

Open Labour National Committee 2020 Statements LGBT Place

Ben Roberts	Leeds North East
<p>As a student and Labour member, I believe it is paramount that the soft, open left in Labour has a strong organisation to push for pragmatic socialist policies, which resonate with the public and stand true to our core values. This is why I joined Open Labour, and why I wish to stand for the Committee. I served as LGBT+ Representative at Sheffield Hallam during the past year, and also had served as Treasurer of Hallam Labour society. During this time, I became particularly acquainted with the skills required for a functional organisation, having utilised time management, financial acumen and organisation skills. I would bring these skills with me to Open Labour's management committee, in addition to my LGBT+ perspective as a bisexual man. My experience on the Hallam Labour society committee also taught me valuable lessons about leadership, compromise and crisis management, as during my tenure our society had to contend with a hostile environment.</p>	

Logan Machell	Aberdeen North
<p>I believe I would be a very beneficial member of the management of open labour, I am already the inclusions officer in the Aberdeen University Labour Society committee and I am gaining much needed experience every day I have the job. I have taken part in many discussions, talks and debates while studying politics in University. I have acquired skills in public speaking, research and debating skills. I am also skilled when it comes with working and communicating with others. Overall, I am a dedicated member of the labour of the Labour party that is always willing to put his point across on the table and willing to discuss new ideas that may benefit open labour and Labour as a whole.</p>	

Megan Birchall	Oldham East and Saddleworth
<p>I am standing to be the LGBT+ officer of Open Labour to work with the rest of the National Committee to ensure Open Labour fights for equality for LGBT+ members. As LGBT+ Officer for my CLP and Young Labour Group, I'm experienced in representing LGBT+ people, having coordinated the Labour representation at Oldham pride.</p> <p>In light of Liz Truss' statement showing intentions to restrict healthcare for trans young people - an incredibly damaging step - Open Labour needs to be at the front of the fight to protect trans rights, something that I feel passionately about as a nonbinary person.</p> <p>I will work to introduce an Open Labour LGBT+ network, in order to ensure that LGBT+ members have a safe space to promote their views.</p> <p>I pledge to pursue an education program on key LGBT+ issues available to all members to help them combat ignorance and bigotry both internally and externally.</p> <p>Recent debates surrounding trans rights have been dogged with misinformation that not only confuses the debate but is also harmful to trans people, so we must learn to recognise and challenge this rhetoric</p> <p>I'd be grateful for your support and I'm proud to be standing on a North West Slate.</p>	

Robbie Bentley	Bristol West
<p>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 very 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.</p>	

Wrenna Robson	Runnymede and Weybridge
<p>As we move into a new era for the party, the country, and the world, I believe that Open Labour's internationalist, left-wing values, and our belief in an inclusive and pluralist Labour Party, are needed more than ever.</p> <p>I want to be part of growing Open Labour from strength to strength and making sure the distinctive voice of Open Labour is heard within the party. I'm a bisexual trans woman, and I am particularly interested in making sure that the party has a good understanding of the real needs of LGBT+ people and will advocate for policies and a party culture that is meaningful to them. I think there's also valuable internationalist work we can do: LGBT+ issues do not stop at borders.</p> <p>I have time to dedicate to a committee role - as a PhD student my hours are flexible - but I also have practical real-world experience to bring too, having previously been a teacher and engaged in organising volunteers. I think it's important to take seriously the responsibility I'm looking to Open Labour members to grant me. I'd love to answer any other questions if people have them: please email wren.robson@gmail.com!</p>	