

## FOR €15 MINIMUM WAGE & GOOD SICK PAY

### Tuesday's big debates

The big debates on Tuesday are immigration, social care, NHS, and workers' rights (continued from Monday).

The immigration composite 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. A composite on Afghanistan, passed on Monday, included an open door for Afghan refugees.

### Andy McDonald and Workers' rights

Andy McDonald has resigned from the front bench, saying ([bit.ly/amc-r](http://bit.ly/amc-r)) Keir Starmer told him to go to a meeting and oppose a £15ph minimum wage and Statutory Sick Pay at a living wage level.

McDonald should be congratulated for sticking up for workers' rights. He doesn't say this, but the meeting he was told to oppose the demands at was a conference compositing meeting on workers' rights.

Despite Starmer's efforts, the motion going forward to the conference from the meeting does include a £15 minimum wage and living-wage-level SSP.

It also includes repealing ALL anti-trade union laws. These are crucial demands. Conference should vote for the motion and the whole labour movement and party should actually campaign for its demands.

Not long before resigning, Andy McDonald published a Green Paper on a "New Deal for Workers", focused on

reinstating collective bargaining – which Angela Rayner has also heavily promoted. Will Starmer now attack these policies too? [bit.ly/a-mcd](http://bit.ly/a-mcd)

### Social care: issues to watch out for

Issues to look out for in the compositing outcome are public ownership, NHS-level pay and terms for staff, and provision as a free public service.

### NHS: issues to look out for

Here the issues to look out for including winding back privatisation, opposing the drive for ICSs, and adequate funding.

### Rachel Reeves and trans rights

Not all women have a cervix, and, yes, it is indeed transphobic to say that only women have a cervix. However Rachel Reeves MP would rather decry how "toxic and divisive" the discussion about trans people's existence within the party is. It is not acceptable to just mildly say that anyone should identify however they wish, and refuse to support a stance that even Keir Starmer has taken. If Rachel Reeves can't take the basic stance that trans women are women without moaning about that being divisive, then she is no ally to women of any kind.

### After the PR debate: union link still central

The Proportional Representation motion went down 42%-58%, with an 80%-20% majority in the CLPs beaten by 5%-95% in the unions. We're for PR because it is more democratic. But we are also concerned that PR is being pushed now as code for giving up on a fight for a Labour government with left policies in favour of cunning schemes for Labour/Lib-Dem pacts.

Bad if this vote leads to another round of hostility to the union link in CLPs. The unions remain the bedrock of the labour movement.

### Transform Unison Labour Link

Some Unison members are leaving in disgust at the decisions of the Unison Labour conference delegation support the PLP's defacto veto over leadership candidates and the ratification of David Evans.

The 20% threshold vote contradicted formal Unison Labour Link policy set in 2018 to reduce the nominating threshold to 10%. The Unison Conference delegation had no mandate or rulebook right to overturn National Labour Link Committee policy in this area.

In elections where voting is now in progress, Unison members have a chance to transform the union's Labour Link. If the union link is not fit for purpose then it must be reinvigorated.

Check out the following candidates: East Midlands: Anjona Roy; Greater London: Ruth Cashman; Northern: Helen Smith; North West: Joanne Moorcroft; South East: Billie Reynolds; South West: Aileen McLoughlin; Yorkshire & Humberside: Paul Holmes.

Dig out either your postal ballot, or your electronic ballot by searching your email inbox (also check spam folder) for "Unison National Labour Link Committee Elections 2021", and vote before 13 October. More info: [tfrc.unison@gmail.com](mailto:tfrc.unison@gmail.com)

### The cleaners in the conference centre...

... as far as we have been able to find, are all on zero hours contracts. If our speeches about workers' rights and zero hours mean anything, Labour should insist that its conference ven-

### Chat with us!

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ues have all their staff on union pay and conditions. For a modest start, we as delegates could make more effort to ease the cleaners' job by clearing up after ourselves in the conference hall.

### **The General Secretary confirmation vote...**

... was carried only 57/43, so a recount finds. 61/39 in the unions, 53/47 in the CLPs. Every previous general secretary confirmation has been without controversy.

### **From a Labour Campaign for Free Movement organiser**

By selecting Immigration and Asylum for debate, this conference has shown that Labour members still consider migrants' rights an urgent priority.

The composite motion includes many policies, including important and positive ones such as: firmly opposing Priti Patel's anti-refugee Borders Bill; creating safe, legal routes for refugees; ending the impoverishing ban on asylum seekers working from the day they arrive; guaranteeing asylum seekers rights to social security, healthcare, decent housing and family reunion; ending quasi-detention such as at the scandalous Napier Barracks; and creating an easy process for anyone living in the UK to gain permanent residency with equal rights.

It also includes wider anti-racist measures such as opposing racialised surveillance and other (largely unspecified) policies that marginalise Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people, Muslims and other racialised minorities; and educating Labour members about antisemitic tropes.

But the motion is much weaker than

it should have been. As remains typical, important policies sent in by CLPs were simply deleted in compositing, denying elected delegates the chance to discuss and vote on them. Those present report that party officials arrived with a draft gutted of many good policies. While CLP reps forced some back in, officials and Shadow Home Sec Nick Thomas-Symonds successfully pressured them to leave much on the cutting room floor.

Policies quietly killed off in this way include: rejecting immigration systems based on migrants' wealth or utility to employers; replacing EU Settled Status with an automatic Right to Stay; ending immigration raids and deportations; scrapping Prevent (watered down to "replace" without specifying what with); ending no recourse to public funds and the detention estate (though these are already mandated by conference 2019); an approach to crime that tackles the driving factors of inequality and injustice rather than handing more powers to institutionally racist police; and, crucially, supporting workers who make anti-migrant policy impossible to implement by refusing to carry it out.

We also know how casually Labour and union leaders ignore democratic decisions for migrants' rights. After conference voted near-unanimously for radical pro-migrant, free movement policy, key planks were dropped from the 2019 manifesto. Then, months after Keir Starmer was elected on a pledge to restore free movement, he openly abandoned it. Yesterday, Rachel Reeves told Radio 4 that instead of free movement, she wanted more work visas for HGV drivers – a policy that will make migrant workers more precarious, potentially undermining unionisation and wages for everyone.

So while we urge conference to pass this motion, we need to do more: to organise and build pressure in our un-

ions, in the party and in the streets. We need to hold our leaders to policies already decided, press for more, and use protest, direct action and industrial action in the meantime.

CLPs and union branches should organise community networks to intervene directly against raids and deportations, taking inspiration from the Glasgow community who physically blocked a border force van from taking away their neighbours this summer. And as the Hostile Environment enlists wider and wider sets of workers as border guards, we need to spread the example of the airline workers who have blocked countless deportations by refusing to fly. ✨

### **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. ✨

### **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](http://bit.ly/uk-st), the Labour Homelessness Campaign, and Neurodivergent Labour. ✨

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