

# Campaign Briefing

# MONDAY

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## Vote for Gaye Johnston and Gary Heather for the CAC

**A voice for the constituencies – a vote for democracy**

Gaye Johnston and Gary Heather are standing for election in the CLPs' section of the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) with the support of the Centre Left Grassroots Alliance. The ballot takes place today (9am to 4pm in the Ballot Area on the 4th floor). All CLPs have a vote in this election.

### Gaye Johnston says:

"On CAC I would aim to be a guardian of Party democracy and fully accountable to Party members. Conference should be run in the interests of the Party as a whole and particularly of rank and file members. It should be a forum where Party leaders, and senior officers, give an account of their work. Resolutions (or contemporary issues) should be debated when they have been submitted by a significant number of CLPs/affiliated organisations. Debates should reflect the level of support for policies across the whole Party."

### Gary Heather says:

"On the CAC I would seek to make annual conference more democratic and inclusive with more participation by delegates. Our conference should be a place where delegates debate and vote on policies – not dominated by platform speakers while few CLP delegates are called to the rostrum. If elected I would uphold the rules of the party without fear or favour, and seek to ensure conference is an accessible forum for CLP delegates in respect of access, childcare, speaking and support for new delegates."

## OMOV strengthens our rights

Yesterday an anonymous leaflet was circulated at some regional CLP receptions, attacking OMOV for the NPF CLP section. It claimed to be defending "your" rights and those of GCs. GCs are important democratic bodies, bringing together ward and union delegates at local level, encouraging and overseeing campaigning and policy making in CLPs, mandating delegates to party conference. However, the NPF is a national policy making body that develops detailed and coherent policy which ultimately comes

*Continued over*

## NEC Report : Ugly Rumours

Yesterday's NEC was very short - CAC Report 1 was briefly considered. But at the end of the meeting the Chair announced that a special NEC may be called for 7.30am on Wednesday morning to consider an unspecified document. This has fed the rumour mill. It is being suggested that feverish attempts will be made by "New" Labour apparachiks to inveigle the unions into dropping their solid support for the rule change on OMOV for the NPF CLP section (timetabled for Wednesday morning). Apparently an attempt will be made to brow beat the unions into supporting an NEC statement that will overtake the rule change and condemn it to oblivion. There are two things to be said about this manoeuvre. First, we see again the breathtaking hypocrisy of "New" Labour who until recently regarded OMOV as akin to the Holy Grail. Secondly, the Blairites are making a serious misjudgement if they think our sisters and brothers in the unions can be manipulated in this way.

*"No longer is the choice between Tory cuts and Labour investment, as Brown wanted. Now it is to be between the nice and the nasty cutters...Periods when the overriding preoccupation has been lowering the national debt have coincided with industrial, economic and strategic decline."*

*Will Hutton, The Observer*

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## OMOV for the NPF—continued

(including minority positions which have a substantial level of support) to Conference for debate and approval. Conference remains a good place to resolve issues which are unresolved by the NPF and CLP delegates should be mandated by their GCs. However, an OMOV ballot of all party members is the best way of ensuring that CLPs' representatives on the NPF have the strongest possible voice. This will produce a more effective NPF with many more progressive policies coming through to conference for CLP delegates to debate and vote. This will give these delegates, and through them their GCs, more influence and power in our party not less.

## Regulate gangmasters - save lives

Following the tragic deaths of cockle pickers five years ago, legislation regulating gangmasters was passed. Revelations that building workers on the new East London rail line were paid low rates of pay and a gangmaster amassed over £300,000 in profit has led UCATT to call for the construction industry to be covered by the gangmasters' regulator.

A report on construction industry deaths called for the sector to be included under gangmasters' legislation where sub-contracting is the norm. This view was supported by the DWP Select Committee and Oxfam.

Other issues submitted under this heading included accrual for Statutory Redundancy Pay entitlement from the first day of employment.

Last year Conference referred back the Annex Report on Remploy. The government had closed 28 factories and would not guarantee government contracts for the remaining factories. Apart from one order to Remploy, very little has changed and the Policy Commission has not properly addressed the issue.

There has been similar lack of progress amending the Posted Workers Directive which allows employers to ignore collective agreements, particularly in the construction sectors.

**OPPOSE THE PROSPERITY & WORK ANNEX REPORTS ON REMPLOY AND 'WORKERS IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY' AND THE ANNEX REPORT ON THE WINDFALL TAX.**

For running conference news and gossip from *Tribune*, point your browser at [www.tribunemagazine.co.uk/conference](http://www.tribunemagazine.co.uk/conference)

### TODAY'S FRINGE MEETING

Palestine Solidarity Campaign

**Palestine - Peace not Apartheid**

12:45 Queen's Hotel

Speakers include: Palestine Ambassador and

Jeremy Corbyn MP

## Shenanigans

Yesterday the Priorities Ballot could have produced eight major issues for this Conference to consider. Four for the unions and four from the CLPs. Unfortunately many CLP delegates appeared to miss this opportunity by voting for the four issues that were guaranteed to be on the agenda from the unions. But there may be a simple explanation for this behaviour.

As one CLP delegate approached her regional briefing meeting she was taken aside by a member of staff. The latter pointed to the four contemporary issues being supported by the unions and pointedly stressed "the unions and the Labour Party are supporting these four issues". Party members rightly expect the full time staff they employ to act as neutral civil servants not to be interfering in our internal democratic procedures.

## Government must invest in manufacturing

Reviving economic growth is essential, in itself and as the principal means of restoring government revenues. A determined investment programme is required to boost growth, which given the banks' failure to provide loans, must be organised by government. For example, the investment funding already injected into the automotive industry needs to be increased so that the industry is competitive and jobs can be maintained. The alternative is decline of industry, plant closures and job losses – all of which will inflict further damage on the economy.