



## Labour International Rules 2019

### **Clause I**

#### **Name**

1. Labour International, hereinafter referred to as "LI", is the party unit that brings together Party members and supporters that live or work abroad temporarily or permanently.

### **Clause II**

#### **Aims and Values**

1. **National.**

The Labour Party is a democratic socialist Party. It believes that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone, so as to create for each of us the means to realise our true potential, and for all of us a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many not the few; where the rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe and where we live together freely, in a spirit of solidarity, tolerance and respect.

2. **Labour International (LI)**

LI will:

- a) Provide a focal point for the social and political needs of Labour Party members and supporters living or working abroad permanently or temporarily.
- b) Provide the Labour Party with feedback from its overseas members, acting as a source of information and advice based on the international experience of those members, and to develop electoral support for the Party among UK citizens abroad.
- c) Strengthen links with UK based CLP's, with the aim of securing the return of Labour representatives to Parliament.
- d) LI should work with sister parties around the world to ensure that the values and aims of the Labour Party UK as set out in the Labour Party Rulebook Clause IV are promoted in those countries. LI must work with the Leaders

Office, the Shadow Foreign Secretary's office or Foreign Office and the Labour Party International department.”

## **Clause III**

### **Individual Membership**

1. The conditions of membership for, method of enrolment of, and level of subscription payable by individual members of the party within LI are laid down in the Membership rules of the Party Chapter 2, clause I,1-3.
2. Full membership is open to subjects of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or citizens of Eire, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man who are resident abroad, either permanently or temporarily, and become individual overseas members of the party by enrolment with head office. They will pay the appropriate rate of subscription.
3. Labour International shall operate according to regulations approved by the NEC but shall include provision for the representation of Labour International members at Party conference, with a voting entitlement as for CLPs according to the in Chapter 3 Party Conference clauses 1- 4.
4. Individual members of the Party between 14 years and 26 years of age inclusive shall, if they so desire, be organised in branches of Young Labour acting in accordance with regulations sanctioned by the NEC and on boundaries approved by the General Secretary.
5. A compulsory branch membership fee for LI full members is forbidden. Under no circumstances may the payment or non-payment of a voluntary extra contribution affect any member's rights as a full member in any way to enjoy full member rights or in any way that is contrary to the Charter of Member Rights.

## **Clause IV**

### **Method of Organisation**

#### **1. General**

- a) LI may adopt any method of organisation currently approved by the NEC.
- b) LI is committed to gender parity of elected committee officers, as laid out in the Labour rules for elected committee officers.
- c) Labour International is committed to encouraging the active involvement of under-represented groups within its membership, including positively encouraging and supporting members from those groups to become active, attending meetings and to stand for office at all levels in the CLP.
- d) LI is committed to uphold the Labour Party Charter of Members Rights which reaffirms the right of every member to attend and vote at meetings so long as they meet the necessary requirements laid out in Chapter 2; Clause II; 4 of the national rule book, in the election of candidates for officer posts, and for

delegates to the general committee, annual conference and other party committees.

- e) Labour International shall have a regional structure to accommodate the global nature of its membership and the 24 time zones across which its members reside, organised by a regional coordinator for each of the following regions:
  - a. North and South America
  - b. Europe, Middle East and Africa
  - c. South and East Asia, Australia and New Zealand

The regional coordinator of each LI Region who shall be elected by the members of LI in that region, shall organise meetings of the membership in the region around issues of concern to members and shall represent the region on the LIEC.

## **2. Branches**

- a) All members are entitled to be allocated to a branch, be they in a town/city, or on a sub-national regional or countrywide basis.
- b) The membership and boundaries of individual branches will be decided by the LIEC and approved by the NEC.
- c) Any changes to branch boundaries shall be decided in consultation with members, and with the approval of the LIEC, respecting LI's commitment to the Labour Party Charter of Members Rights, and the right of all members to have access and to be active in a branch.
- d) Branches shall operate in accordance with the rules for Party branches and any other regulations approved by the NEC. In particular, a branch shall maintain the necessary machinery for elections within its area, and employ resources to give all members access to meetings wherever possible.
- e) A branch may undertake other activities to promote the party in its area and the involvement of its individual members in line with the LI development action plan. The public activities of a branch shall be approved by the LIEC.
- f) There may be established workplace branches, acting in accordance with rules sanctioned by the NEC.
- g) There may be established an LI Women's branch, Young Labour Branch, BAME Forum, LGBT+ Forum and Disabilities Forum, which act in accordance with the rules for branches and other regulations and boundaries approved by the NEC. They shall have the same rights, and responsibilities as an LI geographical branch.
- h) There shall be established a Campaign Committee to coordinate how LI can assist with the campaign to get a Labour Government in the UK. It must at all times work with the Leaders Office, Shadow Foreign Secretary's office or

Foreign Secretary's office and the Labour International department to ensure that its international campaigning is in line with the Labour Party as a whole.

## **Clause V**

### **Management**

#### **1. General**

- a) The CLP adopts the rules and regulations from the Labour Party CLP model rules, adapted as required and approved by the NEC, to take account of the unique nature of the Labour International CLP membership, and such amendments thereto as may be agreed by the Party Conference or made by the NEC.
- b) The CLP shall have the power to make changes to these rules, subject to specific prior approval in writing from the NEC, and providing that such changes do not contravene the spirit and intention of the rules as adopted by Party Conference or alter the party objectives, basis or conditions of affiliated and individual membership.
- c) The management of the CLP shall be in the hands of the Labour International delegate based General Meeting, the General Committee

#### **2. The Labour International Executive Committee (LIEC)**

- a) LIEC shall report to the General Committee, LI AGM and to other such meetings as required by the LI rules and procedures, and the rules set out by the Labour Party, as amended by the Labour Party conference or NEC.
- b) The LIEC shall meet as required but at least 8 times a year, by videoconferencing if necessary, and be responsible for reviewing the implementation of the development action plan and supervising the work of the branches and other party units. The LIEC should also deal with as much of the routine business of LI as possible to ensure that the General Meeting can devote its time to the discussion of policy and party objectives for the constituency.
- c) "LIEC officers are required to attend as often as possible. If an officer is absent without apologies for more than 3 consecutive meetings, then the position is deemed to be vacant and the position would need to be filled as per requirements of the rule book."
- d) The LIEC will actively promote the use of videoconferencing to conduct meetings at all levels of the CLP, including providing financial assistance if this is required.
- e) The treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring LI meets its legal and financial responsibilities as laid down by the Labour Party rules and shall be the registered treasurer of the accounting unit.

- f) The Secretary will provide regular and timely feedback to members and ensure that LIEC members have access to relevant documents no later than 7 days before the executive meeting.
- g) The secretary will issue a calling notice for scheduled LIEC meetings shall be 14 days, with the agenda confirmed 7 days before the meeting.
- h) The LIEC secretary shall notify Party Head Office immediately in the event of the resignation or replacement of the treasurer.
- i) It shall be the requirement of their office that the treasurer undertakes such training as deemed desirable by the NEC.
- j) The LIEC Communications officer shall have overall management of the CLP communications tools, including any social media resources and the CLP newsletter, working in partnership with member volunteers.
- k) The quorum for business meetings of the EC shall be 25% of those members entitled to vote in attendance. LIEC will aim to reach decisions by consensus, but where this is not possible a vote will be taken. In the event of there being an equality of votes on any matter decided by a show of hands, the chair may give a casting vote provided that s/he has not used an ordinary vote. If the chair does not wish to give a casting vote, the motion is not carried.
- l) The LIEC shall work in conjunction with the NEC of the Labour Party who may appoint a representative from the Party as an ex officio member of the LIEC.

## **Clause VI**

### **Officers**

1. The officers of LI, the Executive Committee, and two auditors shall be elected by the membership using OMOV and alternative transfer vote in March bi-yearly and shall continue in office until replaced or re-elected.
  - a) The Committee will appoint two of its officers to be specifically responsible as a sub-committee for managing the elections to LIEC in the election year. They will liaise with the representative from the NEC on the procedures for the ballot.
  - b) Elected members shall take office at the Annual General Meeting in April of the same year.
  - c) Between March and the AGM there will be a formal handover period from the outgoing officers to the newly elected officers. This will include a written report of previous and outstanding business and issues and previous LIEC and GC minutes and copies of the LI accounts for the preceding two years.
  - d) Each candidate must be proposed and seconded by LI members or by branches.

- e) Each candidate must submit a 200 word statement, with their nomination, for circulation to all members with the ballot papers.
  - f) In the event of there being a casual vacancy mid-term the LIEC will hold a by-election. The vote shall be by alternative transferable vote. The newly elected officer will hold his/her office until the next scheduled bi-yearly LIEC election.
2. The following Executive Officers of LI shall be voting members of the LIEC:
- Chair/deputy treasurer
  - Vice-chair
  - Vice-chair/ membership
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Women's officer
  - BAME officer
  - LGBT+ officer
  - Disabilities and Carers Officer
  - Trade Union Liaison Officer
  - Political Education Officer
  - Communications/social media Officer
  - Youth Officer
  - Policy and campaigns officer
3. At least seven of these officers shall be women.
4. Every effort will be made to ensure that the composition of the LIEC reflects the geographical spread of its membership.
5. All posts are open to job share except the Chair and Treasurer.
6. LIEC officers will make arrangements for each of the following posts to be covered by a deputy officer from within their number in order to ensure continuity during periods of absence such as e.g. illness, work commitments
- a. Secretary
  - b. Chair,
  - c. Vice-chair,
  - d. Vice-chair/ membership
  - e. Treasurer,

- f. Regional coordinators
  
- 7. The chair shall also be the deputy treasurer.
- 8. LI may, with the approval of the NEC, add other Executive Officer posts drawn from amongst its Coordinator roles subject to the gender quota being amended appropriately.
- 9. LIEC Coordinators shall be encouraged to attend Executive Committee Meetings to report on their work and share expertise with colleagues but shall not be voting members unless elected to the Executive Committee as officers.
- 10. The CLP will also elect 3 non-voting regional co-ordinators to support the development of membership recruitment and branches in Europe and Africa, the Americas, and Asia/Anzac.
- 11. Branch secretaries or one member elected by the branch can also attend the Executive meetings as non-voting members.

## **Clause VII**

### **The General Meeting**

#### **1. Duties of the General Meeting**

- a) The general provisions of the constitution, rules and standing orders of the Party shall apply to LI and the General Meeting has a duty to act within and uphold such provisions.
- b) The General Meeting shall be responsible for establishing objectives for LI in the constituency through political debate and policy discussion, setting targets for development of CLP organisation and campaigning in the area and promoting links with the wider community following approval from the Leader's office, Shadow Foreign Secretary's office and the International department."

In particular, LI is required to submit in the fourth quarter of each year a development plan in a format approved by the NEC for the constituency for the coming year.

- c) It shall be the duty of the General Meeting of LI to ensure that at least 50 per cent of their delegates to other Party bodies (where delegate entitlement is more than one) shall be women.
- d) LI and units of LI shall not enter into affiliation with or give support, financially or otherwise, to any political party or organisation (or ancillary or subsidiary body thereto) declared by Party conference or by the NEC in pursuance of conference decisions to be ineligible for affiliation to the Party. Nor shall they give any such support to individuals ineligible for membership of the Party.

- e) In the event of LI being dissolved or ceasing to exist for any reason, its assets (after payment of outstanding liabilities) shall be transferred to the NEC of the Party.
2. The procedural guidelines of the General Meeting are those laid out in Appendix 7 clauses II – IV of the Labour Party Rulebook.
3. **Annual meetings:**
- a) The Annual General Meeting of LI shall be held in April of each year, or as soon as possible afterwards.
  - b) 28 days' notice of an annual general meeting shall be given to all party units.
  - c) Seven days' notice of an annual general meeting shall be given to voting members entitled to attend.
4. **Special General meeting**
- a) Special General meetings can be called at the discretion of the LIEC and shall be called on the written request of at least one third of branches which are or would be entitled to send delegates to LI under a delegate structure.
  - b) Seven days' notice of a special meeting shall be given to voting members entitled to attend except in cases of emergencies, when only business of immediate importance shall be transacted.
5. **Ordinary General Meetings**
- a) Labour International will operate under a delegate based General Meeting structure. This arrangement will be reviewed on an annual basis only.
  - b) The quorum for General meetings will be 25% of eligible delegate members, or an alternative quorum as approved by the NEC.
  - c) General Meetings shall be held at such intervals as laid down in the standing orders of LI.
  - d) Fourteen days' notice of Ordinary General Meetings shall be given to voting members entitled to attend.
  - e) The General Meeting will consist of voting members elected by branches on the basis of 1 delegate per 40 branch members or part thereof, with a quorum of 25 members.
  - f) All CLP members having the right to attend and speak but only General Meeting delegates elected by branches will have the right to vote.
  - g) The timing of the General Meeting will take into account that delegates live across several time zones. Accordingly, Ordinary General Meetings will be held at weekends in order to facilitate attendance by as many members as possible, and delegates need to bear this in mind when standing for election.



- h) Regional coordinators will be urged to organise informal regional meetings to take on board regional issues such as branch development and campaigning work and activities that are particular to their region.
- i) Branches can propose motions to the General Meeting.
- j) Motions can also be submitted by at least two individual members, but motions proposed by branches will take precedence in the order of business over motions proposed by individual members.
- k) Any 25 General Meeting delegates, or 75 LI members can call for an OMOV survey/referendum on a motion.
- l) The Labour Party model standing orders will apply to LI general meetings.

## **6. Branch Meetings**

- a) Branch meetings should be held at accessible times and/or venues to facilitate the maximum attendance by branch members.
- b) Branch meetings are held in accordance with the CLP branch rules are organised as laid out in the LI model Branch rules and Standing Orders.
- c) All members of LI must be given the opportunity to attend at least 8 meetings per year, including at least 2 policy meetings.
- d) Any notice required to be given under these rules shall be in writing which may include electronic communication.
- e) Branches shall provide online videoconferencing tools for all branch meetings in order to maximise membership participation and democracy. Branch meetings can be a combination of a face-to-face meeting with the addition of videoconferencing as standard practice. The LIEC shall provide access to videoconferencing accounts funded by LI. The LIEC shall also provide a financial subsidy to a branch if there are particularly high wi-fi or data charges that need to be paid to provide this service.
- f) Branch activities shall be paid for by fund raising and by grants from LI.

## **Clause VIII**

### **The Party Conference**

1. The rules for the party annual conference are laid out under Chapter 3, clauses I-IV of the Labour Rules.
2. LI will appoint party conference delegates as laid out in the Labour Party Rules Chapter 7 Clause X.
  - a) In the event of LI being entitled to more than one delegate the principle of gender parity shall be followed.
  - b) Any member of LI with six months membership of the Labour Party at the date of nomination and proposed and seconded by LI members may submit themselves for nomination as delegate.

- c) Each candidate must submit a 200-word statement for consideration by LIEC, who will be responsible for arranging the selection of delegates by OMOV ballot.
- d) The LIEC will meet the reasonable costs of the delegate(s) who will be required to submit written reports for the information of the LIEC and LI members following Conference.
- e) Local branches and groups of at least two members may submit resolutions for Conference to LIEC having regard to Clause 3C.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book governing conference motions and resolutions. Individual proposals must be proposed and seconded by LI members.
- f) LIEC will make arrangements for running an OMOV consultation of the LI membership on their choice of conference motions and for organising an All Members Meeting for discussing motions submitted. The LIEC must submit the motion or motions with the highest vote to Conference.
- g) Local Branches or members may make proposals to LIEC for nominations for such Party posts at Conference as are permitted to LI under Clause 3C.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book. In the event of there being more than one nomination the LIEC will hold an OMOV ballot of members and be responsible for submitting any nominations on behalf of LI, and for informing members of the outcome of any nomination process.

## **Clause IX**

### **Finance**

1. LI will benefit from the minimum guarantee of financial support as laid down in the Party rules Appendix 8.
2. The LI Treasurer shall operate as laid down in the Party Rules Chapter 7 Clause VIII.10
3. LI secretary shall notify Party Head Office immediately in the event of the resignation or replacement of the treasurer or the deputy treasurer, so that the party can meet its statutory duty responsibility to inform the Electoral Commission of any such changes. It shall be a requirement of his/her office that the treasurer undertakes such training as is deemed desirable by the NEC.
4. Following each annual meeting of LI the Secretary shall forward to the General Secretary a copy of the constituency Annual Report, including the annual statement of accounts and any such other information that may be requested by the NEC in the format required.
5. Where required, the annual statement of accounts must be presented to and approved by a general meeting in the first quarter of the year following the year in question.

## **Clause X**

### **Disciplinary Procedures**

1. LI shall ensure a minimum code of conduct by members as laid down in the Party Rules Appendix 9.
2. LI will deal with any disciplinary matters as laid down in the Party Rules Chapter 6 Clause II and Chapter 7 Clause XII.
3. It shall be the duty of the General Meeting of LI to take all necessary steps to enforce the Constitution, standing orders and rules of the Party within its constituency and to safeguard the programme, policy and principles of the Party within its constituency. LI shall take such action as it deems necessary for such purposes in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a) Any complaint or allegation made of breach of the constitution, rules or standing orders of the Party shall be made in writing to the secretary of LI either by a Party branch or by an organisation affiliated to that Party, or by a member of LI. Such complaint or allegation shall state that the complainant wishes disciplinary action to be considered.
  - b) Upon such complaint being made, the secretary shall refer it to the LIEC who shall decide by resolution whether the complaint calls for investigation.
  - c) Any resolution of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the General Meeting which shall decide whether to authorise the recommended investigation.
  - d) Where there is not an Executive Committee in place within the CLP, the matter shall be referred direct to the General Meeting which shall decide by resolution whether the complaint calls for investigation.

## **Clause XI**

### **Rule Changes**

1. Changes to these rules can only be made at the LI Annual General Meeting and must be subsequently approved by GM and submitted to the NEC for approval.
2. The National Executive Committee may approve the rules, require amendments to be made to bring the rules in line with the Labour Party Rule Book or request that changes be made at a subsequent Special General Meeting if required.

### **Notes:**

Approved by the NEC Officers group on 2 April 2019