



**NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2012**

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**RESOLUTIONS  
BOOKLET**

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## RESOLUTIONS 2012

### 1. Fighting cuts in Council funding and defending services.

*Islington LRC*

The government cuts disproportionately hit the working class and the poor of our society, the consequence of this is Labour Councils get hit the hardest.

The LRC stands in solidarity with the handful of councillors who refuse to make cuts. We note that despite this unprecedented attack on funding some Labour Councils have pushed forward with progressive programmes such as the living wage or refusal to implement the Government's so called "affordable" housing policy. However as we know 80% of the cuts are yet to come, it will reach a point when the money will not be available for statutory services never mind anything else. LRC notes that Islington Fairness commission is being copied by other councils demonstrating the importance of progressive councils showing a lead.

The LRC recognises that refusing to make the cuts is a strategy that Labour Councils will sooner or later have to face up to. We also recognise that one or two councils refusing to make cuts will not be able to take this government on and stand any chance of winning.

The LRC backs Owen Jones call for Councils to meet and coordinate a national strategy to fight the cuts including the setting unbalanced budgets. Councils who recognise that they cannot carry on indefinitely must show a lead in supporting such a strategy

The LRC agrees to campaign for national coordination by lobbying labour councillors and councils to commit to calling such a conference to take place as soon as possible.

### 2. London Metropolitan University

*Islington North CLP*

This conference condemns the continued attacks by the Conservative-led Government on the viability of London Metropolitan University, a valued community institution where, amongst others, Islington residents work and study.

The most recent attack, the removal of Highly Trusted Status by the UK Borders Agency, the first removal of this status from any university in this country, which took effect the very same day that the latest immigration figures were released, shows that this is an attack for political reasons above all else.

The decision meant 2700 international students had only 60 days to find an alternative university to pursue their courses. For many students in the last year of their courses, having already paid upwards of £20,000 in fees, this is a cruel and unnecessary blow.

We condemn this Government that puts its attempt to meet an arbitrary immigration target above the welfare of international students, and the financial viability of London Met.

We resolve to support the EDM 437 put down by Jeremy Corbyn MP that asks the Government to allow those students part-way through courses at London Met to be able to complete them at London Met, and to encourage other MPs to sign it.



We support the statement put out by the Leader of Islington Council, Cllr Catherine West and representations made by Jeremy Corbyn MP in the House of Commons.

We will support the campaign for the UKBA to reverse their disproportionate response, and instead to work constructively with London Met to address any issues found.

### **3. Rank and File organisation**

#### *Unite Grassroots Left*

- 1) That this LRC supports the following principles of the Rank and File Organisation,
  - a) Election of all Full Time Officials within Trade Unions with a right of Recall in the event of Failure to carry out Members wishes
  - b) All Elected Full Time Officials to be on a Workers Wage
  - c) For an end to a Bureaucratic apparatus inside the Trade Unions.
  - d) No more Secret Negotiations with Employers and in Unite a dismantling of the Trade Group Structure and Regional Secretaries only responsible to the General Secretary.
  - e) Constant convening of Meetings with the membership to ensure that the Democratic procedure is adhered to.
  
- 2) That the LRC support the National Justice for Shrewsbury Campaign led by Mick Abbott and Ritchie Hunter.
  
- 3) That the LRC supports the aims of the Blacklisting campaign and the Rank and File Construction campaign in Unite. Full support should be given to the Picketing campaign at Westbourne Park over Cross Rail.
  
- 4) To support the efforts of Grass Roots Left to unite the Rank and File Groups in both Unite and Ucatt. An end to expulsions in Ucatt of militants like Mick Dooley and John Flanagan
  
- 5) That the LRC recognises to threat to all organised labour constitutes by the emergence of the Two Tier Workforce. This global phenomenon sees an established labour force still enjoying relative security and pay rates working side by side with new starters with appalling wage and conditions, agreed to the TU bureaucracies in the interests of class collaboration and the 'financial difficulties' of companies.

### **4. Release all International POWs**

#### *The Irish Republican Prisoners Support Group*

Since 1967 over 650,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israel. As of 1 September 2012, there were 4,606 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centres. There are tens of thousands of Naxalite POWs in India, to mention just one case.



Marian Price, a 58 year old woman health is rapidly deteriorating. Her condition is exasperated by the treatment she is receiving at the hands of the Westminster government facilitated by the Northern Ireland Assembly. Gerry McGeough and Martin Corey are similarly interned without charge by simply revoking their release licence.

The Prison Officers refused to implement the agreement in Maghaberry August 2010 by rejecting the use of the BOSS chair. If the BOSS chair is good enough for use by the prison authorities in the US state of Texas why is it not good enough for the north of Ireland? POWs are regularly mistreated; in February, terminally ill republican prisoner Brian Shivers was brutally assaulted by prison staff while attending Belfast City Hospital.

We therefore demand:

1. Release of all anti-imperialist political prisoners internationally
2. Immediate implementation of the Agreement of August 2010 conceding freedom of movement and an end to strip searching.
3. Restoration of Political Status to all Irish Republican political prisoners in the north of Ireland.
4. Release of Marian Price, Gerry McGeough and Martin Corey and an end to arrest using the excuse of revoking the GFA license – this amounts to political censorship and a reintroduction of internment in another name.

## 5. The Marikana Massacre

### *Socialist Fight*

The striking miners of South Africa are the vanguard of the international proletariat. The brutal and pre-planned massacre of the 34 miners on 16<sup>th</sup> August is a sharp manifestation of the International crisis of capitalism. Every class conscious workers on the planet has a duty to support and work for the victory of these strikes because they are fighting not just for the future of the South African working class but for all our futures.

Former NUM leaders like Cyril Ramaphosa, Kgalema Motlanthe, Gwede Mantashe, and James Motlatsi have used their union positions to become millionaire capitalists and betray the miners. They personify the ANC's shift from a radical petty-bourgeois nationalist liberation movement to a bourgeois nationalist ruling party that protects the interests of the black bourgeoisie, the white monopoly capitalists in South Africa and British-based and other foreign companies such as Lonmin.

- Raise an International fund to support all the Striking South African Miners!
- Down with the Lonmin and all mining bosses and the state that protects their interests!
- Forward to nationalisation of the mines under the control of workers and working class communities!
- Break the Triple Alliance! In a new and telling way, the Marikana Massacre highlights the necessity for COSATU, the SACP, the YCL (Young Communist League) and Sasco (South African Student Congress) to break from the ANC and fight for the political and organisational independence of the working class.



## **6. Counihan Homelessness**

### *Counihan Family campaign*

This LRC AGM calls on its members and affiliates to actively support the Counihan Family Homelessness Campaign against the attempts of Brent Council to drive them out of Kilburn.

We demand that Brent Council provides all such families and individuals with decent, affordable social housing. We reject the concepts of 'caring cuts', 'protecting frontline services' and 'dented shields' as the covers behind which the destruction of the council-provided aspects of the welfare state are proceeding apace.

The Counihans were evicted from £690 a week house in Kilburn in April 2012 to temporary housing in Ealing, again had an eviction notice for 13 September, halted by court order and now a new order has been served for 7 November.

Unite member and London bus driver Antony is unable to meet payment of £5000 a week rent. The family face innumerable challenges in their temporary accommodation in Ealing including the impact on their 4 year old son with autism who is suffering additional anxiety and distress.

Brent Council has further threatened eviction onto the streets that 5 children will be taken into care.

We demand:-

- Brent withdraw all threats to the family.
- Brent and all Labour Councils house the Counihans and all similar families and individuals.
- Sympathetic Labour MPs put an early Day Motion to Parliament to demand the above
- UNITE sponsor the Counihan campaign locally and nationally.
- All Labour councils and MPs back the setting of needs led budgets to fight the vicious Con-Dem cuts.

## **7. Defend Bob Carnegie – Defend the Right to Organise**

### *Alliance for Workers' Liberty*

Conference notes

1. The victory of the recent strike by construction workers at Queensland Children's Hospital in Brisbane, Australia.
2. That one of the leading organisers, Bob Carnegie, is now being sued on 54 separate counts by the main contractor, Abigroup, on the grounds that he defied a court injunction won by the company and the state government.
3. That Bob faces a fine of up to \$400,000, and maybe prison.
4. That a Trade Union Defence Campaign has been set up in Brisbane, and socialists are working to spread it across Australia and internationally.

Conference believes

That this is an attempt to intimidate not only an individual, but every organiser in every workers' battle in future.



Conference resolves

To send a message of solidarity to the campaign, advertise it widely and circulate details and how to get involved to our affiliates and members.

## **8. Next Labour government**

*RMT East Midlands branch*

Conference believes

We need to stimulate discussion about what the next Labour government will do, what kind of government we want, and how to fight, including through pressure on the Labour leadership.

Conference resolves

1. To focus LRC propaganda and agitation over the next year around a workers' plan centred on the following demands and a campaign for them inside and outside the Labour Party:

- Resist every cut to jobs, services and benefits
- Tax the rich and big business
- Expropriate the banks and high finance under democratic and workers' control
- A mass program of council house building, restore the NHS as a public service
- Abolish the anti-union laws
- Renationalise all the railway system

We will put these demands in the context of fighting for a 'workers' government' – a government based on and accountable to a transformed labour movement which serves our class as the Tories and Lib Dems serve the bosses.

2. To demand an immediate general election, and oppose coalition with the Lib Dems.

3. To produce a short manifesto making these arguments.

4. To approach other organisations on the left, inside the party and outside, to build the widest possible united front around our demands.

5. To seek to convene local labour movement conferences to discuss our demands and what kind of government should replace the Tories.

6. To work closely with unions and CLPs, LRC-affiliated and non-affiliated, to coordinate a fight around these policies in the Labour Party, linked to the question of party democracy.

## **9. For a strong, democratic and socialist labour movement**

*Labour Party Marxists*

The Miliband-Balls leadership's pledge that the next Labour government will responsibly manage the capitalist system will mean maintaining pay freezes and spending cuts, attacking the working class in the 'national interest' of the British capitalist class. This would not be a stepping stone towards socialism.

History shows that Labour governments committed to British nationalism, the monarchy and the existing constitutional order sow disillusionment and demoralisation in our class, paving the way for ever-more rightwing Tory governments. Cameron's Tory-Liberal Democrat coalition government, with its project of privatising health and education, is further to the right than the Thatcher and Major governments, which were more right wing than Heath's.



The capitalist system of exploitation and oppression is in deep, prolonged crisis, inflicting misery on humanity. Only the world's working class can bring the system to an end. But our mass organisations are weak and politically committed to capitalism.

Our key aim, therefore, is to rebuild, democratise and re-educate the entire labour movement. With powerful trade unions, with the parliamentary Labour Party under the control of a vibrant mass membership, with a working class that is militantly political and consciously socialist, far-reaching concessions can be gained in Britain, and effective solidarity delivered to our brothers and sisters abroad. In co-ordination with the international workers' movement, crucially across Europe, capitalism can be overcome and replaced by the rule of the working class and socialism.

## **10. Against Landlordism**

*New Communist Party*

Private landlordism is a crime against humanity. It is an arbitrary tax on all human activity – living, working, playing, learning, manufacturing, buying and selling – for access to land. Rent lays a heavy burden on our national economy and takes a cut from wages and profits and adds to the costs of production and prices.

The rise in council housing from the 1920s to the 1970s gave workers affordable homes. But it also gave local authorities a goldmine of perpetual income from the rents, modest as they were they far exceeded maintenance and administration costs.

Housing benefit dates from the Tory Housing Finance Act of 1971 that raised council rents to match the private sector. It prevented the eviction of hundreds of thousands of low income council tenants. But even with housing benefit they were still paying more than it cost the councils to maintain the home. But it enabled lucrative private landlordism at taxpayers' expense. It is the private landlords who are parasites, not the tenants.

Therefore this conference calls for a well-focused campaign on the slogan: "Cap rents, not benefits".

We demand a new Rent Act, an end to the sale of council homes either to tenants or private companies, and a new nationwide mass council home building programme. And in the long term we must campaign to bring all privately rented land into public ownership.

## **11. Housing**

*Greater London LRC*

This conference notes the acute and growing housing crisis facing communities, including Londoners.

The Tory Government start from the divisive premise that genuinely affordable and stable homes are not a right (except for the relatively rich) but a privilege. Their policies combine to create exclusion-zones from which the lower-paid, the sick and the unemployed are driven out.

Tory capping of Housing Benefits is evicting people from their home-areas, separating people from their extended families and familiar communities on which they rely. Forced



migration damages people and the communities from which they are evicted, and also places intolerable strain on areas to which they are forced to move - where education, social and medical services are already facing serious pressures.

We need to highlight that where Housing Benefits are high, the beneficiaries are not in fact the low-waged tenants but the extortionate privateering landlords who own the homes and the skinflint employers who pay such low wages. We reject the traditional wisdom that it is the role of the public (taxpayers) to subsidise the private (bad landlords and employers).

The LRC will therefore campaign for:

1. A national council house building programme providing decent homes and jobs.
2. Regulation of the private rented sector and capping of rents, not benefits.
3. Tackling low wages in all areas and extension of the London Living Wage.
4. Putting an end to scapegoating - No to benefit cuts and 80% market-rents, with a Land Value Tax instead.

## **12. Labour-Trade union link and policy-making**

*CWU Greater London Combined branch*

This conference notes that the Labour Party is in the process of formulating policies for its next general election manifesto under its new Refounding Labour2 Partnership into Power policy making procedures.

Conference agrees that trade-union members should make a key contribution to Labour's manifesto.

We therefore call on LRC members and affiliates to use the Labour trade-union link to campaign within the Labour Party for LRC policies by:

1. Promoting progressive union policies at Labour Party annual conference, the National Policy Forum and Policy Commissions.
2. Involving and consulting union members and representatives who contribute to the political levy.
3. Democratising internal union political and policy making structures so all union representatives - including Trade Union and Labour Party Liaison Organisation (TULO) reps, Labour Party NPF reps, union nominees to the Labour Party NEC and regional Labour Party reps - promote progressive union policies and are held accountable.
4. Working together with Constituency Labour Parties to promote and support progressive LRC and union policies.

## **13. Labour Party Youth sections**

*Essex LRC*

This conference notes the fact that capitalism today has bequeathed worse prospects in relation to education, jobs and housing than their parents or grandparents at the same age and acknowledges the growing anger, bitterness and frustrations that this causes.



This conference also emphatically rejects the idea that young people are not interested in or are alienated from political issues and believes, moreover, that they will become increasingly politicised in coming years. However, we also believe that the wholly negative constitutional arrangements and the Labour Party full-time apparatus are acting as a 'dead-hand', limiting any real developments of Labour's youth organisation, "Young Labour". This is at a time when a Labour youth organisation should be the natural home of radical and campaigning young people.

Conference calls upon the LRC national committee and all LRC members and supporters to campaign inside the Labour Party:

- a) For a national youth organisation which is both democratic and autonomous, to offer a vehicle for youth to campaign on the issues that affect them
- b) For CLPs where LRC members have an influence to take the initiative – even without any 'sanction' from regional or national office – to establish their own autonomous CLP-based youth sections.

#### **14. Rule change to allow amendments to motions**

##### *Communist Students*

Re-word Rule 13 to read as follows:

13. Affiliate organisations and local Labour Representation Committees (as defined by Clause 36 below) shall be entitled to submit to the AGM:

- (a) one resolution; or
- (b) one amendment to a national committee policy document; or
- (c) one amendment to this constitution; AND
- (d) one amendment to a resolution submitted by another affiliate organisation or local LRC, provided it is submitted not later than 7 days before the AGM

#### **15. Title of Labour Briefing**

##### *Labour CND*

The magazine published by the LRC should no longer be called 'Labour Briefing'. The LRC National Committee elected by this conference should select a new title

#### **16. LRC National Officers**

##### *Sussex LRC*

This conference notes that time is a limited resource for us all, which has to be divided between home, work, the LRC and other interests. In this respect conference thanks all members and supporters for their commitment to the LRC.

This conference specifically acknowledges the hard work undertaken and considerable efforts made on behalf of the LRC by its National Officers, who carry out the duties and responsibilities of their offices in their spare time on an unpaid basis, often while also holding down demanding full or part-time jobs.

This conference recognises that the formalisation of a link with Labour Briefing adds a new dimension to the work of the LRC, which is bound to increase the demands placed upon those comrades involved in this area of the LRC's work.



In order to ensure that neither any LRC National Officer nor any member of the Labour Briefing Editorial Board is placed under intolerable stress or undue pressure, and to preserve the high quality of the work carried out by all concerned, this conference agrees that, as a condition of accepting a national office of the LRC, any person so elected as a National Officer of the LRC be required to resign within three months from the Editorial Board of Labour Briefing.

## **17. Labour fight the cuts**

### *Lambeth & Southwark LRC*

This conference notes the launch of 'One Nation' Labour at this year's Labour Party Conference.

We believe it is impossible to describe capitalist Britain as 'One Nation' given the gross disparities that exist in wealth, education, health, employment and many other areas of society. We reaffirm our belief that Britain remains a divided society including by race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age and, above all, class.

Conference believes that the attempt to clutch onto the ideology of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tory Prime Minister shows how out of touch Labour's leaders are with the daily existence of ordinary people who are suffering deeply from the brutal policies of this government.

Labour's leaders may have abandoned the class struggle but it is being conducted on a one sided daily basis by this government and the class they represent. We resolve to campaign ever more determinedly against the attacks on ordinary people including by:

- (a) continuing to call for Labour councils to refuse to implement Tory cuts which are decimating public services;
- (b) resisting the attacks on employment rights;
- (c) opposing the privatisation of education and the health service;
- (d) fighting cuts in the already limited welfare benefits. It is scandalous that the poorest and most vulnerable are bearing the brunt of the austerity programme.

Above all, we re-affirm our commitment to building a socialist society both in Britain and internationally as representing the only real way to achieve 'One Nation' and 'One World' with the abolition of class society.

