

Open Labour National Committee 2020 Statements Womens Rep

Cathleen Clarke	Poplar and Limehouse
<p>Open Labour has proven to be a light of hope, solidarity and transformation across the Labour Party since 2015. From campaigning on voting reform to discussing Brexit, OL has grown and in turn challenged the Labour Party providing critical debate and action.</p> <p>From leading millions of people down Whitehall (during the Final say marches) to speaking to hundreds of young people and Labour members about the political process, I have learnt to recruit activists, grow campaigns and create lasting change in the Labour movement. I have campaigned for several leading members of OL and sat on an all-female panel on foreign policy at OL's conference.</p> <p>As a keen socialist and professional youth campaigner, I would seek to grow OL's membership and outreach if elected. I would place an emphasis on recruiting and promoting female, youth, BAME and LGBTIQ+ members who are underrepresented across our movement. I would create working groups on issues members care about such as workers' rights, drug reform, housing policy and STV. I would help organise support for OL candidates in external elections next year.</p> <p>With creative campaigns, bold socialist policies and high levels of engagement, OL can lead the Labour movement into the next General Election.</p>	

Charlotte Norton	Poplar and Limehouse
<p>To me, Open Labour represents the very best of the left. We have frank, open and respectful debates on policy, whilst fostering a welcoming culture and support for our members. I have had a fantastic time on the exec this past year, and I'm so proud of our achievements. It is so exciting to see the organisation frame the debate on issues such as STV for NEC elections, and lead the forefront on radical campaigns within the Labour Party.</p> <p>If re-elected, I would aim to use next year to develop and deepen our relationship with our sister parties across Europe. I am already active in the Young European Socialists and I would use those connections to engage OL in Europe wide policy debates.</p> <p>I am also keen to continue our work on accessibility. Due to the current health crisis, we've shifted to online meetings and socials. Whilst face to face meetings will once again become an important part of our work, I'm determined to keep and expand accessible platforms for all members.</p> <p>It would be an immense privilege to be re-elected to continue this great work. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.</p>	

Julie Ward	North West Durham
<p>I was NW Labour MEP from July 2014 to January 2020, serving on the committees for Culture & Education (Vice Chair 2019/20), Women's Rights & Gender Equality, Regional Development, and Economic & Monetary Affairs. I co-founded a Child Rights intergroup in the European Parliament and was co-chair of the Anti-racism & Diversity Intergroup and an active member of intergroups for anti-poverty, LGBTI, youth, disability. I was one of the most active MEPs in my committees authoring reports on gender mainstreaming, green jobs, intercultural dialogue, women and mental health, to name a few. I was also a member of the Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo delegation and the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (Environment &</p>	

Social Committee). Prior to being elected I worked as a journalist and in the creative and cultural industries (in Burnley, Manchester, Salisbury, Coventry, Nottingham, Newcastle) primarily running youth arts programmes, producing festivals and managing a regional arts and disability organisation before establishing a sustainable social enterprise which worked with marginalised communities in the Durham coalfield and built links with partners across Europe and beyond. I am currently co-chair of the Urban Economy Forum steering group, a UN Habitat project focussed on SDG11 - sustainable cities.

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.