



Open Labour Endorsement for National Executive Committee 2020 Statements

CLP SECTION

Alex Beverley	Plymouth Sutton and Devonport
<p>I became an activist to fight the damage of Tory policies on the most vulnerable. My background is working in NHS mental health services and domestic abuse.</p> <p>I am dedicated to ensuring our Party is a place that represents and welcomes people from across the diversity of Britain. I have developed women’s led canvassing and helped increase the representation of women in Plymouth and I am also the LGBT+ rep on the REC</p> <p>I have led campaigns in the marginal seat of Plymouth Sutton and Devonport and we’ve consistently bucked the national trend regaining the Parliamentary seat and holding the council.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a fully independent sexual harassment and anti-bullying procedure that Party members can trust 2. Proper regional engagement beyond the Westminster bubble 3. Protect the rights of LGBT+ members and increase representation in internal and public elections 4. Demand internal Labour Party processes are accountable and transparent <p>To be a party that deserves to be in power we need to be at our best. Empowered movements, empower activists - I hope you can give me your support so as an NEC member</p> <p>I can give you back the power you deserve.</p>	

Ann Black	Oxford East
<p>I’d like to thank Open Labour for support last time, and the opportunity to apply again. I joined OL in 2016, attracted by their positive policies and rejection of factional extremes. Their successful campaign for STV should allow the nine NEC constituency representatives to reflect the diversity of party opinion.</p> <p>For 18 years as a centre-left NEC member I reported from every meeting, visited many local parties and corresponded with thousands of individuals. Until retiring I was active in UNISON, and in 2018 they endorsed my candidacy, along with 179 CLPs.</p> <p>If selected I would renew that commitment and work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the democratically-elected leadership. I will be loyal to Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner, as to previous leaders. - Restore decision-making to local parties, with online participation including those with disabilities, 	

caring responsibilities or transport issues.

- Build on the 2017 and 2019 manifestos towards a popular socialist programme- Let CLPs choose parliamentary candidates. Dozens were waiting when the 2019 election was called, and again had candidates imposed.
- Review membership subscriptions and give CLPs a fair share, honouring the NEC's 2018 promise.
- Revive the women's conference again, after steering the freestanding 2019 event.

More information at <http://www.annblack.co.uk> or from annblack50@btinternet.com

Cate Tuitt	Bethnal Green and Bow
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Let's shape and move progressive radical Labour direction on NEC

I assisted in setting up London community Land trust, UKs first housing land trust.

Covid19 has impacted us all. It had greatest impact on BAME communities, as a Black woman, who worked in an NHS hospital, I have had first-hand insight.

I campaigned for budget increases, climate green, legal aid justice for all.

Women bore great responsibilities during covid19. We need more voices at NEC table.

I've served as a Labour councillor, stood proudly on a fantastic manifesto in 2017 as a Labour party parliamentary candidate, sat on London regional board, chaired local councillor selection interview panels.

I am trade union chair of a GMB branch.

I co-authored a self-help book in 2000.

Elect me & I will:

- Publish NEC reports so you have more transparency.
- Advocate for robust and speedy independent processes to deal with misconduct.
- Fight to break down the barriers to participation in our party, for more diversity and for all our members to feel welcomed
- Recruit more BAME, disabled, LBGTO, women, youth & organise locally.
- Seek views of CLPs by regularly visiting to listen.

Get in touch with me on 07377 219 417

Jermain Jackman	Hackney North and Stoke Newington
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I'm a proud young socialist and longstanding Labour activist who has canvassed and campaigned locally and nationally in both the 2017 and 2019 elections - encouraging people to register to vote in record numbers. When I think about the unprecedented times we are living in and the uncertain future that lies ahead with a Conservative-led Government, now, more than ever, our Party's members deserve a strong, passionate and sensible representative on the NEC. I am that candidate.

I will be relentless and untiring when it comes to amplifying your voices. I will rebuild and invest in a strong network of active branches, grassroots activists, young members and local communities to ensure we listen to and learn from all communities, especially those who feel disheartened and disengaged from the democratic process – their voices deserve to be heard.

I want to help prepare the Labour Party for Government, emboldened with some of our greatest supporters by our side. I will commit to exploring new and innovative ways to actively involve member’s voices in Labour’s strategy, policy and campaigns.

Laurence Nasskau	Mole Valley
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I’ve been Labour through thick and thin for 30 years. I have held CLP positions in Streatham, in Horsham and am currently CLP Secretary in Mole Valley. I am passionate about inclusion and bringing people together to resolve differences and promote a more powerful united voice. I am articulate and confident, preferring to argue from a position of knowledge so will research and understand new issues before opening my mouth on a subject!

I was part of the room that put together the Green New Deal motion at the 2019 conference and have started a Labour for a Green New Deal group in my constituency. I work in Housing and am profoundly aware of the importance of providing more social housing to solve the housing crisis and improve millions of lives.

I will argue in NEC for more openness – making meetings available online, ensuring that the NEC works for all members and supports the party in its journey to power. Labour must become the most attractive party of government at the next election. Our leadership is building credibility and must use this to introduce transformative policies that the electorate can see as both important to them, and realistic to deliver.

Disability Place

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Damon Cooper	Pudsey
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I co-founded Disability Labour Association Leeds which had monthly meetings at Leeds Civic Hall sponsored by a Leeds City Councillor during 2018 and 2019. I helped organise speakers for meetings such as Mohammad Taj (first Muslim TUC National President, Sophie Talbot (Disability Equality Act Labour), Jonathan Fletcher (Project 125), amongst other activist.

A proud moment as an activist was when a transport campaign to defend services for young people with disabilities by Unite Community quoted me in their pamphlet:

“We are particularly indebted to Damon Cooper and the other members of Disability Labour Association Leeds”

Outside our movement, I set up a group which mixes young people on the autistic spectrum with non-autistic peers to tackle social isolation and work at a supermarket.

I want to Work on effective campaigns to highlight disability rights in the workplace plus Come up with effective ideas, initiatives and laws that will hold our institutions to account when it comes to getting and keeping disabled people in work.

If selected, this will be a coronation of mine and open labour activism. An opportunity to do more together and collectively setting a groundbreaking precedent as the first Labour NEC Disabled Member Seat Representative

George Lindars-Hammond	Sheffield Central
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I am a passionate disability and Labour Party activist. Having cerebral palsy is challenging but has given me a deep understanding of injustices and drives me to ensure that everyone has an equal platform.

My first job was working to get disabled people employed in local businesses. I then became an activist and trustee for Disability Sheffield, helping it grow in difficult times.

As Council Cabinet member for Social care in Sheffield, it is my mission to transform the services Disabled people need to thrive. It is scandalous how we have been cast aside by this Government - Labour must commit to protecting and advancing dignity, opportunities, and equality for us.

If elected to the NEC, I would champion Disabled members, ensuring representation at all levels in Labour and government. It is time that we act so members can participate in meetings and decisions in the way that works for them and are helped with the costs of accessing party activity.

I am proud to have been a founding member of Open Labour and helped establish our unique voice in Labour politics. I seek your nomination because there is a crucial need for our values as we rebuild towards Government.

Seán McGandy	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
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As a member of Open Labour, a grassroots organisation committed to the return of Scotland, Wales, England and the North of Ireland into the European community, and, indeed, a staunch Irish Republican, committed to the reunification of a country so bitterly divided by the English and Scottish over the previous eight centuries, through peaceful means, in the manner of John Hume, I plan to free my country, with your support.

I am currently an MA student at Manchester Metropolitan University, where I read about the assorted works of Flann O'Brien and the neurological turn within contemporary literature.

In September I will begin a virtual LLB with Criminology course with the University of Essex. I live in Fermanagh, in the North of Ireland.

Youth Place

Harry Dobson	Lewes
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Young Labour needs a competent, no-nonsense voice on the NEC, who does not factionally point score, and puts the best interests of the Labour youth first. The person that's going to do that, is me.

I believe that the NEC needs a youth representative that is able to hear people from all perspectives and believes in implementing radical policy in a socially democratic, and realistic way. I am determined to tackle the factional infighting that is so prevalent amongst Labour's youth wing, and make sure that all voices are heard, as being part of the LGBTQ+ community myself, I have felt like trans voices have been lost in the leadership, and I commit fully to changing that. Too much time is spent infighting and we need to direct our energy into creating change.

I am strong willed, politically formidable, and I know that I can be a champion on the NEC for youth voices within the Labour party.

Jermain Jackman	Hackney North and Stoke Newington
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Josh Charters	Oldham West and Royston
<p>As a young member of the Labour Party, I know the frustrations that young people have with how the party is run, as it can be hard to access, difficult to navigate and scary to make your voice heard. I want to amplify young voices within our party. As a working class member in the North West of England, I have seen the damage that our defeats have had on those who need a Labour Government the most, and I am determined to ensure that we work with the new Leader to deliver a Labour Government so desperately needed.</p> <p>As secretary of my local Young Labour Group, I have pushed for a greater role in local politics for our young members, and I would like the opportunity to continue this at a national level. If elected, I would push for key measures to increase transparency, access and representation within the Party by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for regional representation on the NEC to ensure that voices from all parts of the country are heard. • Push for robust and speedy processes to deal with bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment accusations to make sure that members feel safe • Report back regularly to all young members. 	

Seán McGandy	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
<p>As a member of Open Labour, a grassroots organisation committed to the return of Scotland, Wales, England and the North of Ireland into the European community, and, indeed, a staunch Irish Republican, committed to the reunification of a country so bitterly divided by the English and Scottish over the previous eight centuries, through peaceful means, in the manner of John Hume, I plan to free my country, with your support.</p> <p>I am currently an MA student at Manchester Metropolitan University, where I read about the assorted works of Flann O'Brien and the neurological turn within contemporary literature.</p> <p>In September I will begin a virtual LLB with Criminology course with the University of Essex. I live in Fermanagh, in the North of Ireland.</p>	



Local Government Section

Alice Perry	Islington Council
<p>I am very grateful for Open Labour’s past support and want to continue championing our shared values of open, progressive democratic socialism. I was a strong advocate for STV for the CLP NEC elections and work closely with trade unions like the GMB to ensure our rules and procedures are fair and balanced.</p> <p>I am a proud trade unionist, member of the GMB and membership secretary of LSHTM UCU. If re-elected to the NEC I will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back on every meeting. • Ensure local parties get the resources they need to fight elections and have a greater say over local campaigns and messaging. • Support progressive policies like building more affordable housing, tackling climate change, protecting and creating jobs and defending public services. • Work increase diversity in local government and its leadership, increasing the number of working class, women, BAME, LGBT and disabled representatives. • Champion parental leave and greater flexibility for Councillors to support shift workers and those with caring responsibilities. • Support members’ ability to select their elected representatives, giving people a real choice of talented candidates. • Support a fair, independent disciplinary process. • Defend the link between Labour and Trade Unions <p>Please support me to be your NEC Councillor representative.</p>	

Olly Armstrong	Birmingham Council
<p>Hard-right politics hold power, yet the policies of the left are more popular than ever. The world is ready for huge societal change.</p> <p>I will seek to hold the party to a pragmatic, cooperative, grassroots left. I will advocate for climate breakdown response, rooted in climate justice, leaning firmly on the work of LGND, Wretched Of The Earth, and the climate strike students.</p> <p>I will stand with the unions and advocacy groups, and for the vulnerable, I will hold the line for the oppressed wherever they are, and use my platform to articulate it in an accessible way to bring more people to this view.</p> <p>I will work to make all our processes truly democratic and accountable.</p> <p>I will build bridges and grow relationships, and seek unity but never at the cost of losing integrity. I will seek to form good working relationships with all, including those I fundamentally disagree with politically, and I will act to challenge dangerous policy and behaviour from anyone, including those I agree with politically.</p> <p>I will always be accountable to members, speak up when needed, and listen, step back and hand over my platform when needed.</p>	

Simon Jeal	Bromley Council
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I'm proud to represent the community I live as a Labour Councillor. Penge and Cator is a solidly Labour ward in a solidly Tory borough- after running as Labour's PPC in nearby Orpington, in last year's General Election, I saw why.

The demographics, attitudes and voting records of the two communities, within 10 miles of each other- are worlds apart. While Labour has racked up votes and seats in areas like mine (every ward in my CLP has only Labour Councillors & we hold every seat on Lewisham Council) we have not managed to increase our vote in too many others. (Winning just one seat in Bromley in 2018, indeed overall we've lost seats across the country since). Increasingly it has felt like there has been little desire to do so- local parties and councillors in areas we are in opposition (like Bromley and across Britain) often get little support, resource and influence within the party- I am seeking election to the NEC to try and address this.

Another part of the problem is the voting system, I support introducing proportional representation for local elections, as an NEC member I would advocate adopting this as Labour party policy.