



FOR NEWS AND COMMENT
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18-19 The Colonnades, Liverpool L3 4AG



HAVE THE DEBATE ON HOUSING AND WATER

Motions on housing and on water renationalisation – all of them, as far as we know – have been ruled out of order for conference.

The pretext is that their content is substantially covered in the National Policy Forum report. Read the NPF report, and whether you think it is good or bad, indisputably it is thin and inconclusive and says little on either issue.

Even the cross-party EFRA Parliamentary Committee has called for a public takeover of Thames Water, “urging the government to either put the company into Special Administration or to consider emergency legislation that takes control of its financial affairs”.

Only 1,040 new council homes were started in the calendar year 2025, while over 14,000 were lost to “Right to Buy”. On 25 August 2026 the first tranche of grants from the Social and Affordable Homes Programme was announced. The bulk goes to housing associations rather than councils; only 60% is

scheduled as social rent; this is only part of, not an increase on, the £39 billion in funding over ten years announced in June 2025.

On neither council housing nor water is the government on a settled course requiring the wider Party just to applaud and wait. We should debate.

In 2025 motions on the two-child benefit cap were ruled out of order. Eventually the government conceded to Party opinion on that. Let’s have a chance for Party opinion to express itself on housing and water renationalisation.

REFERENCE BACK

In 2025 the majority of motions from CLPs were ruled out of order. It may be worse this year. And the CAC publishes neither the ruled-out motions nor the reasons for ruling them out, making challenges almost impossible to win.

A number of CLPs have submitted “references back” to the NPF report on housing. Those may be the only chance to get the issue to the floor of conference. Some “references back” will fall because the delegates from those CLPs have been ruled invalid on technicalities. But not all. Look out for them.

BUDGET 2026: TAX THE RICH!

The condition of the world capitalist economy, aggravated by Trump’s vile Iran war and his tariffs buffoonery, makes John Healey’s job on 28 October difficult.

But to respond by cuts or by abandoning social ambitions would be to repeat what Rachel Reeves did in 2024 when – also facing real difficulties created by the Tories’ legacy – she cut the Winter Fuel Allowance and refused to scrap the two-child benefit cap.

Germany and Australia, and France since Francois Hollande, show us that social-democratic parties which adopt conservative policies, whether in open coalition with conservatives as in Germany or independently, these days dig holes for the far right – AfD, One Nation, Le Pen’s RN, or Reform UK – to push us into.

Labour conference 2025 voted for increased taxes on wealth. Tax Justice UK has figured out a package of taxes on the billion-

aires and millionaires which would bring another £50 billion a year in revenue.

Anything less than that now is a recipe for social and political decline.

A PLAN FOR LABOUR DEMOCRACY

Without a “re-set” of wider Party democracy, a “re-set” of policy is at best only hope for words in the ear of the leadership being heard.

LLI FRINGE MEETING

Speakers include Maria Exall, former TUC President. 6pm, Monday 28 September, The Institute, Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT



LLI draft democracy charter



Join LLI conference 2026
WhatsApp group

WEST BANK: “PROTECT THE HARVEST”

Protect The Harvest is an international coalition mobilising activists to provide a protective presence to stand with Palestinian olive farmers in the West Bank against Israeli settler violence which threatens to wreck the farmers' 2026 olive harvest.

This direct action solidarity can help Palestinian communities defend

themselves against settler violence. The involvement of Israeli organisations, like the Palestinian-Jewish social and anti-war movement Standing Together, in Protect The Harvest shows that there is an anti-occupation movement within Israel.

Although it is a minority, international support can help it grow, as Matt

Wrack pointed out in his speech at TUC Congress.

Ed Miliband's move for sanctions against products from or work for Israeli settlements in the West Bank is positive.

Better than seeking a false radicalism of a complete boycott of relations with and groups in Israel, which would be ineffective and have grave dangers of

spillover hitting the Jewish community in Britain, it should be extended positively by making the ban on arms sales to Israel complete and by active support for Protect The Harvest.

<https://protecttheharvest.net/>

TRANS RIGHTS

TUC Congress passed a welcome motion opposing the EHRC Code of Practice, which threatens to ban trans-inclusive women's conferences or committees or groups.

Even in Trump's USA, unions continue to be loud and proud about organising their women's conferences as trans-inclusive! Even Trump has not dared to try to stop them!

It will be a terrible thing if our labour movement becomes more trans-exclusionary than Trump's USA.

Labour for Trans Rights have circulated a draft motion for general Labour conference. Support it in the priorities ballot if it is not ruled out of order.

Some delegates to women's

conference plan to challenge the exclusion of trans women. Support their right to have their say.

Labour Women United have a pro-trans-rights slate for National Women's Committee. Support them!

Islington South CLP has been told by London region that a motion it passed in March 2026 calling for a trans-inclusive women's conference is "out of order" because it supposedly clashes with the law.

Yet the City of London Corporation says that Hampstead Women's Ponds will remain trans-inclusive.

Pass motions in CLPs calling for the government to change the law to ensure that trans people can participate in society in their own gender.

Older Labour members should remember the April Ashley case. In 1961-2 a Tory press campaign drove Ashley out of her "women's" jobs (modelling women's clothing, actress), and in 1970 her rich husband was able to their marriage annulled to save the expense of divorcing her. Even then, even Tories did not demand that Ashley be forced to wear "male" clothes or re-adopt a "male" name.

Over decades attitudes liberalised. In 2013-5 the Museum of Liverpool had an exhibition, "Portrait of a Lady", celebrating Ashley's stand for trans rights.

Now we have a backlash. Remember the more liberal views you probably had when young, and make Labour resist that backlash!

STAND WITH UKRAINE

Ukraine's is an anti-imperialist and democratic struggle. Putin's brutal war has led to tens of thousands of deaths; many millions fleeing and internally displaced; and horrendous war crimes and human rights abuses by the Russian army.

For the sake of resisting growing right-wing authoritarianism globally, Ukraine must win.

The UK labour move-

ment has a problem with political forces like the *Morning Star* and the Stop the War Coalition, which oppose support for Ukraine.

We must stand with Ukraine while also standing with its labour movement – which is strongly committed to the war against Russian imperialism – against the Ukrainian ruling class.

LABOUR LEFT INTERNATIONALISTS

Labour Left Internationalists is a network of Labour Party members founded in 2020 by supporters of left anti-Brexit campaign Labour for a Socialist Europe. We stand for:

- Aggressive support for strikes and workers' struggles;
- Consistent internationalism, including fighting for free movement and to reverse Brexit;
- Arguing to replace capitalism with socialism, a radically new society based on common ownership and democratic and workers' control, not profit-making;
- Radical policies so the labour movement can serve working-class interests and push towards socialism;
- Democratising Labour, making conference the party's sovereign decision-making body.