemporary economy, Rail and Global human rights will be there anyway so CLPs should avoid wasting their vote on them.

Why Labour needs a strong stance on Gaza

On this day of post referendum reflection it's apt to say people should have the right to freedom and self-determination across the world. That's why ASLEF and a number of CLPs have submitted contemporary resolutions to Conference on the crisis in Gaza in this year of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

As a Party we have a long tradition of internationalism and support for progressive causes around the world. If Labour does not stand with the oppressed at home and abroad we are nothing.

There is little which is more contemporary than the remorseless bombing of Gaza last month, where more than 2,000 people lost their lives in 51 days, 83% of whom were civilians. Thousands have been left permanently injured and hundreds of thousands are disposed, displaced, and surviving in overcrowded shelters without sanitation.

Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Palestinian MP Mustafa Barghouti has said that the situation in the territory is the most serious injustice facing humanity at the present time. In a world of Islamic State, Syria and Ukraine it's a bold statement but it is also one which is hard to disagree with.

In all the bombardments Gaza has faced over the centuries this summer's assault is surely a bombardment too far. I welcome the Labour front bench's view that Israel's actions were "disproportionate", but I believe the Party must go further in its condemnation.

Once again the world stood by over the summer while the Palestinians suffered. Who will hold Israel to account? No one, it seems – not the US, nor the United Nations. I ask: what will it take for the international community to say to Israel enough is enough?

The ceasefire in Gaza was agreed on 26th August. On 31st August Israel laid claim to 1,000 acres of land in the West

Bank near Bethlehem. The Israeli peace group Peace Now described the move as the largest single appropriation of West Bank land in decades. I ask again, who will stop Israel acting with such impunity and disregard for international law?

By Mick Whelan
General Secretary, ASLEF

I was very interested to note a rare deviation in US support for Israel recently when former President Bill Clinton privately described Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "an obstacle to peace". He is right. A good friend should tell a friend when he or she is out of order.

As a Labour Party we believe that it is our duty to stand in support of those who face injustice around the world. Trade unions and constituency Labour parties want an end to the arms trade with Israel and an end to the blockade of Gaza allowing free movement of people, goods and aid.

It is therefore vital that constituency representatives vote for the contemporary motions on Gaza in the Priorities Ballot on Sunday and send a message to the party leadership that the recent events in the territory must never be repeated.

The *only* daily
briefing for
delegates at 2014
Annual Conference.

Published by CLPD

CLPD
**Campaign for
Labour Party
Democracy**

Labour Assembly Against Austerity Manifesto for a Labour Government: End austerity and the cost-of-living crisis!

7.30-9pm, Sunday, 21st Sept.

Unite Marquee,
Manchester Central

Speakers:

Katy Clark MP; Diane Abbott MP;
Steve Turner, Unite & People's
Assembly; Billy Hayes, CWU;
Owen Jones, Dominic Curran.
Chairs: Cat Smith PPC
Kate Osamor NEC

Stand up for Palestine!

5.30-7.30pm, Sunday, 21st Sept.

Aurora Hotel, Charters Suite,
18-24 Princess Street

Speakers:

Chi Onwurah MP,
Richard Howitt MEP,
Dr Mona El Farra from Gaza
Dr Nabil Sha'ath
Simon Weller, ASLEF
Nikki Sharpe, GMB
Kamel Hawwash, PSC
Chair: Hugh Lanning, PSC

Sinn Fein Fringe Meeting: Labour, Ireland and defending the peace process

7pm, Sunday, 21st September
Jurys Inn, Great Bridgewater St

Speakers:

Michelle Gildernew MP SF,
Senator Kathryn Reilly SF,
Ivan Lewis Labour Shadow Sec
of State. Chair Seumas Milne

Card Votes Disappear?

For decades, the Delegates Report has spelt out delegates' rights on card votes: "votes at conference are taken as a show of hands unless a card vote is requested by delegates." This year it says "very rarely card votes may be called on other issues." This misleading formulation is unacceptable – delegates must be properly informed of their rights.

Now deliver the change

By Katy Clark MP

It has been an emotional few weeks in Scotland. Many of those on the No side are now hugely relieved after Friday morning's result, ordinary people had been incredibly worried too, not that you'd know it from the media. This was a forever vote with no going back.

Those making flag poles must have made a fortune. But as more and more saltires and union jacks unfurled in people's gardens, none of the flags flying were red.

This referendum achieved what Margaret Thatcher failed to do – dividing Labour families, working-class communities and indeed the Labour movement in Scotland. The sectarian-

CLPs gagged

This year 65 good motions, half of the 132 submitted by CLPs, were ruled out of order – several on dubious and obscure grounds. Many CLPs made appeals but none were successful. New Labour control freakery unfortunately lingers on.

The flimsy case presented by the CAC alleged recent Care UK strikes in Doncaster, the Jarrow NHS March, and the imposition of more privatisation on GP surgeries were not contemporary – in spite of the fact that they occurred after 31st July.

It was also claimed that motions sought to revisit issues already discussed in the NPF report on Health and Care, specifically PFI, even though it's not mentioned anywhere in the report – which is striking, given that Conference agreed unanimously in 2012 to abolish PFI and write off PFI debt.

Another motion ruled out was on Lutfur Rahman, the popular former Labour Leader of Tower Hamlets who was re-elected Mayor this year as an "independent", the NEC in 2010 having removed him as our candidate just before nominations closed on the basis of dossier of which neither he nor they had had prior sight. Labour needs to be seen acting fairly towards its members and doesn't benefit from such rifts with our Muslim and minority supporters. The concerns both in this motion and in many of the others raise very important and certainly contemporary issues that Conference has been denied a change to debate.

ism of orange and green was also a disturbing feature.

It's been hard to cut through with basic arguments about solidarity, pooling resources and social justice after decades of failing to talk about class, but people did nod in agreement when you said it was always the poor who paid the price if times were hard.

And there was little serious discussion about how an independent Scotland could take on Europe-wide austerity, about spending restrictions in any currency union, pound or euro, the risks of an independent currency, the costs of borrowing for a newly independent nation or how we expand public services without taxing the rich more. The only tax pledge was to cut corporation tax.

While most regular Labour voters voted No, many did vote Yes and many SNP supporters voted No. Some said they wouldn't be changing their voting patterns but a few said that this whole issue was making them rethink everything.

Those who supported Yes but do not see themselves as nationalists would often explain that an independent Scotland was the only way to get social justice and to escape Tory rule. They might look to Labour for leadership but no longer had faith that it could deliver at a UK level. That was the politics of despair, vote werencast in anger.

The No vote is a vote for unity, for co-operation and sharing risk but it is also a vote for change. The UK political parties promised both more devolution and greater social justice. Now Labour now has to deliver it.

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