

GUIDE

**FOR NEW AND
NEWLY ENTHUSED
LABOUR PARTY MEMBERS**

Although the Labour Party now has a left-wing leader, the task of transforming the party into a real weapon for the class remains crucial. All members should get actively involved in this struggle. However, this is easier said than done. The Labour Party is still dominated by a bureaucratic middle layer that tends to interpret the rules and procedures as it sees fit. It does not help that the [Labour Party rulebook](#) is almost a hundred pages long and written in pure Bureaucratese. This is an attempt to explain the most important rules and structures in plain language. With thanks to Momentum Sheffield, on whose guide this booklet is based. Labour Party Marxists take full responsibility for any inaccuracies or mistakes, of course.



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I) Local Labour Party organisation

1) Branch Labour Parties (BLPs)

The LP is divided into branches, usually based on the ward boundaries for councillors. Branches tend to meet monthly and:

- discuss political issues and plan local campaigning activities;
- send motions to the CLP meetings;
- nominate candidates for election to the CLP Executive;
- elect delegates for the CLP;
- select local council candidates and
- participate in trigger ballots for sitting MPs.

Branches are run by an executive elected by an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the branch, which usually takes place in April or May. If your branch does not organise political discussion or debate, try to suggest it at your next meeting. Guest speakers or discussion around a motion can make meetings more interesting.

2) Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs)

CLPs are based on the electoral district for the MP. CLP meetings take place monthly and:

- discuss political issues;
- plan local campaigning activities;
- send motions and delegates to Labour Party Conference;
- elect officers to the executive committee, which oversees the day-to-day business of the CLP;
- organise hustings during candidate selections for the MP and MEPs.

There are two main models for CLP meetings:

- a) some CLP meetings are open to all members and are known as **All Member Meetings (AMM)** – this structure was introduced in the late 90s, when meetings were extremely small;

- b) more traditionally, CLPs operate on **General Committee (GC)** structure. Some GCs allow all members to attend but only elected delegates can vote, whilst some GCs are restricted to delegates only. Delegates are elected from Labour Party branches, affiliated trade union branches and affiliated socialist societies.

Details on the structures can be found on pages 80 and 81 of the *Labour Party Rulebook*. These structures (like anything else in the local standing orders/local constitution) can be changed only at an AGM or a special meeting called for this purpose - any changes need to have the support of 2/3 of members/delegates.

3) Branch and CLP officers

Detailed job descriptions can be [found here](#).

The **BLP Executive** is made up of:

- chair
- vice chair
- secretary
- treasurer

At least two of these four must be women. There can be up to four additional (often non-voting) members - see below.

The **CLP Executive** is made up of:

- chair
- vice chair
- vice chair (membership)
- secretary
- treasurer
- women's officer

At least three of these officers must be women.

In addition, the BLP and CLP can elect 'coordinators' or 'officers' for specific areas of work, e.g. Political Education Officer; Trade Union Liaison Officer; Equality Officers for BAME, Disability, LGBT and Youth; Fundraising Officer etc. Coordinators will be non-voting members of the Executive, unless with the approval of the NEC, the CLP has made particular roles executive posts and amended the gender quota.

Some CLPs invite local Branch Secretaries or even the whole Branch Executive onto the CLP Executive. Check your local standing orders or talk to your secretary.

- **Chair:** This is the senior position in the branch/CLP. Chairing meetings is only part of the job; together with the secretary, the chair guides and oversees activities and campaigns, plans meetings, etc.
- **Vice-chair:** assists the chair with the above, chairs meetings when the chair is not present.
- **(Membership) secretary (post can be split in two):** Communicates with members, answers their questions etc; works with the chair to ensure meetings run smoothly and oversees activities and campaigns, plans meetings, etc.

4) CLP Campaign Committee

Every CLP runs a Campaign Committee that organises the public activity of the CLP and any election campaigns. Each branch sends at least one delegate to the CC; the chair and treasurer of this CLP, the MP and/or the parliamentary candidate and the parliamentary agent are ex-officio members of the CC. It votes for a Campaign Co-ordinator who is supposed to organise and cohere constituency-wide campaigns.

This can be a useful vehicle to try and make Labour Party events and campaigns more interesting, transparent and democratic.

5) Local Campaign Forum vs. Local Government Committee/District Labour Party

In most places, Local Government Committees (and District Labour Parties) have been replaced with the Local Campaign Forum. The main task of this body is the organisation of local elections and the selection of council candidates (more on that in point III) and to organise a “dialogue” between Local Labour Party members and the councillors in the Labour group.

Where the DLP still exists, it tends to be more democratic in its composition and remit than the LCF. In some areas, each branch sends two delegates to the DLP, which meets monthly. It can discuss motions that have been agreed by CLPs, hears reports from LP councillors and can make recommendations to them. The DLP/Local Government Committee even used to write the manifesto for local elections (today, this is done by the council’s Labour group itself). The Local Campaign Forum on the other hand meets only four times a year and normal members and branches have almost no input in it. According to the rules, it is made up of:

- the “leader and deputy leader of the Labour group or other group officer as determined by the Labour group”,
- any local and regional organisers,
- “appropriate representatives” from the relevant CLPs, including CLP campaign co-ordinators
- representatives from trade unions and other organisations affiliated to that constituency.

II) How to get involved in your local Labour Party

1) Contact your CLP and branch secretary

Once you have joined the party, you should receive your membership card, which shows the contact details of the secretary

of your Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

Ask your CLP secretary to:

- add you to the local mailing list (this should happen automatically, but can take a long time)
- ask for the dates of future CLP meetings and the AGM
- ask which structures the CLP uses (see above)
- ask for the contact details of your local branch secretary
- ask for the CLP's standing orders (some branches also have standing orders – ask your branch secretary). These should contain information on the local quorum, structures, who is allowed to attend meetings of the local executive. Standing orders are based on the *Model procedural rules* of the LP's rulebook (see above)

2) Try and find other lefties in your branch/CLP

Despite the 'Lansman coup' in January 2017, which destroyed any kind of democratic structure in the organisation, local Momentum branches are still useful places to find 'allies' on the left of the Labour Party.



In many areas, there are also 'left caucuses' of Labour Party members who meet before important branch and CLP meetings. If there is neither a Momentum branch or left caucus in your area, consider setting one up! It is very important that the left goes into every meeting with a plan.

3) Become a CLP delegate or officer in your branch/CLP

If your CLP operates with a General Committee (GC) (see above), you need to become a delegate from your branch in order to vote. Delegates are elected at the branch's AGM, but empty places can be filled at any branch meeting. Just tell the secretary you are interested in the position and they will have to bring it up at the next meeting.

In order to become an officer and join your BLP and CLP executive, you can nominate yourself at the AGM. Some CLPs demand that your nomination comes from a branch (check your standing orders). If there are unfilled positions, any regular meeting can vote to fill those positions.

4) Write and move a motion

Please be aware that not even everybody on the left welcomes motions at Labour Party meetings! But they can be a very useful tool to put pressure on your MP, the CLP executive, Labour councillors or just help to reach political clarity on a particular political issue.

- Ideally, a motion should be short, to the point and ask somebody to do something (the branch, the MP, the CLP etc). Check that any factual points are accurate. You should also not rely on a single source, especially if it is a newspaper article or a campaign.
- 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.
- It is better to stick to a few substantial points which make for a coherent plan, rather than a long list of small changes.

Most successful motions are structured as follows:

1. Description of the issue or problem which the motion seeks to address
2. The Labour Party principle(s) which underlie the solution
3. Highlighting existing Labour Party policies which will contribute to the solution
4. The further policy proposals which normally conclude the motion and are its most important element

A motion needs to be submitted by a 'mover' in writing and somebody needs to 'second' it at the meeting itself. See below for an example.

For a motion to be heard by a CLP meeting, it needs to have been voted through by a branch. Please note that notifications for branch and CLP meetings are sent out with (a minimum of) one week's notice, but motions need to be submitted to the secretary two weeks in advance of that meeting. Which means you need to know when your branch meetings take place or submit your motion 'blind'. It also means that it takes a full month for a motion to go through the branch and then the CLP – you should consider that with any time-sensitive issues.

The exception is an **emergency motion**, which 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 deals with a real emergency (see below on how to challenge a decision by the chair).

Amendments and deletions can be moved and seconded from the floor of a meeting, but have to be handed to the secretary in writing. If an amendment or deletion is carried with a simple majority, the amended motion becomes a motion to which further amendments may be moved.

Motions are carried with a simple majority. In the event of there being an equality of votes, the chair may give a casting vote

provided that s/he has not used an ordinary vote. If the chair does not wish to give a casting vote, the motion is not carried.

5) Challenge the chair

It can seem quite daunting to challenge the chair of a meeting. After all, they've been in the position forever, they know the rules much better than you 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.

a) A member needs to get up and raise a "point of order" and explain why the decision is wrong, in their view.

b) Be clear about what exactly it is you are challenging:

- For example, has the chair ruled that an emergency motion does not deal with "a real emergency"? Then you should briefly explain why it is an emergency and should therefore be discussed and/or voted on.
- Or has the chair ruled that a controversial issue should not be discussed any further and wants to move on? 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".

c) The point of order must be supported by at least four members eligible to vote. Don't be intimidated by the fact that the secretary might ask for your name to be taken down. This will have no negative consequences for you or them.

d) The chair will have to ask for a vote on his disputed decision. If 2/3 of members at the meeting agree with the challenge, the chair must adhere to it and, for example, allow an emergency motion to be discussed.

"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, page 58).

III) Electing representatives

1) How are council candidates selected?

Interested candidates nominate themselves to the Local Campaign Forum. Recently, candidates have then been asked to attend the "Future candidates programme" – a workshop, which gives some background to the job of a councilor. This is designed to weed out time wasters and, of course, stop left-wing troublemakers (you are told, for example, that you have to adhere to the whip etc).



Candidates will then be interviewed by the LCF. All those 'endorsed' by the LCF are included on a 'panel of approved candidates', which is sent to the relevant branches who organise shortlisting and selection meetings. Branch members vote in a ballot to determine who goes forward to be a candidate. As in all selections the NEC has overall authority in approving candidates and procedures.

Nominees who are not endorsed by the LCF can appeal to the Regional Board to try and get on the ballot.

2) How are parliamentary candidates selected? (Trigger ballot vs. mandatory selection)

a) When there is no sitting Labour MP

The NEC will issue a timetable and procedures, including whether or not the selection will be carried out from an open or all-women shortlist, or if it “may establish a national parliamentary panel of candidates”.

It has become common practice for a 3-person-panel of the NEC (usually one left-winger and two right-wingers) to issue a shortlist of up to three “pre-approved” candidates for each constituency. Then the process follows steps 3,4 and 5 as outlined below. But as with everything, this is subject to change and it all depends on the balance of forces on the NEC and the party.

b) When there is a sitting Labour MP

“Basically, unless you’ve really cocked up in some egregious and public way, locally affiliated trade unions - which always have many more branches affiliated to the local party than the local party itself does - will bail you out, sometimes against the will of the members.” This description by Blairite ex-MP Tom Harris on his website Third Avenue (which is an interesting read, despite the author’s hatred of Corbyn and the left) neatly sums up the problem with the current system.

Unfortunately, both Momentum and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy have – at least for the time being – downed tools on this important question, despite the fact that the CLPD has fought for mandatory selection of candidates for decades, with success (see below).

Step 1

After an election or by-election is announced and the sitting MP wants to stand again, the ‘trigger ballot’ process begins. All the constituency’s branches and its affiliates (trade unions, socialist

societies, cooperative organisations) have one vote each and can choose 'yes' or 'no' to retaining the sitting MP as the only candidate. Each branch and affiliate is counted equally, irrespective of the number of members.

- Branches will meet in person to vote.
- Affiliates will decide their own process for deciding this matter.

This is where the union bureaucracy can really bugger things up for the left, as they are often affiliated with more than one branch and often the decision of the vote is made by a single, unelected official. It is useful to prepare the ground in winning over local trade union branches and affiliate organisations beforehand. Just because the major unions are currently backing Corbyn, it does not follow that they are our allies when it comes to getting rid of this or that opportunist Labour careerist (who will often have a rather cosy relationship with the local trade union bureaucracy).

Step 2

If a simple majority of branches/affiliates vote 'yes', the sitting MP automatically becomes the official candidate. The selection process is over.

If a majority of branches/affiliates vote 'no', then a full selection procedure takes place. It does not mean that the candidate is deselected.

Step 3

The National Executive Committee will issue a timetable and procedures, including whether or not the selection will be carried out from an open or all-women shortlist.

- The sitting MP is eligible to stand in this selection and is guaranteed a space on the shortlist.
- In addition, the CLP shortlisting committee can select candidates from the Labour Party's panel of approved candidates.

- Other potential candidates need to submit their CV to the CLP shortlisting committee, who shall “draw up a shortlist of interested candidates to present to all members of the CLP”.

Step 4

All eligible individual Labour Party members vote in the contest between these candidates, on the basis of an eliminating ballot (no union or other affiliates have a vote at this stage).

Step 5

The successful contender – if they have not been on the NEC’s pre-approved list - needs to be approved by the NEC. “Where successful candidates are not members of the national recommended panel ... there should, however, be an endorsement interview in each case before a recommendation is made to the NEC” (Labour Party rulebook 2016, p22). The NEC has indeed exercised its power to block a CLP’s initial choice of candidate, though this does not happen often.

History: Thanks mainly to the efforts of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD), Labour Party conference in 1980 voted to establish a system of mandatory selection of parliamentary candidates, which – with slight modification – remained intact until ‘89

Step 1: The General Management Committee of the CLP nominated candidates. The GMC consisted of delegates from ward level branches, affiliated unions and socialist societies and the Cooperative Party.

Step 2: The General Management Committee of the CLP voted on which candidate to support.

Step 3: The successful contender needed to be approved by the NEC.

3) Selection of MEP candidates

A shortlist is drawn up by a regional selection board made up of representatives from CLPs in the area, along with affiliated organisations. A sitting MEP needs to get the support of at least 50% of the CLPs and affiliated organisations in their region to get onto the shortlist for re-selection, alongside other nominees. The final candidate is chosen by a postal ballot, held across the region.

IV) National Labour Organisation

1. The National Executive Committee

The NEC oversees the policy-making process, the party's administration, enforces the party's rules and ensures it meet its legal obligations. It meets bi-monthly and has a number of 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 (as with everything else in the party, the number and composition of the committee is hotly disputed and changes quite regularly):

- 3 Ministers/Shadow Ministers nominated by the Cabinet/Shadow Cabinet
- 3 backbench MPs or Members of the European Parliament elected by the PLP and European PLP
- 1 elected at the National Young Labour conference
- 1 elected by the Black and Minority Ethnic Labour conference

- 1 representative of the Scottish Labour Party
- 1 representative of the Welsh Labour Party
- 12 elected by trade union delegates at the Party conference
- 1 elected by delegates from socialist, cooperative and other affiliated organisations at Party conference
- 6 elected by a biennial national postal ballot of party members
- 2 elected by a biennial national postal ballot of councillors, directly elected mayors or police commissioners

All party members may vote in the postal ballot to elect the six CLP representatives on the NEC.

2. Party Conference

The Labour Party conference directs and controls the work of the party. It is - in theory - 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, conference mostly debated motions submitted by trade unions and constituency parties. Today, it mainly considers NEC reports and policy documents prepared by the National Policy Forum (see below), so there is very limited scope for constituencies or trade unions to influence what is debated. Furthermore, some decisions taken by conference are ignored and not implemented.

Delegates to conference

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.

Most right-wingers in the party bureaucracy will argue **against sending more than one delegate**. Usually, they will argue that there isn't enough money. Many left caucuses have countered this argument by organising fundraising drives, organising joint transport to conference and booking cheap accommodation in shared flats.

The right also likes to claim – falsely – that only “lead delegates can vote” or “each CLP only has one vote, so there is no need to send more than one delegate” (who often happens to be a right-winger). Some have even tried to send women and youth delegates without voting rights. This is nonsense and clearly against the rules. Every vote counts – and the more left-wing delegates can go to conference, the better!

Specifically, CLPs can send

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

At least every second delegate must be a woman and if the CLP is only entitled to one delegate, this must be a woman every other year. Plus:

- 1 women delegate if there are more than 100 female members
- 1 youth delegate if there are more than 30 members under 27

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 will have been 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. The CLP subsequently votes to elect the required number of delegates from the nominated candidates.

Voting at conference

a) Hand vote (all delegates)

- i) Voting on composited contemporary motions (unless a conference delegates demands a card vote or the chair decides to call a card vote)
- ii) Voting on the daily report from the Conference Arrangements Committee (unless a conference delegates demands a card vote or the conference chair decides to call a card vote)

b) Card vote – one member, one vote

Each delegate is handed a voting card - this is like a secret ballot:

- i) All constitutional amendments (rule change)
- ii) When a delegate demands a card vote on a composited motion or a decision to refer back a CAC report
- iii) When the chair decides to take a card vote

c) Card vote – one CLP, one vote

The only times where the CLP delegation has only vote – make sure you discuss the decision with your delegation.

- i) The Priorities ballot, which decides which thematic issues will be debated at conference (with subjects taken from the contemporary motions submitted)
- ii) Elections to the National Constitutional Committee, NCC, which deals with disciplinary matters, including expulsions.

Trade union and affiliate organisation delegates have 50% of the total vote 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. For example, 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 total card vote.

Conference agenda

The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) is made up of seven members. Five of them are elected by a conference card vote the year before. Two more are elected annually by means of a ballot

conducted among all eligible individual members of the party by means of a national one-member-one-vote postal and online ballot. Therefore, the annual party Conference is run by the CAC elected - in its majority - 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 get discussed.

Motions

Each CLP may submit one contemporary motion *or* one rule change motion/amendment.

Rule change motions have to be passed by a CLP one year previously. So, any motions being heard at the 2017 conference have been passed by CLPs in 2016 (including one motion that wants to do away with this anti-democratic rule!).

Contemporary motions

There are strict rules about what counts as a contemporary motion; it must be not be on a subject addressed in a NEC report to conference and must be on a

contemporary issue (ie one 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 four motions voted as highest priority by CLP delegates are placed on the agenda, as are the four voted top by trade union and affiliated organisation delegates.



General Secretary

The Party Conference elects the General Secretary on the recommendation of the NEC. "He or she shall remain in office so long as her/ his work gives satisfaction to the NEC and Party conference." They are 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.

3) How the Labour Party makes policy

Once the main purpose of Labour Party conference, policy making has been 'outsourced' to other bodies by a number of right-wing party leaders (in particular Tony Blair):

The National Policy Forum

The National Policy Forum (NPF) is made up of around 200 people, representing different sections and groups in the Party: CLPs, regional policy forums, Ministers/Shadow Ministers, MPs and MEPs, peers, councillors, affiliated trade unions, socialist societies, etc. 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.

Policy Commissions

The Labour Party sets up policy commissions whose membership is drawn from the Cabinet/Shadow Cabinet, the NPF and NEC. Each covers a specific policy area and is responsible for developing detailed policy through consultation, talking to experts and considering submissions from CLPs and individual Labour Party members.

The eight current policy commissions are detailed on Labour's Policy Forum at: <http://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/>

Any Labour member may log on to this policy forum and suggest policy ideas or comment on others' suggestions. CLPs can also record motions on this system. The commissions are free to ignore any of those suggestions and make extensive use of this power.

Making Policy

The NPF meets from time to time to consider the output from policy commissions and produce reports on policy for the Party Conference. Until last year, policy documents could only be accepted or rejected. However, the 2016 conference voted to allow parts of a policy document to be rejected. Conference will now be able to delete one part of a policy without rejecting the whole thing.

IV) Useful resources

[The 2017 Labour Party rulebook](#) The main section is the *Model procedural rules* (pages 56-58).

[Membersnet](#) platform for all members, with an overview of local campaigns, online training events, by-elections etc.

[Detailed job descriptions](#) of officer posts in the Labour Party

[Jeremy Corbyn's](#) ten pledges

[Guide on councilor selection](#) produced by Momentum



[Grassroots Now!](#) material produced by Momentum

[Jargon Buster](#) from Unite the union

[Guide to the Labour Party](#) from Unite the union

[Compass podcast](#) which explains the party to new members

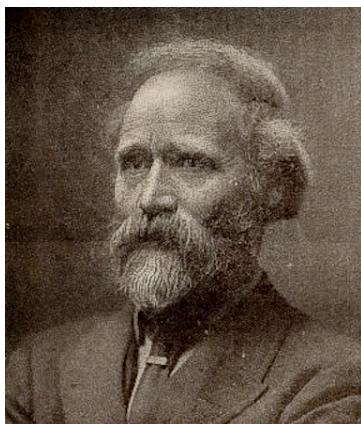
[The ABC of Chairmanship](#): Handbook on meeting procedure

VI) Labour Party Marxists' 10-point-programme

1. All elected Labour representatives must be subject to mandatory selection based on 'one member, one vote'. MPs must be brought under democratic control.
2. We need a sovereign conference once again. The cumbersome, undemocratic and oppressive structures, especially those put in place under the Blair supremacy, must be rolled back. The joint policy committee, the national policy forums, etc, must go.
3. Scrap the hated compliance unit "and get back to the situation where people are automatically accepted for membership, unless there is a significant issue that comes up" (John McDonnell). The compliance unit operates in the murky shadows, it violates natural justice, it routinely leaks to the capitalist media. We say, allow in those good socialists who have been barred, reinstate those good socialists who have expelled or suspended.
4. Momentum proved to be an effective campaigning organisation. An alternative election machine for Corbyn and McDonnell to wield, given the sabotage, bias and limited imagination of Iain McNicol and the Victoria Street HQ. But politically the stultifying inertia imposed on Momentum has proved to be an own goal. It is now impossible to transform Momentum into a democratic organisation – an organisation that can educate, activate and empower the rank-and-file membership. So there is an urgent need for the left to organise within Momentum branches where they still exist ... but, also, go far beyond that by expanding the influence and organised strength of Labour Party Marxists.
5. Winning new trade union affiliates ought to be a top priority. The FBU has re-affiliated, the RMT is in the process of doing so. But we should also fight for the NUT, PCS, NUJ and others to affiliate to make the Labour Party into a real united front of the working class.

6. Every constituency, ward and other such basic unit must be won and rebuilt by the left. Our individual membership grew from 200,000 in May 2015 to over 500,000 because of the historic opening provided by Corbyn. A million members is within our grasp. However, the left must convince the sea of new members to attend meetings ... only then can we sweep out the right from the NEC, the HQ, the councils and the PLP. Elect officers who support genuine socialism and who are committed to transforming our wards and constituencies into vibrant centres of socialist organisation, education and action.

7. Our goal should be to transform the Labour Party, so that, in the words of Keir Hardie (right), it can “organise the working class into a great, independent political power to fight for the coming of socialism”. Towards that end we need rule changes to once again permit left, communist and revolutionary parties to affiliate.



That is what we mean by a united front of a special kind. As long as they do not stand against us in elections, this can only strengthen us as a federal party. Today, affiliated organisations include the Fabians, Christians on the Left, the Cooperative party ... the Jewish Labour Movement and Labour Business. Allow the Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Party in England and Wales, CPGB, etc, to join our ranks.

8. Being an MP ought to be an honour, not a career ladder. A particularly potent weapon here is the demand that all our elected representatives should take only the average wage of a skilled worker - a *principle* upheld by the Paris Commune and the Bolshevik revolution. Our MPs are on a basic £67,060 annual salary. On top of that they get around £12,000 in expenses and allowances, putting them on £79,060. Let them keep the average skilled worker's wage – say £40,000 (plus

legitimate expenses). They should hand the balance over to the party.

9. We must establish our own press, radio and TV. To state the obvious, texting, Twitter and Facebook etc have severe limits. They are brilliant mediums for transmitting simple, short and sharp messages. But, when it comes to complex ideas, debating history and charting political strategies, they are worse than useless.
10. We should adopt a new clause four. Not a return to the old, 1918, version, which was designed to stop the socialist trend within the party - but a commitment to working class rule and a society which aims for a stateless, classless, moneyless society, which embodies the principle, "From each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs". That is what socialism is all about. Not a measly £10 per hour "living wage", shifting the tax balance and a state investment bank. No, re-establishing socialism in the mainstream of politics means committing the Labour Party to achieving a democratic republic.



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