

## Open Labour National Committee 2020 Statements BAME Rep

Amen Tesfay	Enfield North
<p>As a Youth officer of my local CLP since 2018 and the Campaigns officer for the QMUL Labour Society, I have always been a passionate advocate for BAME issues within the Party. It was one of the many reasons why I helped set up the 1987 Caucus, a group of young Black Male members committed to addressing their woeful underrepresentation in the Labour Party and encouraging black members to get involved.</p> <p>As BAME rep I will pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with great BAME groups such as the Socialists of Colour and the 1987 Caucus to campaign for much needed internal reforms within the Party.</li> <li>• Make sure that BAME issues are correctly advocated within Open Labour. Hosting events that hear minorities views on issues like internationalism and justice.</li> <li>• Plan to set up a BAME section in Open Labour, so we can continue to equip, organise and encourage other members of colour to get involved.</li> </ul> <p>We on the Left face an immense crossroad. When I joined Open Labour, I joined because of the values of transformative Socialism, while being rooted in inclusivity and tolerance. And with BAME activists feeling marginalised and ignored, we need these values within our movement now more than ever.</p>	

Panny Antoniou	Ealing Central and Acton
<p>I joined the Labour Party because I am passionate about social change and want to help shape our legislative agenda. I have significant experience in the digital communications sphere as well as in traditional print media and the radio. I believe this would be a valuable asset to any team looking to make an impact and give a fresh and new perspective to outreach and awareness initiatives. I work with different groups and companies which have different target demographics, requiring different messages and techniques. If elected, I will use this experience with marketing – as well as the experience gained in my politics degree to help reinforce our message and reach out to groups outside our core audience.</p> <p>I am a member of the West London Trades Union Club and want to work with grassroots members and all trade unions to further our goals. I strongly believe that it is only by reaching out beyond our movement that we can build the broad coalition which can lead us to government. I wish to continue in that spirit of working together with people who hold different views on other issues to help further Open Labour’s agenda of a progressive, soft left government</p>	

Shamik Das	Brent Central
<p>If elected, my priority will be to ensure Open Labour continues its great work of recent years – primarily on policy development, namely ensuring we continue to be a leading pro-European voice in the post-Brexit political landscape. I will work to build on our relationships with other pro-European groups and with our socialist sister parties throughout the EU.</p> <p>I believe another policy priority will be developing ideas for what a post-coronavirus future may hold, for the jobs market, the welfare state, our health service, housing, education, culture, climate, devolution and localism to name a few.</p> <p>I will also seek to increase engagement with BAME communities and make sure our voices are heard. From the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on BAME people and the systemic</p>	

inequalities in society and the economy, to under-representation in the corridors of power – including in the Labour Party – change is urgently needed.

I have been a Labour member for many years and have extensive communications, campaigning and policy experience. I'm a former Editor of the leading progressive blog, Left Foot Forward, and I recently worked for our Labour MEPs in the European Parliament. Please vote for me, and do tweet me @ShamikDas if you've got any questions!