

Candidates for LIEC Elections 2021

Contested Positions

Secretary

John Bennett (Australasia) and Lena McMorrow (Ireland) job-share

Nominated by:

Jerry Hogg (Southern France)

Bob Adcock (North West France)

Lena has always been active in the trade union movement, which prompted her to read Politics and Modern History at the University of Manchester. She also taught politics for 35 years and was a college Vice Principal for 25 years. In that role she encouraged the development of new technologies through partnerships between education and business and was appointed one of the ten members of the Microsoft in Education Global Advisory Board.

John is a lifelong Labour supporter and hails from Preston in Labour's "Red Wall". He was an active campaigner for the party locally in the UK and since moving to Australia he helped to set up the Australasia branch. By occupation he manages complex projects in the strategic planning and infrastructure industry, with a keen interest in the promotion and development of active and public transport.

Lena and John will work as a team to ensure the CLP is run effectively. They are both enthusiastic supporters of Keir Starmer and the new, positive direction Labour is taking. If elected they will push for an executive that supports the party's continued recovery towards success and will help prioritise international issues, such as votes for life and overseas member representation.

Jenny Semahimbo (S Spain & Canaries) and Samuel Geen (Netherlands) job-share

Nominated by:

Alan Aitkenhead (Southern Spain, Canaries and Gibraltar)

Marilyn Luck (Netherlands)

Jenny - Chair of the LIEC 2017-2021. Former social worker in local government/voluntary sector working with disadvantaged families and communities, including migrant families. Her work experience informs her socialism and vice versa. Previously a member of NUPE National women's Committee. Member of Unite (retired).

Sam - Assistant Secretary to LI since June 2020, branch secretary of LI Netherlands. He is an astrophysicist with work history in the UK, France and Germany. Active member of the Dutch union AOb. Committed socialist.

Working together in the LI secretariat we have:

- Ensured smooth running of the LIEC and General Committee (GC).
- Maintained links between Labour Party HQ and CLP, keeping members informed.

There is more to do:

- Deepen connections between the LIEC, branches and members and improve transparency further with a central repository for all CLP documents.
- Energise the CLP by expanding the secretariat to include vice -chairs and co-opted assistants.
- In LILA we are committed to:
- Democratising the Party through Open Selection, in policy formation and within LI.
- Campaigning against discrimination of ALL under-represented groups equally.
- Promoting members rights to free speech providing it doesn't restrict the freedom of others to do the same.

Please also vote for other LILA members.

Chair

Eve Drayton Hill (North West France)

Nominated by:

Jenny Semahimbo (Southern Spain, Canaries and Gibraltar)

Elizabeth Sharma (Portugal)

LP supporter over 40 years, a socialist virtually my entire life, member of LP (since 2015), Unite (retired), Labour International Left Alliance, Labour Left Alliance, Labour Black Socialists, LI-North West France GC delegate, LI Women's Officer since 2019.

In our EC I've been involved in the continued development of an active, connected and open CLP, and building our strategic direction. I bring experience of chairing meetings and developing teams from over 40 years in local authority and the Women's Officer role. This has taught me the importance of listening, leadership, communication and co-ordination.

We live in very challenging times on a number of levels, and LI has a role to play in

- the direction of travel for the Labour movement
- democracy within the LP
- impacts of the climate crisis, Brexit, covid-19, ongoing and escalating racism of all kinds

As Chair of LI going forward, I would support an officer team that aims to be effective and communicates well with each other and the membership, and enables all members to have a stake in the direction of our CLP in promoting and campaigning for policies that address these issues.

Please also vote for other LILA candidates.

Fiona Urquhart (Luxembourg)

Nominated by: Jeremy Hogg (Southern France)
Andrew Ryder (Central and Eastern Europe)

Chair of the LI Luxembourg branch, having been instrumental in creating the branch in 2019. As a member of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers Party (LSAP) since 2010, I am a Vice-President of my local LSAP section. A Labour supporter since 1970, from an Anglo-Scottish family in Aberdeen where politics were routinely and noisily discussed, I have been a trade union member most of my working life and served on two works councils in Luxembourg as a TU representative.

I joined Labour International in 2016 and attended a meeting in Wiesbaden where I met other LI members from Luxembourg and started organising together, mainly on Brexit-related issues. I have followed the expansion of LI

since 2016 and supported the measures to democratise it, participating as a delegate at Conference in 2019 and in the LIGC.

I see a strong, united Labour Party as essential to rescue the UK from the appalling damage done by the Conservatives. I will devote the necessary time to this role, bringing fresh eyes, energy and a willingness to build on what has been achieved through solidarity, tolerance and respect.

Membership Vice-chair

Richard (Dick) Smith (NW France)

Nominated by:

Carole Kendellen (NW France)

Lorraine Hardy (Costa Blanca)

I have been a Labour Party member since 1963 and have been, at one time or another, Branch Secretary, Branch Vice-Chairman, Branch Chairman, CLP Chairman, Councillor, LICC Member, LI Membership plus many other informal posts.

I am applying for the post of Vice-Chair Membership because I believe that I have a role to play in representing our members. During my time on LICC I undertook the maintenance and updating of LI membership records. The Labour Party membership department has been a mess for many years and, as an LICC member, I took part in meetings with HQ officers to try and bring some order to the membership lists. Sadly, there is still no access for Branches to up-to-date membership rolls and that is something that I will do my utmost to change.

The wealth of experience I bring to the post can be used to benefit all branches and their members.

Please may I ask your support for my nomination.

Alan Aitkenhead (S Spain & Canaries) and Les Adams (Costa Blanca) job-share

Nominated by:

Anne Greenslade (Portugal)

John Castleford (Ireland)

We are Alan Aitkenhead & Les Adams and are standing again as job share candidates for Vice Chair/Membership Officer.

Since we were elected to this role two years ago we have assisted many members, including questions they may have about their membership and helped with setting up online Zoom meetings. We have also worked closely with the Regional Organisers/Branch Secretaries to ensure that they have the correct information concerning members.

Over the last couple of years we have sent thousands of welcome emails to members that are new and transferred in from the UK. We have also sent reminders to those in arrears and liaised with Head Office if a member wishes to leave.

In order to retain and recruit new members we have set up a Branch Working Group to look at ways that we can do this by sharing ideas with all Branch Secretaries.

As Vice Chairs we have chaired a number of LI meetings as well on many occasions.

If elected, we still have more work to do, on making sure that branches, and members are fully supported, and aim to continue to improve the service that we have been providing.

We are also members of LILA.

Political Education Officer

George Massey (New York)

Nominated by:

Michael Crosland (Netherlands)

Danny Speight (S E Asia and China)

As a LILA candidate for Political Education Officer, I'm standing to support the LIEC and ensure the successes of Labour International CLP are maintained and developed over the next two years.

My areas of focus over the next two years, include:

1. Educational videos providing background on the structures of the Labour Party and Labour International to facilitate member engagement and empowerment.
2. Host Zoom sessions with guest speakers on various topics, including the history of the Labour Party and the socialist movement.
3. Support LIEC officers and LI Campaigners to promote issues and events.
4. Engage membership to identify and address needs.

Please support all other LILA candidates to maintain LI as a robust and vibrant CLP within the Labour Party.

Andrew Ryder (Central & East Europe)

Nominated by:

Fiona Urquhart (Luxembourg)

Karen Henderson (Central and Eastern Europe)

I have a long history of activism. I was one of the Carmarthen 17 in 1986 threatened with court action for 300,000 pounds for opposing the construction of a nuclear bunker. I worked with the trade unionist Rodney Bickerstaffe to advance the rights of Gypsies and Travellers and was the founder and sole staff member of the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition that won the Liberty Human Rights Award in 2004. I was also the researcher to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers working closely with Kevin McNamara MP.

I am a socialist (Open Labour) who believes in redistribution, intervention and radical democratic reform (PR). I strongly opposed Brexit and believe the UK needs close links with Europe. I believe in a broad church Labour Party. I support Keir Starmer

In Europe I have been campaigning for a Social Europe and recently co-edited the book 'Romani Communities and Transformative Change: A New Social Europe'. I am deeply concerned about the rise of authoritarian populism in countries like Hungary.

I am an academic based in Budapest. I have written books on the Roma and British Politics. I am currently writing a book on academic freedom in Hungary.

Disabilities & Carers Officer

Robert (Bob) Adcock (North West France)

Nominated by North West France Branch

I have been a carer for 20 years and registered disabled in France for 5 years. The number of hoops to be jumped through have increased exponentially since Brexit with any attempts to garner extra assistance or change any legal system existing for assistance being further complicated even with a Tutelle (power of attorney)

I am more than happy to work with any other person . The reason I have not approached any other member is that I consider that two members from the same country is not appropriate, there are many different systems of support, as many as there are different countries. I think an approach involving members from different countries is more appropriate and will offer a better service. Establishing a bi monthly report in the newsletter is one way forward. Further, exploring a system of contacts from all countries L.I. are established in is necessary.

My work experience in the field of disability is very wide. Including UK social services, The Veterans Agency L.E.A.special needs and several charitable works. I was also a single parent bringing up a child with special needs.

**Katy McCafferty (Ireland) and
Ian Hollingworth (South East Asia & China) job-share**

Nominated by:

George Massey (New York)

Philippa Dakin (South East Asia and China)

Katy McCafferty

The current Covid crisis has highlighted even more so the Tory cuts to support services for people with disabilities and their carers. The Labour Party needs to be front and centre challenging the cuts. In doing so we must as a party make every effort to be inclusive from branch meetings to annual conference. Labour International have many practical ideas as to how this can happen. Many barriers put in place can be avoided as we have proven. We as disability officers will share our ideas with the wider Labour movement.

Ian Hollingworth

During phonebanking at the last General Election it struck me what a high proportion of people said they were unable to go canvassing due to disability. Subsequently I invited the LI Disabilities Officer Katy McCafferty to speak to our branch. We learned how widespread disability is in all its forms and how comprehensive the fight to get society to address its challenges is. I therefore welcome the chance to work with Katy who has vast experience in this struggle. We aim to raise the profile of disability rights. From a personal angle I have regular treatment for macular degeneration.

Please support all LILA candidates.
