Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership of the Labour Party provides hope to millions of women that there is an alternative to Tory austerity.

The impact that eight years of Tory cuts and attacks on living standards has had on the lives of women is clear. Women face greater hardship, lower pay, rising poverty, insecure work and are being forced to take on greater caring responsibilities as state support for public services is hacked away.

To reverse these attacks on women we must get Jeremy Corbyn into Number 10 Downing Street. A Corbyn-led Labour government will take decisive action to undo the damage done by successive Tory governments and open up new opportunities to advance women’s equality and liberation.

It is women who stand to benefit the most from Corbyn’s commitment to replace Tory austerity with policies that will expand the economy, boost growth and make people better off by substantially increasing public investment. Labour’s industrial strategy, which aims to create high-skilled, high-paid, secure work, will provide new and exciting opportunities for women to escape low-paid, insecure work on a massive scale. A Labour government under Corbyn would see women’s living standards vastly improved by its support for and expansion of public services – including healthcare, education, childcare and welfare benefits.

Today’s Labour Women’s Conference provides a vital opportunity to discuss some of the transformative policies a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government will pursue to make women better off.

We’ll be discussing Labour’s plan to close the gender pay gap which still sees women paid 18% less than men on average in the UK, with BAME women facing an even larger gap due to greater discrimination in the workplace. We shall also discuss the need for properly funded nursery provision and investment in Children’s Centres and the restoration of Sure Start. How a Labour government should tackle sexual harassment, violence against women and defend and extend abortion rights are other important issues on today’s agenda.

Women’s Conference will also be voting to decide which motion we should prioritise to send to Labour’s Annual Conference that starts tomorrow. Delegates should prioritise ‘Women and the economy’. The most important issue facing women in Britain is ending eight years of Tory austerity and putting in place Corbyn’s plan to ensure the economy grows, public services are invested in and living standards are raised. So let’s send a clear message: women want an end to austerity!

Prioritise ‘Women and the economy’ for discussion at Labour Party Conference

For a democratic, vibrant women’s organisation

The Democracy Review to be discussed at annual conference provides huge opportunities for democratising and building structures and networks that will allow women to organise locally, regionally and nationally to address the issues that matter to us. Our left CLP reps on the Women’s Conference Arrangements Committee – Teresa Clark and Jean Crocker – elected at last year’s conference with the support of CLPD and Momentum, have worked tirelessly, in collaboration with the trade unions, for a more democratic women’s conference with votes on motions and the opportunity to influence annual conference. Next year’s standalone conference in Telford in February will be even better with more time for policy debates and involvement of delegates.

Let’s start to get organised now to build the Labour women’s organisation we need!

Defend women’s right to choose, respect the Good Friday Agreement

Defending and extending a woman’s right to choose on abortion is a cornerstone of women’s liberation across the globe. We wholeheartedly welcome the result of the referendum on the repeal of the eighth amendment to the Constitution of Ireland. As women in Britain we support campaigns for improved access to abortion here and elsewhere. We also respect the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) which has brought peace and some progress. It would be a breach of the GFA for Westminster to impose access to abortion without hearing the voices of women in Ireland. Instead we should support the demand made by Jeremy Corbyn in his May speech in Belfast for the government to reconvene the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference to break the deadlock and enable progress, on a range of issues, including on a woman’s right to choose across Ireland.