

POLITICS OF HOPE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OPEN LABOUR

- Electoral**
- Reform**
- Society**

10am - 8pm

Sunday 21st March 2021

Tickets from £10

Timetable at a glance

Time	Title	Speakers
10 - 10.50	Morning Keynote	Anneliese Dodds MP, Tessa Milligan
11 - 11:50	Left's Approach to Media	Paul Mason, Ellie Mae O'Hagan, Sienna Rodgers, Amardeep Singh Dhillon, Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite, Joseph Hamm, Peter Whitehead
11 - 11:50	Justice Policy	Nadia Whittome MP, Alex Norris MP, Paul Sweeney, Lauren Davison, Simon Jeal
11 - 11:50	Rebuilding: Local Gov	Cllr Alice Perry, Cllr Rosie Kirk, Cllr Gill Wood, Cllr Ralph Berry
11 - 11:50	Future of Trade Unions	Jenny Symmons, Alex Marshall, Steve Garelick, Lucy Burke, Sarah Sackman
12 - 12:50	The UK and EU	Paul Blomfield MP, Jackie Jones, Clare Moody, Mike Buckley
12 - 12:50	Winning electoral reform	Joe Sousek, Willie Sullivan
12 - 12:50	Housing for the 21st Century	Patrick Jenkins, Gordon Maloney, James Murray, Jackie Peacock OBE, Sem Moema
12 - 12:50	The Tory war on 'woke'	Jermain Jackman, Halima Begum, Clive Lewis MP, Amen Tesfay
3 - 3.50	Afternoon Keynote	Joseph Stiglitz, Zoe Williams
4 - 4:50	Island of Ireland	Clare Hanna MP, Tara Grace Connolly, Liam Conlon, Cathleen Clarke
4 - 4:50	The hydrogen economy	Luke Pollard MP, Cllr Gillian Wood, Panny Antoniou
4 - 4:50	Trade Justice	Nick Dearden, Sharon Treat, Prof Mary Kaldor
4 - 4:50	LGBTQ+ rights	Charlotte Nichols MP, Lisa Power, Heather Herbert, Megan Birchall
5 - 5:50	Diversity in Education	Afzal Khan MP, Janet Farrar, Athian Akec, Bola Akintoye, Liam O'Rourke
5 - 5:50	Campaigning under Covid-19	Kevin Kennedy Ryan, Jane Marshall, Liz Pole, Hannah O'Rourke, Nathan Oswin
5 - 5:50	Labour for a New Democracy	Laura Parker, Sandy Martin
5 - 5:50	Activist Academy	Ann Black, Tom Laing, Omar Salem
6 - 6:50	Far-Right Radicalisation	Liron Velleman
6 - 6:50	Public Sector Reform	Dr Sue Goss, Dr Simon Kaye, Adam Ogilvie, James Gibson
6 - 6:50	Winning in Opposition	Pauline McNeill MSP, Daniel Johnson MSP, Ross McArthur
6 - 6:50	Disability Rights	Dr Alice Irving, George Lindars-Hammond, Beccie Ions, Vicky Buckingham, Lucy Burke
7 - 7:50	Book Launch: The New Foundations	James Meadway, Alex Sobel MP, Christine Berry, Maya Goodfellow, Tessa Milligan
7 - 7:50	Jobs and workplace rights	Allison Roche, Richard Corbett, Ana Oppenheim, Julie Ward

Sessions

10 - 10.50am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Anneliese Dodds

**Shadow Chancellor,
Labour and Co-op MP
for Oxford East**

Interviewed by...

Tessa Milligan

**Co-Chair of Open
Labour**



11 - 11.50am

The Left's Approach to Media

THE **Social** R E V I E W

Chairs - Joseph Hamm and Peter Whitehead (Editors of The Social Review)

Speakers - Paul Mason (Economist), Ellie Mae O'Hagan (CLASS, The Guardian), Sienna Rodgers (LabourList), Amardeep Singh Dhillon (Red Pepper), Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (Renewal)

The traditional media landscape is weighted against the Labour Party with most national newspapers endorsing the Conservatives in recent elections and broadcasters regularly allowing right wing pundits to dominate the conversation. However, there is increasingly a vibrant alternative media landscape. With this in mind, we will discuss the way in which the Labour Party and the wider left can best interact with these traditional and alternative media spaces.

Recovery and Rebuilding: Local Government Leading the Renewal

OPEN **LABOUR**

Chair - Cllr Alice Perry (Vice-Chair of Labour's National Executive Committee, NEC representative for Labour Cllrs)

Speakers - Cllr Rosie Kirk (City of Lincoln Council), Cllr Gill Wood (Wirral Council), Cllr Ralph Berry (Open Labour Councillors Network Lead)

The Open Labour Councillors Network will be discussing how local government is reshaping the political agenda, and think about how we can make local participatory socialism the driver for renewal and move away from top-down politics.

Justice Policy and the Public Health Approach

OPEN **LABOUR**

Chairs - Lauren Davison and Simon Jeal (Co-Chairs of Open Labour's Justice Policy Working Group)

Speakers - Alex Norris MP (Shadow Public Health Minister), Nadia Whittome MP, Paul Sweeney (Labour and Co-Op Candidate for Glasgow Region and former Shadow Minister)

Join Open Labour's Justice Policy Working Group for a discussion on how a public health approach to harm reduction and Justice Policy should be a goal for any progressive movement! We will hear from Paul Sweeney on Drug Policy, Nadia Whittome on sex work, and Alex Norris about how Labour will place the approach at the centre of what we do.

The Future of Trade Unions

OPEN **LABOUR**

Chairs - Lucy Burke and Sarah Sackman (Open Labour National Committee)

Speakers - Jenny Symmons (Chair of GMB Branch for Parliamentary Members Staff), Steve Garelick (GMB Regional Organiser and Uber campaigner), Alex Marshall (President of IWGB)

The pandemic has shown that trade unions are more vital than ever. What role can and should unions play as we emerge post-pandemic? How will technology, automation and Brexit transform the world of work and how should unions innovate and respond to remain relevant, broad based, inclusive and responsive to the economic challenges of the 2020s? We'll hear from a great line up of activists from across the labour movement.

12 - 12.50am

The UK and EU: How Does Labour Build the Future?



Chair - Mike Buckley (Director of Labour for a European Future)

Speakers - Paul Blomfield MP (Former Shadow Brexit Minister), Jackie Jones (Former MEP, Welsh Labour Senedd candidate), Clare Moody (Former MEP)

Brexit is now a reality. Its economic and social harm is already becoming clear. How does Labour build a better and closer future relationship while navigating the different politics of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

Housing for the 21st Century



Chair - Sem Moema (London Assembly Candidate for North East London)

Speakers - James Murray MP (Former Deputy London Mayor for Housing), Patrick Jenkins (Labour Tenants United), Gordon Maloney (Living Rent), Jackie Peacock OBE

Everyone deserves a safe, decent place to live - a home. With a huge rise in working-from-home arrangements, the ongoing cladding scandal, and increasing unaffordability for both private renters and buyers, how can we make housing across the UK fit for the modern world? Open Labour London Region discuss potential solutions to these long-standing problems.

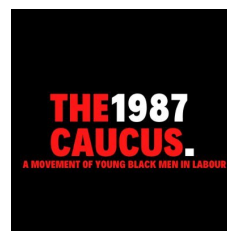
Winning Electoral Reform at Labour Conference



Chairs - Joe Sousek (Make Votes Matter) and Willie Sullivan (Electoral Reform Society)

Over 190 CLPs have now called for a proportional voting system. But how can we make sure Labour commits to electoral reform at this year's party conference? Join organisers from the Labour for a New Democracy coalition to learn about the strategy for achieving this historic change, how you can make a difference within your CLP, and how else you can get involved in the regional and national L4ND campaign.

The Tory War on 'Woke': How to Fight Back



Chair - Amen Tesfay (Open Labour BAME Officer)

Speakers - Jermain Jackman (The 1987 Caucus), Halima Begum (CEO at The Runnymede Trust), Clive Lewis MP (Member of Parliament for Norwich South)

The government's response to the cries to end social injustice has been to ramp up the divisive rhetoric and crackdown on concerns as part of a 'War on Woke'. Join the 1987 Caucus as we reflect on last summer's Black Lives Matter protests and discuss how to respond to the Tory War on 'Woke'.

Lunch Break 1pm - 3pm

At 2pm, we also have our Annual General Meeting on Zoom which all members of Open Labour are free to attend.

Please register for the AGM via the [conference ticket link](#) and use the discount code *'Member21'*.

If you have any problems registering for the AGM email admin@openlabour.org.

3 - 3.50pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Joseph E. Stiglitz

Nobel Prize-winning economist, former senior vice president and chief economist of the World Bank, former Chairman of the US President's Council of Economic Advisers

Interviewed by...

Zoe Williams

Columnist at The Guardian, journalist and author



4 - 4.50pm

The Future of the Island of Ireland



Chair - Cathleen Clarke (Open Labour Youth Officer)

Speakers - Clare Hanna MP, Tara Grace Connolly (Irish Youth United Nations Delegate) and Liam Conlon (Chair of the Labour Party Irish Society)

2021 brings the island of Ireland a plethora of challenges and opportunities. From managing Covid-19 to grappling with the impacts of Brexit on trade and cross border relations, political processes either side of the border are truly being tested. We'll discuss how these political systems can adapt to a multitude of challenges with a fantastic line-up of speakers including Belfast South MP Clare Hanna, Irish Youth's Delegate to the UN, and the Chair of Labour Party Irish Society.

What are the Post-Covid Trade Justice Challenges?



Chair - Professor Mary Kaldor (Director of the Civil Society and Human Security Research Unit at London School of Economics)

Speakers - Sharon Treat (Former Senate Majority Leader, Maine Legislature), Nick Dearden (Director, Global Justice Now)

With a Brexit deal signed, the government is intent on signing a range of new trade deals which will have a profound effect on the sort of country Britain becomes. From food standards to public services, climate change to the regulation of Big Tech, these trade deals could tie the hands of governments for a generation to come.

The Hydrogen Economy: Problems and Prospects



Chair - Panny Antoniou (Co-Chair of Open Labour's Climate Policy Working Group)

Speakers - Luke Pollard MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), Cllr Gillian Wood (Co-Chair of Open Labour's Climate Policy Working Group)

Hydrogen is a fuel source with the potential to revolutionise our energy supply and create thousands of new jobs. So why isn't it in widespread use yet? And how can we overcome issues facing this revolutionary fuel source?

LGBTQ+ Rights: Then and Now



Chair - Megan Birchall (Open Labour LGBTQ+ Officer)

Speakers - Charlotte Nichols MP (Shadow Equalities Minister), Lisa Power (Co-Founder of Stonewall), Heather Herbert (Labour candidate for Donside and LGBT+ Labour Scotland Trans Officer)

We've recently been reminded of the struggles of the LGBTQ+ Community in the 1980s in Russell T Davies' brilliant series "It's a Sin". A lot of progress has been made since then but the LGBTQ+ Community faces new challenges especially with a growth in transphobia in society, including on the left of politics. We will be joined by an incredible line-up including the first ever openly LGBTQ+ person to speak at the United Nations.

5 - 5.50pm

Diversity in Education: How Do We Ensure Our Education System Reflects Modern Britain?



Chair - Liam O'Rourke (Chair Open Labour North West)

Speakers - Afzal Khan MP, Janet Farrar (President-Elect of the University and College Union), Athian Akec (Former MYP for Camden and writer on inequality), Bola Akintoye (Chair of NEU Trafford)

There are serious weaknesses within the British education system in the way that Black history, and indeed the history of any minority group is taught. How do we address these weaknesses, and make young people and students aware that history goes beyond the stories of the privileged few?

No Socialism Without Democracy



Chairs - Laura Parker (Political Advisor for Labour for a New Democracy and former National Co-Ordinator for Momentum), Sandy Martin (Chair of Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform and Former Shadow Minister for Waste and Recycling)

Three-quarters of Labour members support proportional representation according to polling, and 194 CLPs have already called for electoral reform. Join Laura Parker and Sandy Martin for an exciting discussion on why PR is an essential element of democratic renewal.

Campaigning Under Coronavirus: How Can We Innovate?



Chair - Nathan Oswin (Founder, Labour Society of Campaigners)

Speakers - Hannah O'Rourke (Director of Labour Together, Co-Founder of Campaign Lab), Kevin Kennedy Ryan (Founder of Labour Party Graphic Designers), Jane Marshall (Chair of Broxtowe CLP), Liz Pole (South West Regional Council member)

At this workshop, hear campaign innovations, experiments and trials that councillors can utilise in their campaigning during 2021 and beyond. Form networks and share the challenges you face to help inform further experiments and trials across the country.

Activist Academy Launch: How the Labour Party works



Chair - Omar Salem (Open Labour National Committee)

Speakers - Ann Black (CLP Representative on Labour's National Executive Committee), Tom Laing (Secretary of Wirral Young Labour)

At this session we will launch Open Labour's new Activist Academy! We'll be breaking down how the Labour Party works nationally and locally, from policy making to candidate selections. We will also discuss what parts of Labour's work during the Covid-19 pandemic you would like the party to retain in the future.

6 - 6.50pm

Spotting and Countering Far Right Radicalisation in Young People



Chair - Liron Velleman (Political Organiser, HOPE not Hate)

A session by HOPE not hate's Political Organiser Liron Velleman on the current tools, symbols and methods used by the far right to radicalise young people in the UK, spotting those and working together as anti-fascists to counter them.

Getting Things Done In Opposition - Successes of Scottish Labour MSPs



Chair - Ross McArthur (Vice-Chair Open Labour Scotland)

Speakers - Pauline McNeill MSP (Fair Rents (Scotland) Bill, Scottish Labour's Communities, Local Government and Housing Spokesperson), Daniel Johnson MSP (Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Sales etc.) (Scotland) Bill, Scottish Labour's Finance Spokesperson)

Hear directly from Labour MSPs on their experiences of bringing forward Member Bills to the Scottish Parliament, the coalitions of support they had to build and difficulties that they came up against - and ultimately what their Bills will mean for people in Scotland.

Public Sector Reform: Ideas and Practice



Chair - James Gibson (Chair, Open Labour West Yorkshire)

Speakers - Dr Sue Goss (author of Making Local Governance Work: Networks, Relationships and the Management of Change et al.), Dr Simon Kaye (New Local Think Tank), Adam Ogilvie (Former Cabinet Member, Leeds City Council)

We will be exploring ideas for public sector reform and its practical application at local government level. Simon and Sue are both interested in how public services can be developed and delivered at the community level. Adam was the Executive Member for Adults and Health at Leeds City Council and managed a successful shift in service provision towards more community and worker led services.

Disability Rights in the Covid-19 Era and Beyond



Chair - Lucy Burke (Open Labour Disability Officer)

Speakers - Dr Alice Irving (Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers specialising in Education Law, Housing Law and Public Law), Beccie Ions (GMB), Cllr George Lindars-Hammond (Sheffield Council Cabinet member for Health and Social Care), Vicky Buckingham (Self-Advocate)

The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the inequalities and human rights abuses experienced by disabled people in this country. The failure to plan for disabled people's needs has impacted on SEND provision, adult social care, and tragically on the fundamental right to life and health care. We'll discuss disability rights during and beyond the pandemic with a fantastic panel.

7 - 7.50pm

Book Launch: The New Foundations

 **Electoral
Reform
Society**

Chair - Alex Sobel MP

Speakers - James Meadway (Economist and Former Advisor to the Shadow Chancellor), Maya Goodfellow (Author of 'Hostile Environment: How Immigrants Became Scapegoats'), Christine Berry (Writer, Researcher, Senior Fellow), Tessa Milligan (Co-Chair of Open Labour)

Politics for the Many and Open Labour are proud to present a new e-book examining the British state. Hear directly from some of the book's contributors on how to shape a fairer, more equal society through electoral reform.

Building Back after Brexit: Jobs and Workplace Rights



Chair - Julie Ward (Open Labour National Committee and Former MEP)

Speakers - Richard Corbett (Former Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party), Allison Roche (Unison), Ana Oppenheim (Another Europe is Possible, Labour for Free Movement)

The UK struggles with a Brexit which is simultaneously both done and not done. We're at a crossroads - how do we build campaigns to protect jobs and rights at work?

Thank you for attending!

To join Open Labour as a member click here.

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Thank you to our conference's primary sponsor the Electoral Reform Society.

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