

Suggested motions for Labour Party Women's Conference 2018

Women need a Labour government to end austerity

Conference notes:

1. Women are disproportionately hit by austerity. This situation is compounded by women's ethnicity and social background. Living standards are being attacked as incomes and public services are cut, driving up hardship and poverty amongst women.
2. That the 2010-2020 changes to the tax and benefits systems are projected to impose 86% of their burden on women, according to analysis by the House of Commons Library.

Conference believes:

1. The Tories' eight year-long austerity drive needs to be ended and replaced with policies that will expand the economy and make people better off.
2. This is essential to reversing the attacks on women and tackling inequality.

Conference welcomes:

1. Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to replacing austerity with a plan to invest for growth and create an economy that works 'For the many, not just the few'.
2. Labour's plan to establish a National Investment Bank and substantially increase public investment, to stimulate growth, expand infrastructure, create good jobs, increase wages, raise living standards and expand public finances – all improvements that women would benefit from.
3. Labour's industrial strategy, which aims to create high-skilled, high-paid secure work and provide new opportunities for women to escape low-paid, insecure work.
4. Labour's support for action to tackle the gender pay gap – which is still over 18% on average in the UK.
5. The Labour leadership's support for public services, including healthcare, education, childcare and welfare benefits, which are all vital to women.

248 words

The deadline for receipt of motions is Friday 29 June 2018

The motion has a maximum of 250 words

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Supporting a woman's right to choose

Labour Women's Conference congratulates all those in Ireland involved in the highly effective campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment, opening the way for legislation to ensure the right to choose a safe, legal abortion.

Conference notes that:

- The slogan 'The North is next' was prominent in the victory celebrations;
- Northern Ireland has some of the most punitive abortion laws in the world and 60,000 women have travelled to England to access abortion services since 1967;
- Two to three women travel to England and Wales every day while an unknown number of women who can't travel face great and unnecessary health and legal risks.
- The High Court ruled in 2015 that current abortion legislation breached the European Convention on Human Rights.

Conference believes that while abortion reform should be legislated through Northern Ireland's devolved government, the Assembly collapsed in January 2017 and there is little sign of imminent resumption. In these circumstances, it is necessary for Westminster to act.

Conference welcomes statements from the Labour Party's Shadow Equality Minister and other Labour MPs calling for the government to act to ensure that those in Northern Ireland have the right to choose free abortion.

Conference calls on the Shadow Secretary for Northern Ireland and the Shadow Equalities Minister to continue this work and urges Labour women to work with the Belfast based Alliance for Choice and support initiatives taken in Britain to support the demands of the pro-choice movement in Northern Ireland.

246 words

For an inclusive Labour women's movement

Women's conference welcomes the NEC statement in May on inclusive All Women Shortlists, women's officers and minimum quotas for women.

Labour has a proud record of championing equality for women of all backgrounds, including BAME women, LGBT+ women, disabled women and working class women. The use of All Women Shortlists, women's officers and minimum quotas for women is a key aspect of this and must continue to include trans women. We believe that anyone attempting to breach Labour Party rules and subvert the intention of All Women Shortlists, women's officers or minimum quotas for women can be adequately dealt with via our established safeguards. Any exclusion of self-identifying trans women poses a much greater threat to promoting and upholding the aims and values of our Party.

We call upon the NEC to continue to promote this policy widely, to consider ways in which trans women can be further supported to play a full and active role in our Party and to review and improve training and other materials and opportunities to ensure that our Party is inclusive of all women.

180 words

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A foreign policy based on peace, justice and dialogue is good for Britain and the world

Conference notes:

1. The UK's recent involvement in wars in the Middle East has contributed to instability across the region.
2. In particular, the 2003 war in Iraq and the 2011 air campaign against Libya resulted in huge loss of life, destruction and the spread of chaos and terrorism.
3. These wars have displaced millions of people from their homes and been one of the main causes of the refugee crisis.
4. Millions of women have lost their lives, homes, livelihoods and families, and suffered violence as a result of these wars. Millions of women have fled the region as refugees.

Conference welcomes:

1. Labour's foreign policy approach under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, based on peace, justice and human rights.
2. In particular, Jeremy's role in helping the party distance itself from the disastrous decision made in 2003 to join with the US in invading Iraq.
3. The Labour Party's 2017 Manifesto commitment to 'put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, commit to working through the UN, end support for unilateral aggressive wars of intervention and back effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis.'

Words: 204

Labour leading the way against climate change

Conference notes:

1. Climate change and pollution from fossil fuels is severely impacting millions of people – particularly women – globally. From devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean and US, droughts in Africa, floods in Bangladesh, to the 40,000 annual premature death in Britain from air pollution. Eighty per cent of people displaced by climate change globally are women.
2. The Paris Agreement on climate change was signed by 195 countries to pursue efforts to constrain global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Achieving this goal requires a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Conference condemns:

1. The decision of President Trump to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement and his domestic policies removing environmental regulations in order to pursue an aggressive increase in fossil fuel extraction.
2. The reckless pursuit of fracking in Britain by the Tory government, and the neglect of renewable energy leading to a 50% fall in investment in 2017.

Conference welcomes Labour's commitments on climate change including:

1. Support for the Paris Agreement and to pursuing efforts to keep global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
2. Labour's mission based industrial strategy: for 60% of energy to come from low carbon or renewables by 2030.
3. Labour's manifesto pledges to urgently clean up illegal levels of air pollution and to ban fracking.
4. That Labour's policies would create hundreds of thousands of new green jobs, tackle climate change and give people clean air to breathe.

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Developing a National Care Service

Conference notes the significant role that women play as carers and care workers, and as people in need of social care.

Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to develop policy for a national care service, shaped by the determination to improve well-being, and not by the seeking of profit, and to include:

- a good level of pay, including pay for any time spent travelling between the homes of patients, and secure and fair terms and conditions for care workers;
- industry-accredited training, given by accredited trainers, leading to a recognised qualification for care workers;
- regulatory monitoring of residential and nursing homes and other facilities.

109 words

A democratic Labour women's movement

Conference welcomes the introduction of a more democratic annual women's conference, with a two-day standalone women's conference in 2019, as an opportunity to strengthen the role of women in our Party.

Conference resolves that for future women's conferences:

1. Each CLP should be entitled to more than one delegate with measures put in place to increase the numbers of BAME, LGBT and disabled women delegates and visitors.
2. Each CLP and affiliate should be entitled to send at least one motion on policy or organisation alongside one rule change relevant to women members.
3. Women delegates to conference should be entitled to prioritise, composite, debate and vote on motions and rule changes; and these debates should be the main focus of conference.
4. The conference will be entitled to vote to send at least one motion and at least one rule change for debate at Annual Conference in the same year.
5. The conference should be entitled to debate and vote on its own procedures and standing orders.
6. CLP secretaries and women's officers should be notified about procedures, fees and deadlines in plenty of time.
7. That barriers to participation should be where possible removed by organising a fully accessible conference venue, appropriate support for women with caring responsibilities and keeping costs for delegates (including catering) as low as possible.

Conference calls for the consideration of introducing an elected women's committee of CLP and affiliate representatives to develop and build our Labour women's movement.

250 words

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