

SUPPORT NPF REFERENCE BACK!

Support ND Labour reference back!

The reference back on the National Policy Forum report promoted by Neurodivergent Labour comes up on Monday morning. Although Neurodivergent Labour's submission was the second most supported in the relevant section, the report contains no policy at all for the rights of autistic, dyslexic, and other neuroatypical people.

Accessibility: deeds not words

While speeches in favour of disabled people's rights receive warm applause, Party conference is not delivering the accessibility that disabled delegates need.

Delegates who asked for hard copies of policy documents and reports sent to them in advance were not sent them, and are now faced with reading long, detailed documents in a very short time before they are voted on – and some in ridiculously small print.

And disabled delegates arrived Sunday morning to find that the promised priority entrance to conference did not exist.

It's not good enough.

Starmer vs conference and planet

Keir Starmer, asked by Andrew Marr whether Labour would renationalise the big six energy firms, replied: "No." He added: "I do not agree with the argument that says we must be ideological."

Yet "support common ownership of rail, mail, energy and water" was one

of the ten pledges Keir Starmer was elected on; and, more to the point, conference yesterday voted overwhelmingly for Composite 1 on climate, including public ownership of energy companies.

Conference does not agree with the "ideology" that private-profit industry will take the social, far-sighted measures needed to limit climate disaster yet running counter to short-term profit.

Rule change roundup

A CLP-originated rule change on snap parliamentary election candidate selections won. (CLP delegates voted 61.63% for, 38.37% against).

All the NEC's rule changes won on Sunday. The closest was the change to increase the MP nominations required for leader candidates to 20%,

which won 54%-46%, with 55% of CLPs opposing it. It looks like Unison's decision to vote with that rule change was decisive.

The left in Unison, more favourable to Labour Party democracy, has won a majority on the union's National Executive for the first time ever. It will take time for the effect to work through. Elections are currently underway for the Unison Labour Link committee, where voting closes on 13 October, and left candidates will back Labour democracy.

Fight antisemitism – not democracy!

Matt Wrack, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, made a good speech against all the NEC rule changes. There were no further particular speeches against some of the rule changes, and only one against the big rule changes justified as responses to the EHRC report. The speeches for the EHRC report were all in terms of "no anti-racist could oppose this", rather than explaining the specifics of the rule changes.

We believe that antisemitism in the left is real and we must fight it. The rule changes do not do that. They reduce the independence of the disciplinary process, by giving it to people nominated directly or indirectly by

GKN workers strike for – greener – jobs

Workers at the GKN Drivelines car parts factory in Birmingham have shelved plans for an indefinite strike to prevent plant closure and the loss of 500 jobs. They forced bosses to the table after creating a 90-page alternative plan for how to reorganise production to stay open and make electric instead of petrol vehicle parts. GKN have agreed to talks.

Employees in Italy have been fighting job cuts there, and protested in support of Birmingham workers' jobs. For environmental transition and for building workers' power, support this dispute! ✊

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the general secretary; bring in “HR people”, i.e. experts in disciplinary processes from the management rather than trade-union side; and do nothing to win the essential political battles. See bit.ly/c-proc.

Socialists support science

Piers Corbyn and his climate-change-denier friends have attempted to get onto the stage at TWT Sunday afternoon, causing much disruption. It's another proof that our enemies' enemies, in this case enemies of the capitalist governments world-wide pushed into taking anti-Covid measures or climate-mitigation measures, are far from being our friends.

Socialism is about informed democracy, based on education, respect for science, and reasoned debate, not nihilistic conspiracy-theories.

Covid-denier types have also been outside the conference centre, fortunately largely ignored.

Compositing wins and losses on migration

Thanks to stubborn argument by some delegates, the compositing meeting on immigration (debate on Tuesday) has kept in text which the party officials' draft wanted to “lose” – on replacing Prevent, on condemning racialised state surveillance, on detention centres, and on welcoming Afghan refugees. (There will also be another composite on Afghanistan, which should include strong text on an open door for Afghan refugees).

Some text, however, was lost, with arguments like “we can't put that in, because the Tories would attack us on it”. If we're doing nothing that makes Tories object and attack us, then that's a bad sign! We must ex-

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pect conflict with the Tories, and seek to win it, rather than shy away from it.

Afghanistan: support Hazaras

The Momentum Internationalists fringe meeting on Sunday evening heard from Afghan Hazara speakers Maida Askari and Abbas Ghaznawi about the escalating persecution of the Hazara minority in Afghanistan by the victorious Taliban.

That persecution echoes a recurrent pattern in the history of Afghanistan, from the 1890s, and even earlier. The Taliban, the speakers said, is no sort of “national liberation” movement, but an ethno-nationalist Pashtun movement, with over 50% of Taliban fighters recruited from Pakistani Pashtuns.

The left, said Maida, has a recurrent pattern of backing whatever forces are or seem to be in conflict with big powers we oppose like the USA. Instead we should seek to be a voice for the people on the spot fighting oppression.

Protest against deportations shows the way

Around 250 people turned out for an action against deportations on Sunday afternoon. The protest targeted TUI, the holiday company who carries out most deportation flights, part of a wave of similar protests across the country, organised as Stop TUI. The demonstration had the support of a local student group, and The World Transformed. It was led by Labour MP Nadia Whittome.

Support left & internationalist campaigns

We have worked with a range of other campaigns, including the Labour Campaign for Free Movement, the Uyghur Solidarity Campaign, the Hong Kong campaign LMSHKUK, Free Our Unions, the UK support group for the Jewish-Arab movement for equality and justice in Israel-Palestine Standing Together bit.ly/uk-st, the Labour Homelessness Campaign, and Neurodivergent Labour. 🌱

This action should be exemplary for the Labour Party and labour movement representatives in standing up for migrants' rights. Important policy will be voted on at conference.

Help organise to get the party behind open border policies, and to campaign in the streets against the immediate impacts of the hostile environment. 🌱

Who are Momentum Internationalists?

Momentum Internationalists was formed by activists from the left anti-Brexit campaign Labour for a Socialist Europe, L4SE, in early 2020 to continue the fight for left-wing and internationalist politics after the Tories finally forced through Brexit. We ran candidates in the Momentum NCG elections of 2020 and promoted motions in the Momentum policy priorities ballot of 2021.

We are not just a caucus within Momentum. We have been active on the streets, for example in the Black Lives Matter and NHS pay protests of 2020. We have run public Zoom meetings on the farmers' movement in India, on the resistance in Myanmar, and on the EHRC report and antisemitism in Labour (we reckon there is a real problem there, not just a concocted smear). At this Brighton conference we are organising activities to support Afghan refugees, as well as pushing our favoured motions on conference floor. 🌱

