



Open Labour National Committee 2020 Statements Open Section

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>	

Abi Barinski	Manchester Gorton
<p>I am a Lancastrian member, proud of my involvement in developing our North West group and wanting to bring that experience to National Committee. If elected, I will advocate giving members the opportunity to represent their interests. I will ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Diversity We are too male, white, Southern, and graduate – let’s ensure women, BAME and working-class members feel included and represented. I will ensure that we amplify the voices of minority communities, giving them the final say on policy concerning them as part of Open Labour’s democracy commitment. 2) Campaigning We are not a think-tank – we want policy influence. I will use my experience campaigning for better mental health services in Manchester to push for a clearer policy. Too many people, I included, cannot access adequate support. I will advocate an approach that not only encourages more funding, but structural changes to prioritise the individual. 3) An ‘Open’ Labour I will work to increase member participation, particularly younger members. Recently, online meetings have increased positive discussions, wider participation nationally and from members with specific access needs. I will push for more online discussions for young and under-represented members. We must take safeguarding seriously, and I will work to develop a comprehensive policy 	

Alex Greer	Wansbeck
<p>Hello, I’m Alex, a chemistry student from a former mining town in Northumberland. A passionate supporter of a pragmatic approach to socialism, I welcome truly radical, evidence-based policy that can be implemented competently and communicated successfully to the public, as part of an election-winning message.</p> <p>I believe OL should continue to be a pluralistic and member-led internationalist organisation, valuing the democratic nature of our decision-making. We must never compromise on the liberation politics that makes our movement so strong, championing diversity and valuing</p>	

different experiences. OL should always push for more democratisation, where members have the power to elect individuals, instead of mere opportunities for factions to consolidate power. If elected, I hope to encourage contributions from members whenever discussing the future of OL. I would continue to push for regional sections across the UK to decentralise the organisation, increasing regional diversity, while retaining the fantastic use of applications like Zoom so all members can meaningfully participate, regardless of financial or accessibility circumstances. I would dedicate my time effectively in this role to fulfil duties competently, calling on experience in similar positions in societies, such as my time as an organiser for Effective Altruism Durham.

Amrita Rose	Hackney South
<p>I am committed to developing a transformative and outward looking socialist movement - where we can overcome internal, polarised divisions in the Party, and become a credible force for Government. On the national committee, I will help to foster a diverse and inclusive movement across the wider Party, where effective policies are developed by exploring different perspectives and taking into account inherent complexities.</p> <p>Our members are our greatest asset, and I therefore want all of our members and regional groups, to play a key role in building our movement. I will work to ensure Open Labour increases in strength and engages members across the whole of the UK.</p> <p>I have really enjoyed being Open Labour's national membership engagement officer, and last year Open Labour doubled its membership. I organised a survey and workshop for members so that their contributions would play a key role in shaping Open Labour's future direction.</p> <p>I will continue to develop this collaborative approach by drawing upon my experience in this role, and from being the Vice-Chair for Open Labour London. My previous experience as Vice-Chair (Membership) of my CLP, also equips me with the management and team working skills that committee work requires.</p>	

Dr Andrew Ryder	Labour International
<p>I teach sociology in the higher education sector in Hungary and consequently I am sensitive to the dangers of nationalist populism. I have written a book on these dangers 'Britain and Europe at a Crossroads: The Politics of Anxiety and Transformation': https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/britain-and-europe-at-a-crossroads</p> <p>I am trying to promote a radical Social Europe approach within the EU Commission for Roma and those at the margins. Covid-19 has highlighted the need for a more dynamic EU not just to reverse austerity but also the economic harm caused by the pandemic. Leaving the EU quickly and abruptly at this moment in time is deeply dangerous. I set out the case for Social Europe in a forthcoming book: https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/romani-communities-and-transformative-change</p> <p>I have good committee experience. I was on the executive of Welsh Labour from 1988 to 1990 and I am a board member and General Secretary for the Soros supported Roma Education Fund. I have extensive experience of grassroots activism with Roma communities and was the researcher to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers working with Kevin McNamara MP. I supported Starmer in the leadership election and believe Open Labour has a critical role in ensuring Labour is a transformative force in society.</p>	

Anisha Faruk	Oxford West & Abingdon
<p>Over the last year, I have been an active member of the national committee. I've worked on developing the organisation, creating a draft constitution for a youth section and a draft constitutional amendment for a Trade Union liaison position on the committee. I've also contributed to our activity during the lockdown, having originated the idea for, organised and hosted several of the organisation's 'OL In Conversation with...' events as well as the virtual pub quizzes. My track record has shown that I will champion intersectional, socialist politics within OL, having pushed for the organisation to support the #CancelTheRent petition and written our statement on Islamophobia within the Conservative Party.</p> <p>Being re-elected to committee would allow me to continue some of the projects I've started such as developing our youth section and strengthening our trade union links. I'm really proud of how OL has grown over the last year, both in membership and influence within the Labour Party. The next frontier for OL is to organise within CLPs, support motions to conference and propose policies to the NPF. Please consider voting for me to ensure OL goes from strength to strength and to maintain our left politics.</p>	

Aydan Greatrick	Hornsey and Wood Green
<p>Our defeat in 2019 requires we reflect in a spirit of respectful, rigorous conversation. It's also an opportunity to re-focus the Party, to communicate values of socialism and democracy as fundamental to the success of the Labour movement, and the United Kingdom too. Open Labour is an important vehicle for this; I'd be honoured to support the committee to this end.</p> <p>In London, I've led research on insecure work, contributing to CLP and union campaigns on economic democracy and working conditions. I would apply this experience to Open Labour campaigns, producing evidence-led recommendations focussing on socio-economic equality and community empowerment. I believe this must compliment a commitment to local democracy, recognising how services in towns like the one I grew up in in Devon are best managed – and defended – when communities have greater control.</p> <p>I also aim to develop Open Labour's campaigns on asylum. In London, I've worked with refugees at the Refugee Council, giving me expertise which I will bring to the committee. Ultimately, just as Labour should focus on investing in our communities, we must also stand by principles of compassion and humanitarianism. Refugees are part of our communities: dignity for them means dignity for us all.</p>	

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>	

Callum Gordon	Guildford
---------------	-----------

I believe that Open Labour has an important place in the Labour party, and our wider movement. Now more than ever it is very important to have a platform to celebrate and promote the values of socialism and internationalism, and Open Labour can play a key role in reshaping the Labour party.

My decision to stand for this position was based upon the superb potential of Open Labour, and my hunger to be a part of this process. I believe that Open Labour provides a great grassroots platform for the British left, and developing its values is something that I would do with pride and energy.

Since joining the Labour Party I have campaigned and worked hard in my local Labour Party, moving onto our Executive Committee and campaigning daily in the last General Election. Ahead of next year's local elections I have been moved into the role of spokesperson for my ward, and hope to become the candidate at just 18 years old. If elected for this role, I would bring the same energy and enthusiasm that I have shown at a local level to help develop Open Labour, and continue to build a members-led organisation that represents the British left, in all its broad diversity.

Cathleen Clarke	Poplar and Limehouse
-----------------	----------------------

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.

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.

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 LGBTQI+ 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.

With creative campaigns, bold socialist policies and high levels of engagement, OL can lead the Labour movement into the next General Election.

Charlotte Norton	Poplar and Limehouse
------------------	----------------------

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.

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.

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.

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.

David White

Denton and Reddish

Having served 18 years as a Met Borough Councillor, been active in Trade Unions since I was 16 in the old TGWU and now in GMB and Community.

I feel that I have the organisational skills and political where with all to help take Open Labour forward.

I want to see how we can ensure that the so-called Red Wall is rebuilt and the fake Tory levelling up strategy is exposed for what it is. Something I do every day at @davidwhitelab please follow me on twitter.

The policy agenda is vital to take the Labour Party forward we need to change Britain but England cannot be forgotten this time.

I know something about attracting people back to the Labour Party as I am one of those who left and has now returned. Hold it against me if you wish but then stop and think how hollow your words would have been recently and how people like me need to be part of the solution.

Writing this was hard for me, I have openly stuck my neck out but I ask for your support to do the job our communities so desperately need the Labour Party to do!

Gabe Milne

Leyton and Wanstead

The Labour movement stands at a fork in the road, and it's our responsibility to help ensure that we take the right path forward.

It's our responsibility to ensure that Labour continues to embody the politics of anti-austerity. It's our responsibility to build bridges across imagined in-party boundaries when we believe in and fight for the same goal. It's our responsibility to ensure that we consign the shame of antisemitism in our party to the past.

I was on the frontline of that fight – as the former Campaigns Officer for the Jewish Labour Movement, working on our events, campaigns and EHRC submission, I have a deeper understanding of where we've gone wrong as a party than most. As a member of National Committee, I'll convert that experience into action, using our growing influence as a group to pressure for changes to process and culture.

So, let's take advantage of the incredible opportunity we have as a party – let's put the past where it belongs and build a broad, open, socialist future for Labour. That's what I'll fight for as a member of National Committee.

Henry Mendoza

Tooting

As Social Media Officer for my University Feminist Society, I designed logos in Photoshop, sent regular emails to members via MailChimp promoting our events, and managed our social media presence. As co-chair of the Young Fabians BAME Advocacy Group I've written and agreed statements with my co-chair and other committee members, pertaining to BAME members in Labour and the Young Fabians. I've also helped organise and host pub quizzes, and 'In Conversation' interviews with Labour figures like Ayesha Hazarika and Lord Triesman.

As a student and later in my job with Bounce Theatre, I've interviewed arts practitioners, such as comedians John Moloney, Mark Thomas, Palestinian actors Faisal Abu Alhayjaa and Alaa Shehada, and theatre director Katie Turner-Halliday.

For all of these except Turner, I have written up the interviews in articles and essays.

I've written articles for various publications, including one on the importance of voting promoted by Bite The Ballot, a write-up of our event with Ayesha Hazarika for Anticipations, and two articles around BAME issues for The Social Review. I believe the above experiences, working well on committees and seeking to make decisions through collaboration and consensus wherever possible, makes me ideally suited to assist Open Labour's development.

Jake Cable	Hammersmith
------------	-------------

My intention to re-run for election onto the Open Labour National Committee is to assist in the continuation of the organisation's growth and to help steer it to a place that empowers young labour members (in particular young Black members) to build political consensus for left-wing campaigns.

I intend to build on my work in making minority issues accessible to Open Labour members and inspire a culture of speaking up and standing up for the values that Open Labour members hold as a collective.

My record of speeches and written pieces in the past year have shown that I can help push Open Labour to the forefront of Labour politics, helping engage new people sympathetic to our values. More importantly, I want to ensure that Open Labour is at the forefront of ensuring members understand how to build inter-racial and -community solidarity, and practical skills to ensure that no-one gets left behind when they are organising for labour or other left-wing causes.

James Barber	Macclesfield
--------------	--------------

I am a Labour and Co-Operative Councillor on Cheshire East Council, elected aged 18 last May, and hold the position of 'Champion for Young People', allowing me to campaign for young people. I am also the Unite Store Representative at my workplace.

Open Labour has the values we as a party should aspire to hold at all times. Openness, tolerance, diversity and pragmatism. Nobody should ever feel the way we all did on the morning of December 13th 2019. And in order to ensure a Labour Government, we must support the new leadership and build on the Corbyn era, with an added priority of integrating Open Labour's values into everything we do.

I am committed to transformative politics that help our communities. This is a vital time for the party now to rebuild and re-energise. If elected onto the Open Labour National Committee, I believe I have the skills to champion our left-wing politics nationally as I do locally, ensuring we remain bold in our vision for the party, and campaign for Labour to build on the 'kinder, gentler' politics that we should espouse.

Please consider giving your support to myself and also fellow North West candidates in this election!

James Bryan	Streatham
-------------	-----------

I joined the Labour Party as a student and have been an activist ever since. Originally from the North East of England my life and work has taken me all over the UK. I have knocked on doors for Labour from inner cities to scattered hamlets. In places where Labour is thriving to places where it is dying. Over the years this experience has given me an appreciation of the diversity of our movement and how it can be mobilised around common principles. I joined Open Labour because I believe that Labour cannot be constrained by narrow ideological tendencies that claim exclusive rights as inheritors of an 'authentic' Labour tradition.

I have worked as a teacher and campaigner in the charity sector. I am a

lifelong trade unionist who has held senior branch positions, been a rep, negotiator and organiser. This experience of membership development and campaigning has given me an outward facing and results oriented attitude. I believe that Open Labour's focus should be on membership expansion and development, with a particular focus on improving coordination in CLPs, thereby enhancing our voice and representation at conference where we can encourage the adoption of an outward facing and inclusive culture.

Joseph Hamms

Loughborough

The time for Open Labour's plural, inclusive and democratic approach to Labour politics is now. We have the potential to play a significant role in both generating and supporting the exciting ideas that are going to be so important for our party's future.

Commitment to both a pluralist left and radical democratic socialist policies led me to start The Social Review. Balancing my position at the time as a Primary School Teacher and Labour activist with my role as Editor-In-Chief, my team and I cultivated links across the Party - including with Open Labour as media partner during their recent hustings. We started with no resources and very little expertise and have managed to create a vibrant, grassroots alternative media platform. We have featured a wide range of voices within the Labour Party including interviews with Anneliese Dodds, Alex Sobel, Jonathan Ashworth, Charlotte Nichols, James Meadway and Stephen Bush as well as providing a space to hear the contributions of activists. This is precisely the energy I hope to invest in growing and developing Open Labour should you elect me to the National Committee.

For a pluralist left with radical democratic socialist policies, vote for me.

Julie Ward

North West Durham

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 & 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.

Kuba Stawiski

Poplar and Limehouse

My name is Kuba Stawiski and I am re-running for Open Labour executive committee. It has been a fantastic year for the open, soft left, with a number of events gaining significant profile (our leadership hustings in particular) and a large growth in our membership. Our work with campaigns like STV4NEC has been effective and we have continue to organise within the party.

We have a historic opportunity to organise that part of the party membership which is both the largest and most amorphous. We are at a point in time when our position can finally assert itself – but we need to continue to recruit and drive the like-minded to become members and active members of Open Labour. We need a paid organiser to start that work – and we need to fundraise to be able to fund that position.

We stand by our left economic policies, our internationalism and our opposition to antisemitism, anti-Black, anti-Muslim racism and bigotry in every form. We have a moral duty to stand against the rise of transphobia.

In my day job, I work as a PR consultant and I hope to continue to work to raise the profile of Open Labour within the media.

Lee Glover	Manchester Central
<p>OpenLabour is ideally placed to build and strengthen links across the party and to move the party away from the divisions of the past. As an open and democratic force we must continue our work to promote our policy positions to all Labour members.</p> <p>We must acknowledge that although many of our key priorities are widely supported (such as Housing reform) not all members know what we stand for.</p> <p>I have experience of policy development from my work at Her Majesty’s Courts & Tribunal Service . I also have the privilege to be the Secretary for Manchester Central CLP and worked as the Campaign and Events officer for LGBT+ NW Labour.</p> <p>I will focus primarily on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening links across the whole labour movement by focusing on policy and not so-called factions. ● Working to ensure that all parts of the country are represented and not just our main population centres. ● Promoting policies for greater Economic Equality and increasing the provision of Public Services <p>Please consider giving me your support, and to my fellow North-West candidates, in this election.</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>	

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

Mike Rowley	Oxford East
<p>I've been active in the Labour Party for 20 years and a councillor for the last 10. My particular expertise is in housing and homelessness and I've led events on this in local party and academic contexts, as well as holding the housing portfolio on Oxford City Council. I'm an experienced campaigner and have worked on various policy areas for the current and former local Labour MPs. As a gay man on the autistic spectrum, I hope I have some insight into the inequalities in our society despite my own comfortable life. I've been part of the Oxford Labour Disability Network helping comrades with disabilities become active and stand for election.</p> <p>Unprecedented times make for unprecedented opportunities and challenges. What Open Labour brings to the table is vital: a vision of a Labour Party that's pluralistic, democratic and tolerant, while standing firmly on the socialist left and organically linked to the broader labour movement. But to make the impact, we must organise, so the Committee's priorities should be to sustain a paid organiser, and to increase our reach and accessibility. I believe Open Labour can make a huge contribution to developing a radical, transformative agenda for the next Labour Government.</p>	

Omar Salem	Ilford North
<p>Open Labour should lead the argument that the Covid-19 response should put people's wellbeing first before business. Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting BAME people and, as Open Labour London BAME Officer, I have been leading work on this issue.</p> <p>After Covid-19 is over, we cannot just go back to business as usual. The right wants more austerity. We need to argue for building back better to a more equitable, closer-knit and green society.</p> <p>I fully back Open Labour's support for a more inclusive culture in Labour and to oppose antisemitism, racism, sexism, transphobia and other forms of discrimination.</p> <p>My experience includes being vice-chair of the Society of Labour Lawyers, defending human rights and legal aid. Before I became a lawyer, I co-founded the UpRising Leadership Programme for young leaders from diverse backgrounds. I also worked for Emily Thornberry MP, helping her retain her then marginal seat, campaign for more affordable housing and stop plans for 90 days detention for terrorist suspects.</p> <p>More of my ideas are at www.omarsalem.com. If you have any questions, please email me: omar@omarsalem.com.</p>	

Please give me your 1st vote.

Pablo John

Leeds North West

As a young carer I joined the Labour Party after seeing how the Conservative Government treated my severely disabled brother. Like many young people I joined the party in 2015 to be hit by a brick wall of poor culture, bad faith and resentment.

I have served as an officer in two separate CLPs, I have also worked in frontline politics interning for one of Open Labour's brilliant MPs Alex Sobel. I have liaised directly with Open Labour's national committee, I have worked on social media clipping and subtitling events and videos. I have also assisted with the establishment of Open Labour Branches in London and West Yorkshire. I know the work involved in the National Committee and I am happy to help take it on.

I also currently chair Leeds Universities' Labour Society. I would like to see our movement reaching out to youth and student organisations. Especially those outside London, appealing to younger left wing members like me who have been pushed aside.

I also have experience in radio and podcasting. I am a founder and host of "The Bubble", an multi award-winning Student Radio show I have experience editing both video and audio clips.

Panny Antoniou

Ealing Central and Acton

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.

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

Paul Martin

Wallasey

I am a committed member of the Labour Party with a longstanding determination to bring about socialism that exists for the majority of society. I believe we can do this through our democratic structures, such as Branches, Constituencies, Local Campaign Forum and affiliated groups.

My passion for making a positive contribution to the Party is demonstrated with the roles I hold within these structures. I am Chair of Wallasey Branch, Campaign Co-Ordinator of the CLP and Secretary of the LCF.

Earlier this year, I created Wirral Labour Group's first ever website(www.wirralabour.co.uk). This is still a work in progress but will hopefully bring together all ideals within the party akin to the mission statement of Open Labour.

In 2018 and 2019, I stood as Labour's Candidate in my home ward. For 25 years, the ward has been served solely by Conservative Councillors, so whilst two defeats hardly came as a surprise, I was able to gain valuable campaigning experience alongside seasoned and experienced campaigners.

I have good relationships with a number of local Labour politicians, such as our Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, Council Leader Pat Hackett, and MPs Ian Byrne, Angela Eagle, Mick Whitley and Margaret Greenwood.

Peter Whitehead

Bethnal Green and Bow

Open Labour has never had a better opportunity to exercise influence and work towards an inclusive and democratic vision of left politics in the Labour party. I was pleased to be elected as Membership Officer for London Open Labour, and I'd love to get to work helping to shape Open Labour and grow our membership all around the country. I will advocate for an inclusive, member-led culture, and a truly nationwide vision of Open Labour. My day job is in youth democratic engagement. As a result of this, I travel the length and breadth of the UK listening to both the concerns and hopes of young people, and making sure young people's voices are heard in turn. This has taught me that many of the problems we face are national, even global, yet the solutions to these will look different in each local area. As such, I believe in empowering our regional groups, supporting them wherever I can, and giving them a greater voice in setting local positions in response to local issues. A committee position would be an honour, and one I would not take lightly. Vote for me for a socialist, collaborative, and radically democratic Open Labour.

Philip Cohen

Finchley and Golders Green

I can bring many years of experience in communications, casework and campaigning to this role. Having been a journalist at the Morning Star, Observer and Social Work Today I worked in communications for the Department of Health for 13 years, mostly under a Labour government. This involved advising Ministers and preparing strategies on public health such as mental health and immunisation. I was elected Labour councillor for East Barnet in 2014 in a previously Tory ward and served a four-year term. I was annual conference delegate from Finchley and Golders Green in 2013 and 2016, and am currently chair of Church End and West Finchley LP branch. I am also press officer for the CLP and operated as press officer to Ross Houston in the 2019 general election when we faced a very difficult period with the antisemitism allegations. I have been a LP member since 1979 and always an active campaigner to make Labour electable by responding to the real concerns of ordinary people. I am heartened by the election of Kier Starmer and Angela Rayner which puts us in a great position to develop a realistic programme for government. I am a full member of JLM.

Phillip Freeman

Cities of London and Westminster

Open Labour has gone from strength to strength since I joined in 2016. I am extremely proud of my contribution to this success as OL campaigns officer from 2016 to 2019. This included organising OL's first campaigning sessions and writing the strategy for setting up local OL groups.

I am asking for your support so that I can continue helping OL reach its potential as a dynamic, grassroots organisation able to provide a space for open discussion and political education while also having the organisational strength to advance our programme.

I want an Open Labour that:

- Is led by and rooted in its membership
- Has zero tolerance for bullying and bigotry
- Is unafraid to get involved in the nitty-gritty of Labour politics
- Provides wide opportunities for political education

If elected I would:

- Push for the introduction of an OL code of conduct and independent safeguarding system
- Promote the creation of BME, LGBT, Women's, disability and youth sections, as well as networks for councillors and trade unionists
- Ensure local groups have everything they need to flourish

To find all my pledges and to contact me, go to my twitter (@pbffreeman) or email me – pbffreeman@yahoo.co.uk

Rachael Ward	Brent North
<p>I joined Open Labour in 2017 after becoming frustrated with what I perceived as a growing trend towards loyalty politics and a retreat from international solidarity. The situation in party and the world has changed greatly since then. Labour politics is less framed by relationships to or against any one person – which is a welcome change Open Labour long fought for. But with that change, socialist policies I welcomed from the Corbyn era become less secure and we must prevent the party retreating from socialist economics. Now more than ever Open Labour must organise its growing membership, ready to play a major role shaping what comes next, rather than commenting from the sides.</p> <p>My priorities for the year ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiplying our regional groups: this is how our membership and influence grows. • Leading voice on liberation issues: OL must be clear that we are allies to minorities in and outside the party; whether it be standing up for trans rights, calling out sexism, or changing selections to ensure more representation for BAME and disabled candidates. • Events: More frequent & more local. Mix of virtual and physical (when safe) • Deeper relationships with other left-wing organisations – including publications, trade unions and campaign groups. 	

Ralph Berry	Shipley
<p>My politics are Pluralist and Socialist, supporting, devolution, PR, diversity, localism, mutualism, and democratic internationalism.</p>	

I have been Labour Co Op Councillor for Wibsey, Bradford since 1991, held a range of offices including Children’s Services for 6 yrs. Re-elected in 2018 with 48.5 % of the vote. Charity Trustee with a Drugs Project in Bradford.

A founding member of Open Labour, my politics are based on a belief in Open and Pluralist Socialist politics, devolution, diversity, and democratic internationalism. I opposed to all forms autocratic left politics and have a deep commitment to localism and fighting all forms of intolerance. I helped develop our Safeguarding policy and Safeguarding lead.

National Secretary 2019 /20. The Leadership hustings we ran, and other events have shown a great desire for a positive left.

I have worked Probation and Social work now in the Charity Sector as Manager of a Mental Health service in Leeds

I am experienced in speaking, organising, empowering, and doing the nitty gritty.

The last year has been about building, so the NC could do with an experienced Northern Voice who believes belief Open Labour can shape a better left politics.

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.

Sarah Sackman	Holborn and St Pancras
---------------	------------------------

I am a campaigning lawyer, community organiser, lifelong Labour activist and trade unionist and former PPC. I would bring this experience to develop the ideas, culture and organisational capacity of Open Labour so that it continues to make an important contribution to delivering Labour in power at the local and national level.

In 2015 I stood as a Parliamentary candidate in the Tory marginal of Finchley and Golders Green. I worked with activists from all wings of the party to transform the CLP focusing on community organising and policy making rather than process and division. Together we delivered one of the strongest campaigns in London mobilising thousands of volunteers, growing the Party membership, increasing Labour turnout and slashing the Tory majority. Since then I have sat on the executive of a number of Socialist Societies including the JLM, the Fabians and Society of Labour Lawyers; I know what it takes to run and manage a successful membership-based organisation. I would contribute the experience I have gained in terms of leadership, mobilising members and communicating ideas effectively through different media to OL’s development.

My priorities as Committee member are to:

1. Help grow the membership and influence of OL.
2. Build links across the Labour movement through a pluralist rather than factional model.
3. Recommit OL to the politics of internationalism, social justice and remaking our economic system with a Green New Deal with a view to winning the arguments both within the Party and with the electorate.

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

Steve Lapsley	Nottingham East
<p>These are exciting times for Open Labour, and I’ve been enormously privileged to sit on the National Committee for the past two years and play my part in the extraordinary progress of this organisation. Our membership is growing and local groups are springing up all over the country. These were my priorities when I first stood, and will remain so if I am re-elected.</p> <p>This year has been a tough one for the party as a whole – the COVID crisis, alongside a dispiriting election defeat and Brexit have thrown up big challenges, but Open Labour has continued its work throughout –campaigning for STV in internal elections, hosting a wide variety of Zoom meetings, planning future events and adapting our work to new realities.</p> <p>I was delighted to bring the most talked-about hustings event during the leadership contest to my hometown of Nottingham - and my organisational skills, as well as my experience and contacts throughout the party, were key to its success.</p> <p>I will continue to work hard: writing articles, making speeches, formulating policy, appearing on panels – and always fighting for a better, more inclusive party culture. I believe in a truly radical and internationalist vision which brings democratic and socialist ideas into the mainstream.</p>	

Tessa Milligan	Hemel Hempstead
<p>VOTE TESS FIRST PREF</p> <p>I’ve put great energy into my role as Open Labour Events Officer and Local/Regional co-ordinator on the national committee.</p> <p>Please re-elect me so we can keep driving forward and building our brand of politics within the Labour Party.</p> <p>This year I’ve spearheaded Open Labour’s STV 4 NEC campaign, and organised our summer residential programme, now to take place in 2021.</p>	

We've also:

hosted a successful Labour leadership hustings;

held several great online events;

expanded our membership;

set up many new Open Labour branches throughout the UK.

I have worked in strategy and logistics for a number of political campaigns. I have dozens more ideas and a real vision for Open Labour to lead on policy development and campaigns within the Labour Party as a whole.

My top priorities are:

- Fundraising to employ a National Organiser
- Developing our social and digital media strategy
- Improving Open Labour's structures, how we work and continuing to expand opportunities for members!

I am also a member of the Labour Eastern Regional Board, and I'm the Jewish Labour Movement's Political Education Officer. Building a fairer and more inclusive Labour Party for all is very important to me.

#VoteTessFirstPref

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

Tom Miller	Brent North
------------	-------------

In 2019-20 we have become more sustainable, recruited exciting new members, and set the terms. Since becoming co-chair in 2015 and working with all of you since, we have risen from 59 supporters to over 1000 strong. Our platform - left economics and internationalism, an open and cooperative way of doing democracy, and political realism - came to dominate the leadership elections.

Political priorities

- ★ Support the leadership where we can but criticise where we must; press for Keir’s “10 pledges”
- ★ Become a bridge to take liberation politics into the mainstream of national opinion
- ★ Labour’s political culture: boost internal debate, democracy & collaboration
- ★ Fight for a Brexit policy that ensures green jobs, migrant & human rights; press for global democratic alternatives to globalised capitalism.
- ★ Ally ourselves with friendly voices in the labour movement & radical left
- ★ Champion greater clarity and simplicity in our comms, & move on from the framing of ‘soft left’.

Organising priorities

- ★ Expand national/regional groups, louder and more organised in CLPs. Build visibility & consistency with a paid organiser.
- ★ Boost participation from under-represented groups, work with other organisations to develop & profile OL activists
- ★ Formalise relationships with trade unions

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.

Wrenna Robson	Runnymede and Weybridge
---------------	-------------------------

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.

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.

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 wrenna@linesthatinterlace.page!