

Open Labour National Committee 2020 Statements Disability Rep

Aaron Mark Daniels	Ceredigion
<p>My name is Aaron, and I am 22 years old. I have been a member of the Labour party since January 2015, and in that time have been CLP conference youth delegate on two occasions for Worcester CLP, the Ceredigion Youth and Student Officer for one year, and the North Branch Ceredigion Youth and Student Officer for two years. As well as this I have served on the committee of Aberystwyth Labour Students for four years as Disabled students officer, campaigns coordinator and finally as the current serving chair, and as Disabled Students Officer of Welsh Labour Students for three years. Outside of Labour I have served as the Disabled Students officer of Aberystwyth Students Union for two years, as well as being a candidate for Wellbeing officer.</p> <p>Neurodiversity is something close to my heart and something I have campaigned on heavily in my time at University and beyond. Suffering from mental health issues as well, the issue is at the forefront of my mind and my politics. I have been an early member of Neurodiversity Labour, adopting their policy points and practices moving forwards. I am all about ending the stigma against mental health, it should be an issue.</p>	

Abdallah S. Al-Ammari	Stirling
<p>Hi, I'm Abdallah, and I'm a Scotland-based socialist and trade unionist with IBD and ADHD. I hope you will elect me as Open Labour's Disability Officer in order to expand opportunities for disabled members in our organisation and the wider Labour Party. As Disability Officer I would seek to set up a Disabled Members' Network within Open Labour and put accessibility considerations at the core of Open Labour's and the wider Labour Party's policy development and campaigning.</p> <p>I have worked on multiple accessibility campaigns at my university and I'm also the serving BAME officer on the Scottish Young Labour National Committee. As Disability Officer for Open Labour, as well as working acutely on Disabled members' needs, I would seek to work collectively with the BAME Officer, Women's Officer and LGBTQ+ Officers to look at accessibility in a wider context of the open, welcoming culture Open Labour seeks to represent and campaign for.</p> <p>As Open Labour Disabilities Officer, I will work with the committee to ensure that Open Labour can be an inclusive space for disabled members, as well as an organisation that promotes and champions our rights. Please elect me as your first preference for Disability Officer.</p>	

Lucy Burke	Bury South
<p>I was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome as a teenager and have lived with severe osteoarthritis for most of my life. I am the mother of a young man with a learning disability and have first-hand experience of this country's dysfunctional and punitive benefits system and the devastating impact of austerity on disabled peoples' lives. I believe that we have a long way to go to bridge the gap between the rhetoric of equality, accessibility and inclusion and its realisation. I want to contribute to Open Labour's commitment to putting these principles into practice as part</p>	

of a transformation of the ways we approach campaigning, activism, local organisation and community engagement.

I have experience and skills in research, policy development and campaigning. My academic research is internationally recognised and explores cultural attitudes to dementia and disability and the role of the arts in health and social change. I am a trade union activist, representing disabled members on the University and College Union's NEC. In 2017, I was elected onto the representative body of Learning Disability England before becoming one of its co-chairs. I am currently CLP secretary in Bury South and was the PPC in the constituency in 2019.

Robbie Bentley

Bristol West

I am the current secretary of the Bristol & West region of SERA, the Labour Party's environmental campaign group. Since assuming the role we have faced some of the most difficult challenges our party and our country have ever faced with Covid, and I am vrry proud of the work I and my team have done. I am determined to follow in the examples we have set in SERA within OL and will continue to seek out and work with our colleagues at every level of the party. The times call for a pluralist approach and I have championed this both within the party and my private life. If elected I will push for greater cooperation between our society and the party.

Tom Laing

Wallasey

I'm Tom, I founded Fair Internal Labour Elections Campaign for STV (FILE), which has been working with the current National Committee, campaigning for STV to be used in all Labour internal elections above CLP level. I am currently also currently working with my friends to establish Open Labour North West. I'm standing for the National Committee because:

- I'll make myself available for people to contact me on social media and email, I'll give reports available to read on social media about decisions taken at the National Committee and how I voted. This is to ensure I and the Committee as a whole remains transparent to Open Labour members at all times.
- I'll continue to push for Open Labour campaigns to democratise the Labour Party including the continued support for pluralistic voting systems like STV.
- I'll take the experience of working with others to create Open Labour North West to help Open Labour be more diverse. I'll promote the needs of members with hidden disabilities (Like myself) as well working with others to make our membership more diverse.

Please give your support to me and my fellow candidates from the North West to get North West voices on the National Committee

Tyron Wilson

Bristol East

I'm a Social Review founding editor and have been a Labour member for over 10 years. Though I believe in an anti-austerity Labour Party, free from the scourges of bullying and anti-Semitism – really, that unites all of us running. So why am I standing?

MAKING OL ACCESSIBLE

I'm standing for the disabled members' position to ensure nobody is held back from engaging with OL by any condition they have.

SHOW, DON'T TELL WHAT WE STAND FOR

Too often in OL, we're sucked into navel-gazing debates over what the soft left is. We should show not tell, and produce a book of policy ideas explaining what we stand for.

GETTING OL ORGANISED

Currently, OL lags Momentum and Labour First in having organisation at CLP level. That needs to change and fast.

SUPPORTING AN ORG WITHOUT PAID STAFF

OL needs a fundraising plan to support a full-time paid organiser as a priority. In the meantime, I'm willing and able to pitch in to the best of my ability.

BRINGING PR EXPERIENCE

I have over half a decade's experience in organising and PR: vital in helping to get OL's message out and grow its profile at a crucial time for the organisation.