



**WELCOME TO LABOUR**

# **Labour International**



**Members Guide to the  
Labour Party and  
Labour International**

# Welcome to Labour International (LI)

This booklet tells you what you need to know about the Labour Party (LP), Labour International (LI) and how to get active. Included in this guide is:

- A brief history of the Labour Party from its beginnings to the present day
- Labour International – its origins and where we are now
- The structure of Labour International and where you fit in
- Ideas on how to get involved and active
- Handy “How to” tips – writing motions and speeches
- Labour Party policy development and how you can contribute
- Labour party language – a jargon buster, acronyms and what they mean

You don't need to read this whole handbook in one sitting! You can click on the links in the table of contents and it will automatically take you to the sections that you need. Use the guide whenever you are unsure how things work – the LP structure, LI structure, or if you want to explore new ways of getting active. The guide can also be accessed on the LI website at:

<https://www.labourinternational.net/>

The guide is designed to be proactive and flexible. If you have suggestions to add to it then please contact [chairs@labourinternational.net](mailto:chairs@labourinternational.net) with your ideas.

# Contents

<b>Welcome to Labour International (LI)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>History and background to the Labour Party</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>History and background of Labour International</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Labour International (LI) today - Organisation and Structure</b>	<b>11</b>
LI Structure	11
Consultation with members	12
The LI Executive Committee (LIEC)	13
The General Committee (GC)	15
Branches	17
Regional Coordinators	19
<b>How to get involved in LI</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>How do I.....?</b>	<b>25</b>
Make a speech at conference	25
Write and move a motion	29
How do I challenge the chair?	32
How do I contribute to LP policy discussions?	33
<b>The National Labour Party</b>	<b>34</b>
Introduction	34
The National Executive Committee	35
Labour's Policy Process and the National Policy Forum	37
Party Conference	39
Government	41
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>43</b>

# History and background to the Labour Party

## **Beginnings of the new party**

The Labour Party has always been about people. It began in 1900, after many years of struggle, in order to give working class people a voice in Parliament. Known then as the Labour Representation Committee (LRC), and led by Keir Hardie, its aim was to improve the lives of ordinary people. It was formed by the amalgamation of three socialist groups, (the Social Democratic Federation, the Fabian Society and the Independent Labour Party), and the Trade Union movement.

The LRC consisted of five representatives from the socialist groups, and seven trade unionists. At that time, the trade union leaders favoured the Liberal party and so the LRC was not strictly a socialist party.

The LRC stood 15 candidates for the general election in 1900 and won two seats in the House of Commons.



In 1903, the party leaders Keir Hardie and Ramsey Macdonald met with Liberal party leaders and agreed on a secret electoral pact. As a result, at the 1906 general election the LRC won 29 seats, and the Alliance of the Liberal party and the LRC gained a landslide victory over the Conservatives. It was at this time that the party changed its name to the Labour Party.

The first achievement of the Alliance was to pass the Trade Disputes Act, which denied employers the right to sue the trade unions for any losses incurred during a strike. Until this time, the threat of heavy financial penalties was used to deter the unions from calling strikes.

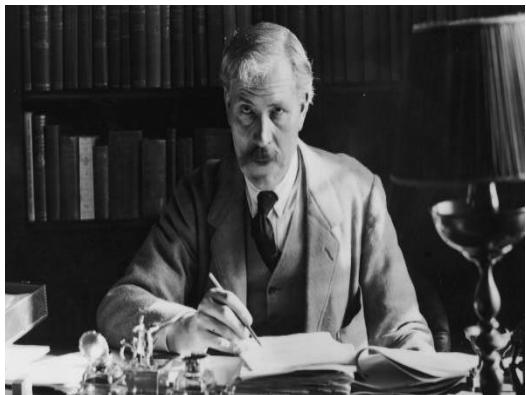
In 1907 the then controversial Victor Grayson, an ardent socialist and brilliant speaker, won an additional seat for Labour in the Colne Valley by-election. This demonstrated for the first time that a socialist could be elected to Parliament. Described as a 'flawed socialist hero', once elected he turned against the moderate attitudes of the Labour party, calling the Labour MPs "traitors to their class". Suspended from the House of Commons, he lost the 1910 general election and left Labour to join the British Socialist Party.

After the general election of 1910 there were 42 Labour MPs in the Commons and the Liberal government needed Labour to support it. It was this government that passed the 1911 National Insurance Act, the first contributory insurance against illness and unemployment.

The coalition government now introduced wages for MPs, easing the path for future Labour candidates and removing the need for the unions to donate money for

wages.

## First Labour government



With the 1923 general election, the balance of the Alliance changed. Labour gained 191 MPs, and in 1924 it was the Liberals who supported the first Labour government. This government lasted only a few months, but was able to pass the Wheatley Housing Act, which began a programme to build 500,000 homes (public housing) in 10 years, to rent to working class families. In this short time, it also achieved numerous improvements in the provision of pensions, benefits, health care and educational opportunities.

The 1924 general election was sabotaged for Labour by the publication in the Daily Mail, four days previously, of the Zinoviev letter. Known to be fraudulent and purporting to come from the director of the Moscow Comintern, it was planted (according to their own archives) by MI6 and leaked to the press by the Conservative party central office. The letter appeared to implicate Labour in a plot for a communist revolution in Britain. For a few days it discredited both the Labour and Liberal parties, and this proved to be enough to trigger a Conservative landslide.

With the rising threat from Nazi Germany in the 1930s, the Labour Party gradually abandoned its earlier pacifist stance, and came out in favour of rearmament. This shift largely came about due to the efforts of Ernest Bevin and Hugh Dalton who by 1937 also persuaded the party to oppose Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement.

## The wartime coalition

The party came back into government in 1940 as part of the wartime coalition: Clement Attlee became a member of the War Cabinet, and then Deputy Prime Minister for the duration of the war in Europe.

The position of the Labour Party changed dramatically during the war. Churchill gave Labour several key ministries within the national government, including the Ministry of Labour (Ernest Bevin) and the Home Office (Herbert Morrison). The effect was to give Labour a wealth of experience, which was to prove invaluable when they were next in office.

## Post-war victory under Attlee

When Labour's victory was announced on 26 July 1945 (three weeks after polling day to enable those overseas in the forces to vote) it took the country by surprise. With 48 per cent of the vote, Labour gained a Parliamentary majority of

145 seats, the largest in post-war British history. The swing of 12 points to Labour was unprecedented (and remains a record swing at post-war elections).

Labour's success was down to its ability to persuade the voters that they wanted a party capable of building the post-war world that the majority of the population desired.



Many first-time voters voted Labour, as did those in the armed forces. The Tories' refusal to embrace the Beveridge Report, published in 1942, which recommended a comprehensive welfare state and national health service, cost them dearly. This general election brought a spectacular recovery for Labour.

The manifesto 'Let us face the Future' laid out a bold vision, pledging to destroy the five 'evil giants': want, squalor, disease, ignorance and unemployment. It was a message that captured the imagination of the country and took Clement Attlee into Number 10 on the back of a landslide, winning 393 seats.

Most commentators have attributed this victory to the electorate's overwhelming desire for social reform and its determination to avoid a return to the interwar era of economic depression and unemployment.

The Labour governments of the following six years built on the state's recent experience of wartime intervention to construct a post-war political consensus based on a mixed economy, a much more extensive system of social welfare (including a National Health Service), and a commitment to the pursuit of full employment. Labour wasted little time enacting visionary change, introducing social security, bringing key industries back into public ownership and introducing a major programme of house building, providing safe and secure homes.



However, it was the introduction of the National Health Service, by Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Health Secretary Aneurin "Nye" Bevan that will rightly go down as Labour's greatest achievement. The creation of the NHS has completely transformed our country. To this day, it is our nation's greatest treasure, and Labour will always protect it.

Clement Attlee's government proved to be one of the most radical British governments of the twentieth century. It presided over a policy of selective nationalization of major industries and utilities, including the Bank of England, coal mining, the steel industry, electricity, gas, telephones, and inland transport (including the railways, road haulage and canals). It developed the "cradle to

"grave" welfare state conceived by the Liberal economist William Beveridge. Even now, the Party still considers the creation in 1948 of Britain's publicly funded National Health Service to be its proudest achievement.

Attlee's government also began the process of dismantling the British Empire when it granted independence to India and Pakistan in 1947. They were followed by Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) the following year.

Despite winning nearly 50 per cent of the vote, Labour lost office in 1951 and would not return to power again until 1964, after the humiliating resignation of the Tory minister John Profumo forced the resignation of the Prime Minister and a general election.

### The Wilson years and onwards



The Labour governments (1964-70 and 1974-79) under Harold Wilson and then James Callaghan were marked by a period of great change: the permanent ending of the death penalty for murder, decriminalisation of homosexuality and abortion, the Race Relations Act to outlaw racial discrimination, and the reform of the divorce law. There was also the expansion of comprehensive education, and the establishment of the Open University.

It was Barbara Castle, as Secretary of State for Employment, who brought about another significant social change, as she introduced the ground-breaking Equal Pay Act of 1970, compelling employers to give women the same pay and conditions as men doing the same work. In the 3 years from 1964-67, 400,000 new homes were built, and the government pursued a policy of promoting full employment.

The election of 1979 began the wilderness years of opposition, fighting against Thatcherism and its devastating economic policies. It was in this period that Jeremy Corbyn was first elected to Parliament as MP for the safe Labour seat of Islington North. At that time, Tony Benn was the mainstay of the left wing, and the two were to work closely together for several years. The party began a period of contemplation, renewal, and ultimately reconstruction and modernising reform.



John Smith, elected Party leader in 1992 with an overwhelming 91% of the vote, began uniting the left and right of the party and attacking the Tory government. He introduced One Member One Vote (OMOV), further democratising the people's party. Following his untimely death in 1994, Tony Blair was elected Leader, ushering in the era of New Labour.

### **"New Labour"**

The new agenda, combined with highly professional political marketing, produced a victory in the general election of 1997, returning Labour to power after 18 years. Through its policy of All Women Short Lists (AWSL's), the Labour Party dramatically increased the number of women in Parliament; in 1997 it elected 101 women members, nearly 25 percent of all Labour parliamentarians.



With a decisive 179-seat majority in Parliament, Prime Minister Tony Blair, together with Chancellor Gordon Brown, carried out the reforms promised in the manifesto. They introduced devolved legislative assemblies in Scotland and Wales, each after a successful referendum; and abolished the right of most hereditary peers to sit in the House of Lords.

In addition, they signed the Social Chapter of the Treaty on European Union, which sought to harmonize European social policies on issues such as working conditions, equality in the workplace, and worker health and safety.

The new government devolved power to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and re-created the Greater London Authority, a citywide government body for London. It rescued public services with a record investment in the NHS, schools and the police, and the largest school and hospital building programme since the beginning of the welfare state. The introduction of the National Minimum Wage and the New Deal meant more jobs paying a decent living wage. In 1998 the landmark Good Friday Agreement, between the governments of Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland and the main political parties of Northern Ireland, effectively ended decades of sectarian violence both in Northern Ireland and on the UK mainland.

In power, Labour put into practice the values of equality and social justice, introducing Civil Partnerships, the Equality Act, the Human Rights Act and legislating for equality of opportunity for all. It cancelled up to 100 per cent of debt for some of the world's poorest countries and brought about the first

Climate Change Act.

### A new century: a new millennium

In 2001 the party won a second consecutive landslide victory, capturing a 167-seat majority -the largest-ever second-term majority for any party in the House of Commons. However, the late 2000s saw a global economic crisis in the aftermath of the catastrophic financial crash of 2008, and for Labour the loss of power at the 2010 general election.

### For the many, not the few: Ed Miliband and Jeremy Corbyn



Ed Miliband was elected leader after a campaign organised by Sadiq Khan, who later became Lord Mayor of London. Diane Abbott moved to the front bench as Shadow Public Health Minister. The leadership of Ed Miliband saw Labour prioritise working people and the protection of public services in opposition to the punishing austerity agenda of the Tories. He also used his period in office to introduce more party democracy reforms.

Following the election of 2015, a change was in the air for Labour. With a bold vision for change, renewal, and a robust anti-austerity agenda, outsider Jeremy Corbyn won the party's leadership election by a landslide. In consequence, by 2016 Party membership had surged to 550,000, making Labour the largest political party in Western Europe. New members were inspired to join a mass movement for change and the work began on a new radical policy agenda that takes on the powerful few on behalf of the many.

The snap election of 2017 provided an early test. The Conservatives expected to be returned with a landslide but with Jeremy Corbyn and mass membership campaigning, Labour confounded expectations.



The manifesto 'For The Many, Not The Few' laid out a transformative vision of a better Britain: a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour; scrapping university tuition fees; mass housebuilding; serious investment in our public services; and public ownership of rail, water and post. The electorate responded, giving Labour its biggest increase in the share of the vote since 1945, returning 262 MPs from diverse backgrounds, of whom 45 per cent are women.

While not enough to win the election in 2017, it marked a significant recovery for the Party. Labour today has more female MPs than all the other parties combined, to represent all the people of Britain equally and consistently. Fair representation was a core value, and Labour was proud that its MPs were the most diverse in British political history, and reflecting the society they serve.

In November 2020 Corbyn was briefly suspended from the Labour Party and has had the whip withdrawn.

## A new decade and a New Leadership



In October 2019, the government called a snap election for December that year. Labour lost heavily in the election and as a result Jeremy Corbyn resigned. Keir Starmer became the next party leader in April 2020, as the country faced disruptions in the aftermath of the Tory 'hard' Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic took hold.

A new Shadow Cabinet is now working to confront the government over its disastrous mishandling of the pandemic and prepare for the next general election.

Sources; -

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# **History and background of Labour International**

## **The first Labour supporter group**

In 1973, shortly after Britain joined what is now the EU, a group of enthusiasts formed the British Labour Group (BLG) to bring together Labour Party members and supporters in Brussels, now known as Brussels Labour.

In 1992, the Labour Supporters' Group was founded in Javea, Spain as a point of contact for Labour members living on the Costa Blanca. At almost the same time, another group of Labour Supporters was established in Andalucía, Spain, based around Benalmadena. There was also an active group in Rome, Italy, established by veteran "Votes for Life" campaigner, Harry Shindler.

1997 saw the birth of Labour International Constituency Labour Party (LI CLP) and the existing groups became formal branches under the umbrella of LI. Rules and procedures were introduced to be compatible with CLP's in the UK, but some allowances were made to reflect the circumstances of being abroad.

The broad aims of the Labour Party (LP) were retained, to attract supporters of the Labour Party. Three types of local membership were established:

- Ordinary Members – members who have transferred out of a UK CLP to LI, or who had joined the LP whilst living abroad.
- Extraordinary Members – those who retain their membership of a UK CLP but spent long periods of time outside the UK.
- Associate members – those sympathetic to Labour but not yet ready to join or those who cannot join because they did not satisfy the UK Party membership conditions.

## **The Rules**

In those early days very few of the members used email. A proposal was made around 2007 to extend the period of office for LICC members to 2 years in order to save on the high cost of postage for elections. There were some objections to this proposal and the NEC stepped in and suspended LICC for a period whilst the rules were re-written. The new rules were introduced in July 2008 and amended in 2009 and 2010 and approved by the NEC.

## **Labour International Coordinating Committee (LICC)**

Labour International did not have an Executive Committee or General Committee, or a branch structure like that in the UK. LI was co-ordinated by a six-person Committee elected every two years, with a number of non-voting co-opted members - BAME, LGBT, Women, Disabilities & Carers, Branch Development, Campaign Coordination, Education/Training and Youth.

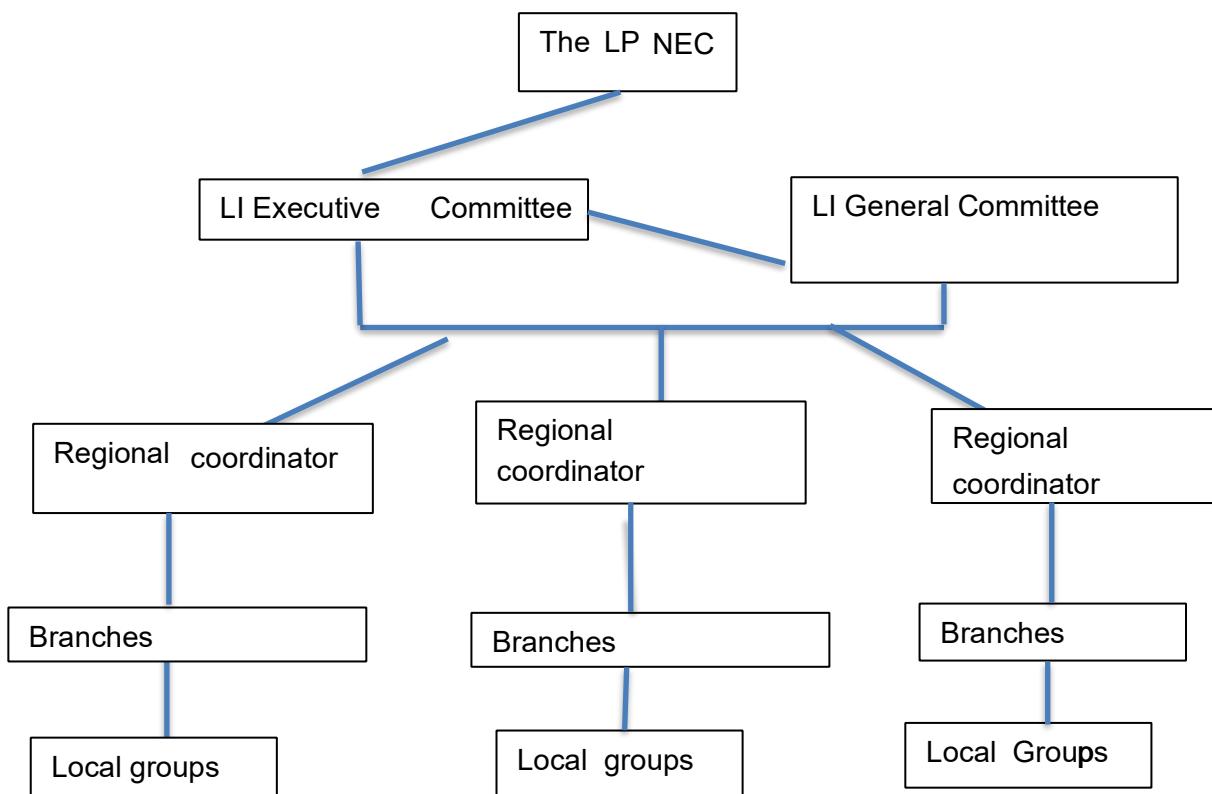
# Labour International (LI) today - Organisation and Structure

LI has come a long way since its early days in 1997. Membership of LI quintupled from around 650 in 2010 to over 3,000 in 2015. The large increases in membership came during the period of the Leadership elections in 2015 and 2016. The LICC was renamed the LI Executive Committee (LIEC) in order to reflect the new structure. There has since been a drop of membership in 2019-20.

Whilst members are based worldwide, they are unevenly distributed:

- Two thirds reside in Europe.
- One third are women.
- 80% are of working age.
- Just under 7% are under 27.
- Slightly more than 99% are online.

## LI Structure



In the UK CLPs are based on the electoral district for the MP. In LI, our CLP is worldwide, and we don't have a CLP Member of Parliament or local councillors. For those members who are still entitled to vote in General Elections (if you have lived abroad for less than 15 years) your MP will be from the last Constituency you lived in the UK. You need to register to vote each year – you can register online here –

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

LI doesn't have a district or regional LP party structure. Instead, LI reports directly to the Governance and Legal Unit (GLU) and National Executive Committee (NEC). We have an NEC liaison person to assist communications between the LIEC and the NEC.

## Consultation with members

The rapid growth of LI in recent years meant that we have had to restructure the CLP to accommodate the massive increase in membership. The LI co-ordinating Committee (LICC) embarked on a major review of its structure in 2018. At the same time, the national Labour Party also conducted a Democracy Review.

These two reviews meant that some parts of our rules and structure changed. The LICC was greatly expanded to take account of the extra work created by the increased membership and was renamed as the LI Executive Committee (LIEC).

LI now has a General Committee (GC) structure; branches elect delegates according to the size of their branches.

Since then, the number of LI branches has increased to 25 branches in 2020, with new branches set up around the world, so that now all members are attached to a branch in their region. Advances in technology has meant that LI can use videoconferencing to connect members living in all corners of the world.

LI no longer has separate categories of associate or extraordinary members, but supporters of the LP can still take part in LI activities as non-voting, non-office holding supporters.

The result is a much more democratic and accountable LI structure. It has never been easier for ordinary members across the word to get involved, work together and to have their voices heard.

All LI members can:

- Vote for officers to the LIEC every two years online by One Member One Vote (OMOV).
- Elect delegates to annual conference, other LP conferences and LP bodies by OMOV via online ballot.
- Elect members to sit on the LI General Committee

The LI rules can be found on the LI website:

<https://www.labourinternational.net/>

## **The LI Executive Committee (LIEC)**

LI members elect the LIEC officers by one member one vote (OMOV) via an online ballot every 2 years. Members receive a list of the candidates and their personal statements. The LIEC is also able to co-opt non-voting members onto the LIEC, for instance members with special skills or representing particular sections of the membership.

Because of the geographical spread of LI members, all LIEC meetings take place online using online videoconferencing tools. The times alternate to allow for different timezones.

The LIEC minutes are sent to all branches and are published in the LI online newsletter.

### **What does the LIEC do?**

The LIEC is the administrative arm of LI and works together with the General Committee (GC) to manage the day-to-day business of LI including:

- Implementing the LI development plan (which lays down our activities for the following year)
- Making sure that the LI rules and standing orders are being adhered to and are up to scratch
- Keeping members informed about LI and LP business
- Discussion around policy issues and organising political education for LI members
- Organising LI activities around General Elections and other campaigns
- Ensuring that communications with the rest of the LP, and its own members, are working well. This includes making sure that internal communications (LI website, social media, and newsletter) work efficiently and within LP rules.
- Supporting branches so that they are properly organised and active, helping them to grow, and are inclusive of all members
- Forwarding resolutions to the National Executive Committee (NEC) when required
- Co-ordinating submissions to the National Policy Forum
- Informing members about campaigns and events that may be of interest
- Ensuring data protection compliance (GDPR)
- Managing the LI finances
- Sending motions and delegates to Labour Party Annual Conference and the LP Women's conference
- Ensuring that all members are equally represented and supported, including under-represented groups such as women, BAME, Youth, LGBT+ and members with disabilities

- Dealing with queries and communications from branches, including complaints.

The LIEC has an open structure - LI members can attend meetings as observers – they are not allowed to speak or vote.

### **Who sits on the LIEC?**

The Labour International Executive Committee (LIEC) consists of the following voting officers:

- Chair/deputy treasurer
- Vice Chair/campaigns
- Vice chair/membership
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communications/social media officer
- Women's officer
- Officers representing LGBT, women, Youth, BAME, and disabled/carer members.
- Political Education Officer
- Policy and Campaigns Officer
- Trade Union Liaison Officer

All these posts are open to job share except the Chair and Treasurer, and at least 50% of the officers must be women.

You can find the current voting LIEC officers on the LI website

[www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net)

The following officers also sit on the LIEC as non-voting members:

- 3 Regional coordinators to support branches in their region, including advice, branch growth and developing branch activism. This is to help the growth and activity of branches across the time zones.
- 1 representative from each branch – either the branch secretary or a reelected by branch members.
- An assistant LI secretary to help the LI secretary with his/her heavy workload given the huge growth in membership.
- The Data Protection Officer.

The LIEC can also co-opt other LI members onto the committee as and when needed.

There are also a number of LIEC working groups who report to the LIEC on a regular basis. They work on the smaller details of

LI functioning and bring recommendations to the main LIEC for approval:

- The secretariat consists of the LI secretary, LI co-opted assistant secretary and LI chairs. Its main function is to ensure that meeting notices, agendas and minutes of the LIEC and GC are sent out and available to all members. The secretariat, alongside another nominated officer also holds the master list of all communications tools and their passwords. The secretariat can be contact on this email address:

[li\\_secretariat@labourinternational.net](mailto:li_secretariat@labourinternational.net)

- The branch development working group main task is to support and develop the LI branch structure. Branch secretaries are members of the group. For more information contact

[membership@labourinternational.net](mailto:membership@labourinternational.net)

- The communications working group is responsible for maintaining the communications and social media tools such as the LI website, LI newsletter and social media outlets such as the LI Facebook Group. For more information contact

[communications@labourinternational.net](mailto:communications@labourinternational.net)

## The General Committee (GC)

The 2017/18 LP Democracy Review highlighted two main ways that CLP's could organize themselves:

- All members Meetings (AMM) – where all members are entitled to attend, elect the CLP executive committee, submit motions, speak and vote at CLPmeetings.

Or

- General Committees (GC) – where branches and affiliated organisations elect delegates from branches to represent them at GC meetings.

Following the LI Review consultation process in 2018, LI chose the GC structure as the best fit for a CLP with members spread globally across 24 time zones. To maximise democracy, the LI GC has an open structure – all members are entitled to attend and speak at meetings, but cannot propose or motions or vote on them.

## **What does the General Committee (GC) do?**

While many day-to-day operation and administrative decisions are made by the LIEC, major decisions and policy issues are made by the General Committee – the GC is the primary decision-making body of the CLP.

The GC works closely with the LIEC to ensure LI properly represents members views and concerns. It is made up of delegates elected from LI branches based on the number of members in each branch. Its role is to provide leadership and organisation in LI:

- Branches send their branch motions to the GC meeting, and if a motion is passed it becomes official LI policy. Branch delegates are entitled to propose and vote on motions. The LIEC, through the LI secretariat, then sends the resolutions to the national Labour Party as instructed.
- It is possible for two individual members together to submit motions to the GC for consideration but only under exceptional circumstances laid down by the LIEC/GC. This could include e.g., where the member's branch isn't functioning properly. However, motions from branches will take precedence over motions from individual members, and the GC retains the right to reject motions from individual members.
- The GC can agree to submit some motions to a vote of all members by OMOV if the subject matter of the motions is important, contentious, or the GC vote on the motion is very close.

## **The role of a GC delegate**

The GC delegates represent their local branch at the GC meeting, so it is important that delegates attend branch meetings regularly. Their role is to:

- Put forward the views of branch members to the LIEC and GC, and to support LI in its wider campaigning and fundraising efforts.
- Let their local branches know what is going on in the CLP including election campaigns, policy discussions or social events where members can get involved.
- Report back to the branch at branch meetings
- Receive, discuss, and vote on motions
- Have input into member political education

## **How do I become a delegate?**

- All branches are entitled to elect delegates to the General Committee. Branches are entitled to 1 delegate for every 40 members in the branch (or part thereof). So, for example, a branch of 130 members is entitled to send 4 delegates to the GC (1 per 40 branch members and part thereof).
- Delegates are elected annually by branch members at the Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM). You may need to prepare a short

- speech to explain why members should vote for you.
- GC delegates are there to represent the views of the branch members. They are not bound by the views of their fellow branch members on how they vote, but they should normally take account of them.

## **What if I can't always make meetings?**

No-one expects you to be able to make every meeting and you should not feel guilty if you cannot. As long as you are not taking the place of someone who could do the job better, whatever you can put into the role benefits the Labour Party. If you can make every meeting, that is great. If not, try to prioritise – for instance, just go along if there will be a discussion on a relevant issue that you or your branch members are interested in or if your branch has put forward a motion to the Party. Always ensure you send your apologies to the CLP Secretary if you cannot make a meeting.

## **Branches**

LI currently has 25 branches spread worldwide. Information about them are on the LI website.

[www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net)

Branches are organised into 3 regions: Europe and Africa; The Americas; Asia and Australasia. Each region has a regional organiser who sits on the LIEC as a non-voting member. Branches are supported by the LIEC vice-chair (membership) and the regional coordinators. The membership secretary can be contacted on:

[membership@labourinternational.net](mailto:membership@labourinternational.net)

There are 3 types of branches (some with local groups):

- Local branches based on cities or towns.
- Whole country branches, where there aren't enough members to form a local geographical branch.
- Regional branches, either in one country or for a geographical region where there aren't enough members to form a functional local branch.
- Branches can also include local groups. These are organised locally and supported by their branches. Members of local groups are also branch members. They help members who live near each other to organise locally and to contribute to branch activities.

## **The Branch Executive**

Branches are run by an Executive elected at the branch Annual General Meeting(AGM) held every year. Officers of the branch are:

- Chair
- Vice chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

At least 50% of these posts must be women. The branch can also include other officers such as a Women's Officer, and officers for other under-represented groups, and/or local LI group coordinators.

## **What happens at branch meetings?**

Branches must hold branch meetings at least 8 times a year and use videoconferencing tools so that those that can't attend face-to-face can still get involved. Two of their meetings must deal with LP policy matters.

All branches use videoconferencing (Zoom) for branch meetings. This is because unlike the UK, branch members are often spread over a wide geographical area, and because video-conferencing makes it much easier for e.g. members with disability, mobility or carer responsibilities to attend. If this incurs additional expense for the branch, then branches can ask the LIEC to assist with costs.

Branch meetings can include:

- Discussion on political issues and planning for local campaigning activities.
- Discussion of motions that can go to the LI General Committee.
- At least two meetings a year concerning LP policy issues.
- Fundraising events
- Working with sister parties, local trades unions and groups.
- Organising local political education meetings. If your branch doesn't do this, try to suggest it at your next meeting. The LIEC can help you contact guest speakers.
- Campaigning work such as organising voter registration drives, LP recruitment drives, or working with local organisations/sister parties that share the same values as the LP.

In addition, there is an AGM every year where:

- The executive officers and GC delegates are elected
- The branch officers present their yearly reports
- Branch rules are discussed and reconfirmed or changed, and the branch development plan is reviewed.

## **Local group meetings**

Some branches also have smaller and more local group meetings for members who live nearby. Local group meetings can be used:

- As a social event so that members can meet face-to-face. A local group meeting could combine a short business meeting and e.g., lunch, or can be purely social.
- To organise branch activities e.g., local recruitment or voter registration drives
- To develop relationships with local organisations that share LP values
- To support e.g., Trades unions where there is local action
- To develop motions to present at branch meetings

Local groups are part of the whole branch. They can't pass motions on behalf of the branch, but they can present motions for discussion and voting at branch meetings.

Individual members of a local group can agree on an individual basis to share contact details amongst themselves, but not publicise them elsewhere. The branch secretary can send notices out to branch members on the group's behalf.

## **Regional Coordinators**

This is a key role for LI to support the further development of branches and give members and their branches the support they deserve and build and strengthen the LI branch structure. Regional coordinators work closely with the LIEC membership secretary.

Regional coordinators can support branches in the following ways:

- Advise branch executive committees
- Help to recruit new members and maximise active member involvement
- Encouraging members, especially those from currently under-represented groups to stand for LI officer posts.
- Helping branches to make links and work with local and regional organisations that share the values and aims of the Labour Party.
- Assist branches in the writing and implementation of branch development plans.
- Promote the use of videoconferencing and other branch involvement techniques to maximise access to and for all members, including setting up local groups.
- Provide effective communications between branches, the LIEC and the General Committee (GC), including the election of GC

delegates and encouraging their regular attendance at meetings.

- Help branches to develop and support local initiatives in the promotion of Labour Party policy issues.
- To advise the LI political education, training and information officer on LI members training needs.
- Help branches to work with other national and local organisations where necessary. Intervene, together with the membership secretary, if there are organisational problems in the branch e.g. quoracy, electing the branch executive.

## **How to get involved in LI**

Once you have joined the party, you should receive your membership card, which shows the contact details of the secretary of LIEC and information and contact details for your local branch. Here are 17 ways you can get more involved in LI activities.

### **1. Make sure that the LIEC secretary:**

- Informs the membership secretary where you have moved to so that the membership secretary can tell you which branch you are in.
- Informs you which branch you are in and explains which structures the LI has in your area, region or country.
- Gives you the contact details of your local branch secretary or local group contact.
- Gives you a copy of the LI rules and Standing orders or tells you where to find them.
- Informs you of the LI official and unofficial social media groups.

The LI rules can be found on the LI website

[www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net)

### **2. Attend your branch and/or local meeting**

Branch meetings are held monthly and last for about 90 minutes. If you can't get to the meeting in person, you can join the meeting by videoconference. Branch meetings are the best way for you to keep up to date with LI business and issues, and to make your voice heard.

### **3. Become a GC delegate or officer in your branch**

GC delegates and branch officers are elected at the branch's AGM. If there is a vacant position just tell the secretary you are interested in the position and they will have to raise it at the next meeting. You can also nominate yourself at the AGM. If there are unfilled positions, any regular meeting can vote to fill those positions.

#### **4. Become a volunteer**

Because of the unique nature of LI, many of our activities take place online using social media – email, twitter, Facebook pages, and videoconferencing.

In addition, there are sometimes particular country-specific issues for LI needing specific skills and knowledge. LI is always in need of members with particular knowledge or skills including, but not exclusively:

- Graphic design
- Designing short campaign videos
- Technology
- Web design and maintenance
- Editing the LI newsletter
- Report/leaflet writing
- Working with trade unions or local political parties
- Online training tools
- Publicity
- Be a moderator on LI FB pages
- Specialist knowledge of particular issues or of campaigns

If you are able to offer these skills then let your branch secretary know, or contact the LI communications officer, regional organiser or let the LIEC know.

#### **5. Take part in regular video conferences of LI meetings**

Labour International uses online video conferencing tools to enable members to talk face-to-face about issues that affect LI. Here is a short video about how to use zoom.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOp\\_E5GsA0M&t=3s&fbclid=IwAR1uBfnf8qLNY\\_u5U-IOWOUuaNJXIwo3\\_IY1PELc2TVsiXIpA9J3HZuMtW3E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOp_E5GsA0M&t=3s&fbclid=IwAR1uBfnf8qLNY_u5U-IOWOUuaNJXIwo3_IY1PELc2TVsiXIpA9J3HZuMtW3E)

#### **6. Use LI online resources**

- The LI website can be found on [www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net).

It contains news and resources, including information about your elected LIEC, and the 2020 rules.

There are a number of LI official facebook groups

- Labour International for a Labour Victory , where campaign resources can be found.

- Labour International Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/LabourInternational/>
- The Migrant Rights Facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123667871656353/>
- Women in LI Facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1683179568663488/>
- LI LGBT Facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lgbtinli/>
- LI BAME facebook group  
<https://www.facebook.com/BAMELabourInt>
- Young Labour International  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LIYouth>

There are also several LI members informal facebook groups.

In addition, check out if your local branch or region has its own Facebook group.

## **7. Attend the LI yearly meeting and LI AGM**

The LIEC organises a yearly meeting of members. The LI AGM is usually also held at this event. This is a good opportunity for members to meet each other face-to-face. Because 70% of our members are in Europe, LI yearly meetings always take place in Europe, with the venue moving around different countries. The accommodation and travel costs must be borne by the members who attend, but there is an LIEC subsidy for members who are low waged or unwaged.

The meetings are a mixture of business and social activities - including guest speakers, breakout sessions and motions. It is usual to invite members of the local sister party to one or more of the sessions. If you would like to present a session at the LI yearly meeting, please contact the LIEC at:

[li-secretariat@labourinternational.net](mailto:li-secretariat@labourinternational.net) with your proposal.

- The AGM will consist of yearly reports by LIEC officers, reports of activities over the past year, and a financial report, an opportunity to vote on any changes to the LI rules or Standing orders, and plans for the following year.
- Both the yearly meeting and the AGM will also be available by video conference.

## **8. Become a delegate or a visitor to National Conference**

LI is a large constituency. We are currently entitled to send 11 delegates plus a youth and woman delegate to Labour Party conference. The delegation must be made up of at least 50% women.

LI is able to offer some assistance with costs. Each year there is one fully financially supported delegate – a sponsored delegate, which on alternate years will be either a man or a woman. There are also extra subsidies for unwaged and low waged members, and for those with disabilities. Visitors are self-funded. The LIEC will ask for nominations for delegates (members can nominate themselves), and hold an OMOV online election. Candidates will be expected to provide a short biography of themselves and a 150-word statement of why people should vote for them.

## **9. Get involved in equality groups**

There are also many other forums that may be of interest to you: The Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME); LGBT+; Disability; Women; to name but a few. Why not look at the full list of organisations that are affiliated to us at:

<https://labour.org.uk/>

## **10. Get active in your local community.**

- **Support the Labour Party** by campaigning in places where UK people congregate – bars, shops, cafes, local UK immigrant groups. If every member gave ten friends a reason to vote Labour, we would reach millions of voters.
- **Get a campaign going in your area** using our range of tools and resources on the Campaign for a Labour Party Victory FB page –  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LabourInternationalVictory>
- Download resources, briefings, graphics, and training webinars logos etc on <https://labour.org.uk/>
- Sign our online petitions and share our graphics.
- Follow us on Twitter  
[@LabourInt](https://twitter.com/LabourInternational) · Twitter

## **11. Get informed and inform others**

- Access regular online training sessions that you can attend from the comfort of your living room. Online sessions are regular, free and on various topics including an introduction to membership, advice on how to help make policy and how to get involved in campaigning. Have a look at some recordings of various sessions giving valuable advice on where your membership can take you next, including how new members can help make policy. You will also find a schedule of upcoming training webinars at

<https://labour.org.uk/>

## **12. Are you under 27 – then join Young Labour**

If you are studying at college or university, then why not join the LP national Labour Students organisation? Visit [www.younglabour.org.uk](http://www.younglabour.org.uk). Or contact the LI youth officer on:

[youth@labourinternational.net](mailto:youth@labourinternational.net)

## **13. Are you a BAME member and want to get more involved?**

Contact the LI BAME officer on:

[bame@labourinternational.net](mailto:bame@labourinternational.net)

## **14. Or an LGBT+ member?**

[lgbt-plus@labourinternational.net](mailto:lgbt-plus@labourinternational.net)

## **15. Or so you have a disability or are a carer?**

[disabilities@labourinternational.net](mailto:disabilities@labourinternational.net)

## **16. Join/remain a member of a trade union**

Trade unions have been central to the Labour Party from the very start and the Labour Party encourages its members to join trade unions, whether in the UK or in your host country or both. Joining a Trade Union or another affiliate society can be a powerful way of engaging with the wider Labour movement, and help you integrate into your new home.

## **17. Join in with the National Policy Forum policy discussions**

You can get involved in policy development both online and in your branch. There is an LI Policy Officer on the LIEC, and a CLP representative on the NPF. Their roles involve organising discussion and information feedback, to produce a coordinated response to the commissions. Contact the LI policy officer on:

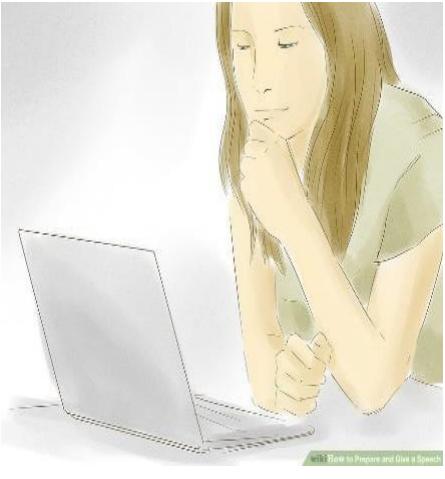
[policy-campaigns@labourinternational.net](mailto:policy-campaigns@labourinternational.net)

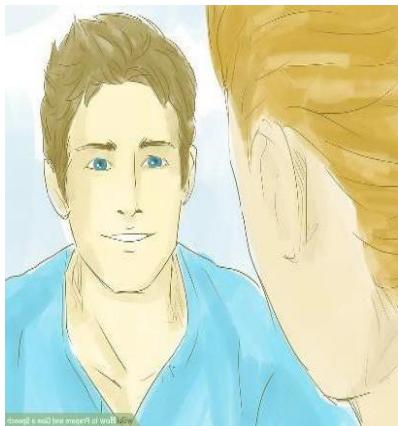
# How do I.....?

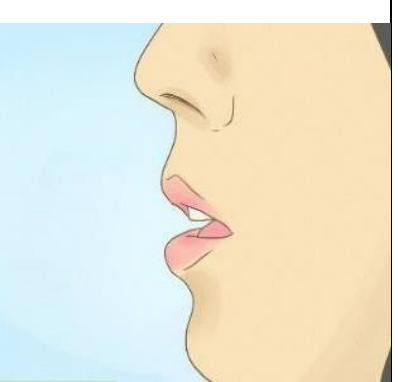
Here you will find help with how to do some of things you may be asked to do.

## Make a speech at conference

Planning Your Speech	
	<p><b>Dig deep.</b> Do research to understand your topic and extract the essence of your talk.</p> <p><b>Keep it simple.</b> Have a clear purpose of your speech in mind. Your speech should have one key goal. Write the title of your speech at the top of any paper you are using.</p>
	<p><b>Know your audience.</b> Are you speaking to people who know nothing about your topic or people who are experts on your topic? Understanding your audience will help you to target your speech appropriately.</p> <p><b>Your speech is for your audience, not for yourself.</b></p>
	<p><b>Write a single sentence that will immediately grab the audience's attention.</b></p> <p><b>Then write some quick notes.</b></p> <p><b>Refine your ideas and put them in order.</b></p> <p><b>Use an anecdote or a quote.</b> Sometimes someone else has already said it better than you ever will.</p> <p><b>Write as you normally speak.</b> A speech is meant to be spoken, not read. Use short words. Write short sentences.</p>

<p><b>Writing the Speech</b></p> 	<p><b>Choose 3 to 5 concise supporting points for your topic.</b></p> <p><b>Fact check your ideas.</b></p> <p><b>Write as if you are talking to one person.</b></p> <p><b>The average number of words</b> for a 5-minute speech is 650, 390 for 3 minutes, and 270 for a 2-minute speech.</p>
	<p><b>Keep your speech to the point.</b> You can use index cards with bullet points.</p> <p><b>Consider your comfort level.</b> If you know the topic well, then make notes or write down buzzwords to remind you of what you want to say. If you don't, write the speech in full.</p> <p><b>Pace your speech.</b> Have three main points to get across.</p>
	<p><b>Condense your speech down</b> to just bullet-point notes. Bullet points will keep you on track.</p> <p><b>If you are nervous,</b> write the first three sentences out in full. This will help you stay focused.</p> <p><b>Make it personal.</b> Connect on a personal level with your audience. Don't be afraid to allow emotion to enter into your voice if appropriate.</p> <p><b>Tell a story.</b> Facts, figures and statistics will quickly lose your audience. One stat may be fine to reinforce a point, but if you want to create a memorable presentation tell a memorable story.</p>

<b>Practicing Your Speech</b>	
	<p>This applies whether you have five days notice or 30 seconds.</p> <p><b>Look at the conference agenda.</b> Choose ones that you think you might want to speak on and <b>practice, practice, practice!</b> Ideally, you can plan everything you want to say, and rewrite repeatedly.</p> <p><b>Set a timer.</b> You should know how long your speech needs to be. If you cannot deliver the speech within the given amount of time, then you may need to shorten it or lengthen it.</p>

	<p><b>Practice your speech in front of a friend or a mirror.</b> Practice looking up at your audience so that your eyes aren't always on your notes.</p> <p><b>Speak slowly and clearly.</b> Time yourself. Cut out any bits that are unnecessary.</p> <p><b>Lead with wow -</b> a compelling or controversial position.</p> <p><b>Pause between the sections</b> of your speech and change the pace – some bits faster, other bits slower.</p> <p><b>Mark up your speech as you go with a pen or pencil.</b> Mark words you want to stress – underline or in a different colour.</p>
	<p><b>Make a video recording.</b> Record yourself as you make the speech. Analyse your appearance, your body language and your delivery.</p>

<b>Delivering your speech</b>	 <p><b>Be Your Passionate Self.</b> Audiences are perceptive. They can even sense enthusiasm from the back seats.</p> <p><b>Be authentic.</b> Just speak from the heart. Sharing a personal story can help you find your voice and build a connection with the audience.</p> <p><b>Look around the audience, or if you are nervous, just focus on one person.</b></p> <p><b>Make eye contact</b> with members of your audience.</p>
	<p><b>Don't always look down at your notes</b></p> <p><b>Focus on one friendly face at a time.</b> Think of your speech as a conversation that you're having with one person.</p> <p><b>Speak slowly and try to breathe normally.</b> The natural adrenaline rush that you will have in front of your audience may make you want to speak much too quickly.</p>
	 <p><b>Turn Nervousness Into a Boost.</b> An adrenaline rush can work in your favour. Try to stop thinking about yourself, your nervousness, and your fear. Instead, focus on your audience. Concentrate on the audience's wants and needs, instead of your own.</p> <p><b>If time allows, use deep breathing exercises</b> to slow your heart rate and give your body the oxygen it needs to perform.</p>

	<p>Laugh at yourself if something goes wrong. If you forget your speech, then simply say thank you and leave the stage.</p> <p>Never leave the stage if something goes wrong, even if you feel embarrassed.</p> <p>Make a joke and shake it off and move forward.</p> <p><b>Don't do what Theresa May did</b> and ignore the letters falling off her backdrop! Make a joke about it.</p>
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## Write and move a motion

Motions at Labour Party meetings can be a very useful tool to put pressure on MP's, the LIEC or GC to submit to Labour Party conference, or just help to lead to political clarity on a particular political issue.

There are 2 types of motion:

1. **A rule change motion** that changes the rules of LI or your branch. If your rulechange is directed at national level (a change to the Labour Party rules) then if you want it discussed at the LP conference, bear in mind that these rule change motions suggested one year cannot be debated until the following year's national conference. The Labour Party rule book can be found at on the LI website:  
[www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net)
2. **A contemporary motion** that covers any other issue apart from rule change.
  - For a motion to be considered by the GC it must be discussed, voted on and passed at your branch meeting. In exceptional circumstances, for example if your branch is not functioning properly then the LIEC may give permission for individual members to propose and second a motion.
  - For motions to annual conference the LIEC will organise a ballot of all members to choose which motions will go forward to conference.

- Motions to branch meetings need to be sent to all branch members as part of the branch meeting agenda sent out 7 days in advance. In exceptional circumstances e.g., if it is an emergency motion, the branch executive can agree to send it to members later or present it in full written text to be shared at the branch meeting.
- If the motion is passed at your branch meeting, then it can go to the GC meeting. Not all branch motions need to go to the GC meeting, but if you want your motion to become LI policy it must be passed to the GC meeting.
- Try to keep your motion to roughly 250 words. If you want, you can also send additional information as a short link at the end of the motion. However, it is better to ensure that your speech to propose or second the motion contains the most important background information of why you think the motion is important, as not all members will actually open the link to read it!
- An **emergency motion** must be submitted in writing to the secretary as soon as the emergency allows it. However, it is up to the chair of a meeting to decide if the motion is a true emergency. The chair may ask the members to take a vote on whether to allow the emergency motion.
- **Amendments** can be moved and seconded from the “floor” of a meeting, but must be presented in writing to the chair. Ideally it is better to send the amendment to the secretary in advance of the meeting. The amendment will then be debated at the meeting and if passed or allowed by the proposer of the motion it will then become part of the main motion, which will then be called the **substantive** motion. Amendments will be taken in order.
  - In the event of there being a tie of votes the chair may give a casting vote provided that s/he has not used her/her vote already. If the chair does not wish to give a casting vote, the motion is not carried.
  - Once a motion is carried, it becomes a **resolution**.

### **Tips for writing motions:**

- Try to give a title to your motion to indicate what it is about.
- Ideally, a motion should be short, to the point and ask somebody to do something (the branch, LIEC, national conference, NEC etc). Check that your facts are correct - motions that have inaccuracies or are vague are less likely to be acted on.
- The policy recommendations are the most important part of the motion and what you should give most thought to. A common problem is that they contain a lot of criticisms and a detailed description of the problem but are thin, unclear or entirely negative in their conclusions, or don't specify what action needs to be taken and by whom.
- It is better to stick to a few substantial points that make for a coherent plan, rather than a long list of small changes.

### **The best motions are structured as follows:**

- Description of the issue or problem that the motion seeks to address (This branch notes...)
- The Labour Party principle(s) that underlie the solution and the policies that will contribute the solution (This branch believes .....)
- The further policy proposals that normally conclude the motion and are its most important element and makes it clear what you want to happen next. /This branch instructs/demands/ calls on.....

A motion needs to be “proposed” formally by making a speech and it needs to be seconded by another member, either formally or with a speech.

### **Example of a well-constructed motion.**

#### **Motion on the primacy of Annual Conference**

*This branch notes:*

- That COVID19 has seen a closing down of democratic discussion in the Labour Party.
- That Conference is not going to meet before 2021 and many CLPs if not most will not, despite the availability of Zoom etc, be able to make decisions on policy.

*We believe:*

- That the postponement of Conference 2020 cannot be used as an excuse to water down policies – conference is the place to debate new policies and any attempt to use the NPF as a vehicle to do so disenfranchises the members and unions who make the party what it is.
- That Conference Policy cannot and should not be overruled by the NEC, PLP or the NPF.

*We call upon*

- The NEC, the PLP and the Leader and Deputy Leader to promote existing Conference Policy at every opportunity
- All members to accept current democratically decided Conference Policy until changed by a subsequent Conference

Send to:

NPF, PLP, NEC, Leader, Dep Leader

### **How do I challenge the chair?**

It can seem quite daunting to challenge the chair of a meeting. After all, they have been in the position forever, they know the rules much better than you do and they seem so confident! However, it is important to know that *any* ruling by the chair of *any* Labour Party meeting can be challenged.

You need to indicate that you want to “raise a point of order” and explain why the decision is wrong. You need to be clear about what exactly it is you are challenging, for instance:

- Has the chair ruled that an emergency motion does not deal with “a real emergency”? Then you should explain briefly why it is a real emergency and should therefore be discussed and/or voted on.

- Has the chair ruled that a controversial issue should not be discussed any further and wants to move on to the next item?
- Your challenge should concretely call for the “discussion to be extended by xy minutes” or that “the four speakers who raised their hand should be heard”.

Don't be intimidated by the fact that the secretary might ask for your name to be takendown. This will have no negative consequences for you.

The chair will have to ask for a vote on his disputed decision. If a simple majority agrees with the challenge, the chair must adhere to it and, for example, allow an emergency motion to be discussed.

The LP rulebook says:

*“Any breach of or question to the rules or standing orders may be raised by a member rising to a point of order. The chair’s ruling on any point arising from the rules or standing orders is final unless challenged by not less than four members; such a challenge shall be put to the meeting without discussion and shall only be carried with the support of two thirds of the members present.” (Chapter 15, point N).*

## **How do I contribute to LP policy discussions?**

You can get involved in policy development both online and in your branch. There is an LI Policy Officer on the LIEC, and a CLP representative on the NPF. Their roles involve organising discussion and information feedback, to produce a coordinated response to the commissions. Submissions from constituencies or branches get more attention than those from individual members, - although those are welcome as well. There are several ways you can contribute to policy making:

- You can make a submission personally to the NPF
- Your branch can make a submission on behalf of all members in the branch
- You can use the NPF documents to help guide branch discussion around political education, or to propose motions to Annual conference
- You can get your branch to submit motions to the LI General Committee for inclusion as a CLP submission to NPF.

# The National Labour Party

## Introduction

The LP is the largest political party in Europe with numerous partners, affiliated societies, trade unions, think tanks and lobby groups associated with it. The Co-operative Party is also affiliated to the LP.

The largest part of the LP's income now comes from membership fees. This hasn't always been the case, but following the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader, the large increase in membership saw its income increased. Previously the main source of income was from affiliated organisations and Trades Unions. For a history of the growth of the LP see the section on history of the LP.

As the Labour Party was founded by the unions to represent the interests of working-class people, the LP's link with the unions has always been a defining characteristic of the party. The Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation (TULO) is the coordinating structure that supports the policy and campaign activities of affiliated union members within the LP at the national, regional and local level.

The LP Rulebook legally regulates the organisation and its relationship with its members. The party reviews its rules regularly in order to incorporate changes made following conference constitutional rule changes passed at conference. The NEC may also submit changes to the rules.

The Labour Party rulebook is almost a hundred pages long. It can be found on the Labour International website [www.labourinternational.net](http://www.labourinternational.net) . If you want to tackle the rulebook after you have read this guide and get more involved, the best place to start are the three manageable pages in the *Model procedural rules* (pages 56-58).

Or you can view the LP Rulebook on the LP website :

<https://labour.org.uk/>

## How is the leader and deputy leader elected?

Both the leader and deputy leader of the party are elected by members using a "one member, one vote" system (OMOV), so the votes of all party members and members of affiliated organisations are counted equally. They are elected by an Alternative Vote system (ATV). A candidate needs to receive the support of 10% of Labour MPs to appear on the ballot. ATV is then used to narrow the candidates down to the last two candidates, after which one is finally chosen.

## **General Secretary**

The Party Conference ratifies the appointment of the General Secretary on the recommendation of the NEC. He or she remains in office for as long as they retain the support of the NEC or Conference. He or she is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Party and is a powerful figure. The duties include managing the party's employees, running media and campaign strategies, organising the Party Conference and implementing the party's rules.

## **Regional Structures**

The Party's regional structure mirrors its national one. Scotland, Wales, and each English Region has a Labour Party Office, overseen by elected Regional Boards (Executives in Scotland and Wales). Executives/Regional Boards have a role in policy development and organise local conferences. In addition, they act as appeals bodies for candidates who have been excluded from the approved list of local government candidates and councillors who have had the whip withdrawn.

## **The National Executive Committee**

The NEC provides the strategic direction for the Party by overseeing the policy-making process, the party's administration, financial probity, upholding the party's rules and ensuring it meets its legal obligations. It meets bi-monthly and has several sub-committees dealing with specific areas such as discipline (alleged breaches of party rules), equality (encouraging the participation of women, young people and other groups) and organisation (overseeing the arrangements for the selection of candidates for election).

The Party's Leader, Deputy Leader, Treasurer and Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party are automatically members of the NEC. The other members are elected by different sections of the party:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Leader of the party
- Deputy Leader
- Treasurer
- Chair of Equalities
- Shadow Frontbench
- Shadow Frontbench
- Shadow Frontbench
- Shadow Scottish Frontbench
- Welsh Labour Representative
- Young Labour
- Disabled Members
- BAME Labour
- 13 reps from Trade Unions
- Socialist Societies rep
- 9 reps from CLPs
- 2 reps for Labour Councillors
- 3 reps from the PLP
- Ex-officio PLP shadow chief whip
- Ex-officio PLP chair

All party members may vote in the online ballot to elect the 9 CLP representatives on the NEC.

### **What other NEC committees are there and what do they do?**

#### **Joint Policy Committee (JPC)**

The JPC has strategic oversight of policy development in the party. The JPC acts as the steering group for the National Policy Forum (NPF). For more information about the National Policy Forum, see the section on Labour's Policy Process.

#### **Organisation Committee**

This committee is responsible for party rules and constitution; ensuring parties are operating effectively throughout the country, and abroad, to the highest standards. It has overall responsibility for membership, investigations, selections, Conferences, electoral law, boundaries

strategy and internal elections.

### **Disputes Panel**

The Disputes Panel is a panel of the NEC Organisation Committee that hears membership appeals; re-admission; applications; party disputes and conciliation; minor investigations and local government appeals where referred to the NEC.

### **Equalities Committee**

The Equalities Committee is responsible for driving the party's equality agenda and the development of an inclusive organization at all levels. This includes recruitment and participation for women, Black, Asian, and Ethnic (BAME) people, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) members, and people with disabilities. It has links with the Organisation Committee and Young Labour Coordinating Committee on issues of age discrimination

### **Business Board**

The Business Board oversees the business functions of the NEC including the management of the finances.

### **Audit, Risk Management and Compliance Committee**

The Committee ensures that the LP's financial activities are within the law, and that an effective system of internal control is maintained.

Each of these committees elect a chair. To find out who the current NEC members are, use the following link.

<https://labour.org.uk/about/how-we-work/national-executive-committee/whos-on-the-nec/>

## **Labour's Policy Process and the National Policy Forum**

Labour is a democratic socialist party. Our policy development process is designed to involve members, local parties, trade unions, socialist societies, elected representatives as well as the wider community.

Policy is developed through the National Policy Forum (NPF) and the Annual conference. Its role is to shape the Party's policy agenda, drawing up policy documents for agreement.

The National Policy Forum is made up of around 200 people, representing a wide range of different sections and groups in the Party: CLPs, regional policy forums, Ministers/Shadow Ministers, MPs and MEPs, peers, councillors, affiliated trade unions, socialist societies, black and minority ethnic, LGBT, young, student and disabled members.

There are 55 CLP representatives, 5 from each of 9 English regions, 5

from Scotland and 5 from Wales, elected via a regional postal ballot of party members

Each one of the 200+ NPF representatives is placed onto one of eight policy commissions that examine specific policy areas; each commission is co-convened by a Shadow Secretary of State and an NEC member. The Joint Policy Committee acts as a steering group for the National Policy Forum.

The NPF meets two or three weekends a year to discuss documents in detail that are produced by the policy commissions. It submits three types of documents to Labour Party Conference: pre-decision consultative, final policy documents, and an annual report on the work of the policy commissions.

Until the 2016 conference, policy documents could only be accepted or rejected. However, the 2016 conference voted to allow parts of a policy document to be rejected/referred back.

There are eight Policy Commissions. Each of them launches a consultation document, usually in January, posing a series of questions about that area of policy they wish to examine, together with background information. Members, supporters and affiliate groups make submissions to the process detailing their views. However, recently the commissions have met less frequently and there is currently a review of the NPF.

The latest news and updates on policy discussions and events happening around the UK are also posted here

<http://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/>

### **Labour's Policy Commissions**

These Commissions consider the policy submissions that come from across the Labour Party and develop detailed positions that are then discussed at Annual Conference. The current commissions are:

- **Economy, Business and Trade**

The Economy, Business and Trade Policy Commission develops Labour's economic and business policy, including industrial strategy and international trade.

- **International**

The International Policy Commission develops Labour's international policy: foreign policy, international development, defence, Britain's

future relationship with Europe.

- **Health and Social Care**

The Health and Social Care Policy Commission develops Labour policy and thinking on areas including the future of the NHS, mental health, public health and social care.

- **Early Years, Education and Skills**

The Early Years, Education and Skills Policy Commission looks at issues relating to children's well-being, development and care, as well as education, training and skills from childhood through adulthood.

- **Justice and Home Affairs**

The Justice and Home Affairs Policy Commission examines labour thinking on issues such as policing, the justice system, immigration and asylum, and political and constitutional reform.

- **Housing, Local Government and Transport**

The Housing, Local Government and Transport Policy Commission develops Labour policy concerning local government and devolution, housebuilding and the housing sector, and Britain's transport infrastructure and services.

- **Work, Pensions and Equality**

The Work, Pensions and Equality Policy Commission develops Labour's policy on social security, poverty and equalities.

- **Environment, Energy and Culture**

The Environment, Energy and Culture Policy Commission is tasked with leading Labour's development on the environment, food and rural affairs, energy and climate change, and culture, media and sport.

## **Party Conference**

The Labour Party Conference directs and controls the work of the party. It is the supreme decision-making body and decides the Labour Party's policy framework and rules. However, the Party Conference Agenda is rigidly controlled. Years ago, the Conference mostly debated motions submitted by trade unions and constituency parties. Today, it mainly considers NEC reports and policy documents, so there is very limited

scope for constituencies or trade unions to influence what is debated. (See the section on the agenda below). Furthermore, some decisions taken by the Conference are ignored and not implemented.

## **Delegates**

The Labour Party Conference meets annually in September/October, although the NEC can call a special conference at any time, as it did in March 2014 to approve changes to the Party's rules for electing the Leader and Deputy Leader. Trade Unions and other affiliated organisations like socialist societies can send a specific number of delegates based on the number of affiliated members and CLPs are entitled to a number of delegates based on their membership.

Specifically, CLPs can send:

- 1 delegate for the first 749 individual members; and
- 1 additional delegate for every additional 250 members.

If the CLP is only entitled to one delegate, this must be a woman every other year.

At least 50% of delegates must be women. If there are more than 100 women in the CLP, an additional woman delegate may be appointed. If there are more than 30 young members (under the age of 27), another young delegate may be appointed.

Anyone who is a member of the Labour Party for a year on the date set for the receipt of delegates' names may stand for election as a delegate.

Branches vote on who to nominate as delegates, usually at their Annual General Meeting. However in LI delegates are elected by an online ballot of all members from a list of members who are nominated. LI members can nominate themselves.

## **Voting**

Voting at Party conference is usually by a show of hands of all delegates present, but sometimes a card vote is called. In a card vote, trade union and affiliate organisation delegates have 50% of the votes and CLPs the other 50%. Each CLP is allocated a portion of that 50% according to its number of members and that vote is then divided between the CLP's delegates; e.g. If a CLP is entitled to 0.1% of the total vote and has two delegates at Conference, they each cast 0.05% of the card vote.

## **Agenda**

The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) is elected by a conference card vote. It takes office at the end of that conference for a year.

Therefore, the annual party Conference is run by the CAC elected at

the previous conference. The CAC is responsible for deciding the order of debates and plays a significant role in determining which motions submitted to the conference are discussed.

Each trade union, affiliated organisation and CLP may submit one contemporary motion. There are strict rules about what counts as a contemporary motion; it must be on an issue that has arisen recently. The CAC decides which motions meet the criteria and conducts a ballot of delegates to determine their priorities. At least the 4 motions voted as highest priority by CLP delegates are placed on the agenda, as are the 4 voted top by trade union and affiliated organisation delegates.

A CLP can also propose an amendment to the Party's Constitution.

## **Government**

### **Forming a Government**

If the Prime Minister (PM) resigns, either after losing an election, or for other reasons, the Queen decides the successor. She invites the person she thinks most likely to obtain a majority in Parliament to become PM. In practice, this is usually the Leader of the largest party in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister then forms a Government by inviting about 20 MPs and peers (Members of the House of Lords) to join the Cabinet. Most are offered jobs running Government Departments such as the Treasury (the Chancellor), Health or Transport. The PM also appoints about 100 MPs and peers to become "junior" ministers. They are usually assigned to Government Departments, although some become "whips". Cabinet Ministers and their juniors are responsible to Parliament for the actions of their departments.

The Cabinet decides the policies the Government will follow. If this means changing the law, the appropriate Cabinet Minister will present a bill to Parliament. This then goes through several stages in both the House of Commons and Lords. Most of these involve a vote of MPs or peers. Each whip takes responsibility for a group of MPs or peers, tells them which votes are important, and tries to ensure they follow party policy.

### **The Opposition**

The leader of the second largest party in Parliament becomes the Leader of the Opposition. That leader creates a *shadow* Government, inviting MPs to join a Shadow Cabinet, be Shadow Ministers and whips.

Ministers/Shadow Ministers must vote as instructed by the whips. If they do not, they are expected to resign from their position. MPs who are not ministers or shadow ministers are called backbench MPs. They are supposed to follow the whips' instructions, but sometimes do vote against

the party policy. This is called defying the whip. MPs who repeatedly vote against their party can be sanctioned by withdrawal of the whip, which effectively means they no longer represent that party.

### **Select Committees**

Each government department is scrutinised by a House of Commons Select Committee, which consists of at least 11 backbench MPs drawn from the Conservative, Labour and smaller parties in Parliament, so they are representative of the House of Commons. The Chairs of Select Committees are elected by their fellow MPs. For example, Yvette Cooper Is Chair of the Home Affairs Committee.

Select Committees sometimes conduct investigations or consultations, and anyone can send them their views. For example, the Home Affairs Select Committee has launched a consultation on immigration and asked for people's views on the subject.

Further information about Select Committees and their activities can be found at

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/committees/select/>

### **The Parliamentary Labour Party**

All the Labour MPs elected to the House of Commons form the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP). The PLP holds regular meetings behind closed doors to question the Leader and discuss its concerns.

# Appendices

## Useful resources

- Labour Party Rulebook 2020

<https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/rulebook-2020.pdf>

- Labour International rules:

<https://www.labourinternational.net/>

## Jargon Busters

<b>AMM</b>	All members meeting
<b>CLP</b>	Constituency Labour Party
<b>CAC</b>	Conference Arrangements Committee
<b>EC</b>	Executive Committee
<b>EPLP</b>	European Parliamentary Labour Party
<b>GLU</b>	Governance and Legal Unit
<b>GC</b>	General committee
<b>GS</b>	General Secretary
<b>LI</b>	Labour International
<b>LIEC</b>	Labour International Executive committee
<b>MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>NCC</b>	National Constitutional Committee
<b>NEC</b>	National Executive Committee
<b>NPF</b>	National policy forum
<b>OMOV</b>	One member one vote

<b>PEO</b>	Political education organiser
<b>PLP</b>	Parliamentary Labour Party
<b>PPC</b>	Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
<b>RO</b>	Regional organisers (LI)
<b>SOC</b>	Standing Orders Committee (known as CAC prior to Conference)
<b>TUC</b>	Trades Union Congress
<b>TULO</b>	Trade union liaison officer
<b>YL</b>	Young Labour

**Affiliate** -*Trade union or socialist society with established formal links with the Labour Party based on common values. Affiliates pay a subscription to the Labour Party on behalf of their members.*

**Affiliated Supporter** -*Member of an affiliated trade union or socialist society who has actively chosen to be an individual supporter of the Labour Party.*

**All Member Meeting (AMM)** - *Meeting of the Constituency Labour Party open to all members. In LI AMM's are used for political education, discussing possible Annual Conference motions. The AMM is not an LI policymaking body.*

**All Women Shortlist (AWS)** -*Process to increase representation of women in Parliament by reserving 50% of winnable seats for women candidates.*

**Annual Conference** -*This takes place every autumn and is one of the largest and most high profile political events in Europe. Delegates at Conference vote on policy documents brought by the National Policy Forum.*

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)** -*Yearly business meeting at which the financial accounts are presented, reports of the past year's work are given, officers are elected and standing orders are amended.*

**Back Bench** - *MP or councillor with no front bench responsibility.*

**Cabinet** - *Committee of senior government ministers/shadow ministers. Also main decision-making body of a Council consisting of the Leader/elected Mayor and councillors with portfolio responsibilities.*

**Collective Affiliation** - *Formal link between affiliated trade unions and the Labour Party.*

**Co-operative Party** - Political voice of the co-operative movement. It is a separate political party that has an electoral agreement with Labour.

**Delegate** - Person elected or nominated to represent a Labour Party or trade union branch at meetings or Conference.

**Ethnic Minorities Forum (EMF)** - Part of the Labour Party's equality structures, a constituency-wide body open to all Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (abbreviated to either BAME or BAEM) members in the area.

**Executive Committee (EC)** - Sub group of the Constituency Labour Party, consisting of key officers and representatives that oversees local party business.

**Front Bench** - Government minister/Opposition shadow spokesperson, including Shadow Cabinet. Also a councillor with portfolio responsibilities.

**General Committee (GC) or General Management Committee (GMC)** - A meeting of the Constituency Labour Party formed of delegates from local branches and affiliates.

**Labour Group** - Grouping of all the Labour Councillors in a local authority. List System for electing candidates in London, Welsh, Scottish and European elections, where seats are allocated in proportion to the number of votes the party receives.

**One Member One Vote (OMOV)** - Ballot system used for Labour Party elections, such as the Leader and Deputy Leadership elections, where all members receive one vote and all votes carry equal weight. Panel Pool of candidates from which branches can select who they wish to stand in their ward council elections.

**Policy Commission** - Subject specific body that develops detailed policy, comprising members of the NPF, NEC and Shadow Cabinet.

**Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC)** - Candidate chosen by a CLP to stand in the general election.

**Quota** - Policy to ensure balanced equalities representation.

**Selection** - Process of choosing candidates to stand in local, regional and national elections.

**Socialist Society** - Independent organisation affiliated to the Labour Party.

**Standing Orders** - Set of rules governing local Labour Party structures.

**Trade Union Liaison Officer (TULO)** - CLP officer elected to build links with local trade unions.

**Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation (TULO)** - Umbrella organisation that co-ordinates the national and regional activities of trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party.

**Trigger Ballot** - Process where Labour Party branches and local affiliates to a CLP decide whether to confirm that a sitting MP can stand for re-election or should face a full selection process.

**Ward** - An electoral local authority area.

**Women's Group** - Part of the Labour Party's equality structures, a constituency-wide body open to all women members in the area.

**Canvassing** - Refers to asking people for support at election time, but it is also used to refer to the issues-based campaigning done throughout the year, not just at election time. This can be face-to-face by going door-knocking, or over the phone through our campaign tools.

**Voter ID** - Refers to the process of gathering people's voting intentions, whether face-to-face or over the phone.

**Door knocking** - A form of canvassing when a small team of volunteers will knock on people's doors and have a conversation face to face.

**Phone banking** - Talking to electors over the phone, usually carried out by a group of volunteers and usually sticking closely to a Voter ID script.

**Get Out the Vote (GOTV)** - Campaign to identify Labour Party supporters and encourage them to turn out to cast their vote on polling day, using canvassing and mailing.