

# LABOUR FOR A SOCIALIST EUROPE

# BREXIT: MEMBERS MUST DECIDE

- DAY 2: A DAILY BULLETIN FOR LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2019
- @LABOURVSBREXIT  
#LAB19

90 Constituency Labour Parties have voted to put a motion about Brexit to this conference.

Their voice must be heard!

At the time of writing the Leader's Office is still trying to get an "NEC Statement" on Brexit agreed by the NEC. This statement will function as a motion, proposed by the NEC to conference, taking precedence over the many motions passed by members. The voices of many thousands of members would, if this motion is passed, simply be ignored. With no support in the grassroots, the fudgers must rely on the support of about a dozen people behind closed doors..

Inevitably, such a statement would be a "fudge", aiming to please everyone but in fact pleasing no-one. A half-and-half position will hurt Labour in an election. Labour is already seen as a Remain party because - rightly - we campaigned for Remain in 2016 and anyone who knows Labour members will know that we are overwhelmingly Remainers. Promising the softest of soft Brexits will - rightly - exasperate Remainers, and won't win over Leavers.

Even worse, if the NEC gazumps members' voices and denies them a debate, they will further demoralise and disrespect the very grassroots activists that Labour relies on for victory. We are a leftwing party with

the whole might of the billionaire press ranged against us. Our half-million members and their campaigning spirit are our only path to victory. To bin motions voted for by many thousands of our members would damage our strongest asset.

The version of the NEC statement last discussed can be summarised as follows: Labour goes into a General Election with no position on Brexit, for or against. After the General Election, a one-day special conference decides our position. The rationale is that we trick voters into backing us before revealing our real position. Labour members are overwhelmingly pro-Remain. Almost all the motions on Brexit sent to conference back Remain. None back Leave. Trade union members are overwhelmingly for Remain. Let's not try to trick people; let's not be seen to mumble. Let's speak with our own voice and win voters over with dignity, on the basis of our socialist programme to end Tory austerity and carry out a Green New Deal.



## SHOCK RESULT: CONFERENCE CARES ABOUT MIGRANTS

Rejoice, rejoice. Migrants' rights are on the agenda for conference 2019. The Labour Campaign for Free Movement has managed - despite a CAC stitch up, despite the great waft of disapproval from the more conservative parts of the Labour hierarchy - to get onto the conference agenda. This makes a change from the past two conferences. This motion isn't just about defending European free movement, but about extending it too. About abolishing no recourse to public funds policies and closing all detention centres. Vote for it, and campaign for it among your delegation!

# WHY STOP AIRPORT EXPANSION?



The International Civil Aviation Organization estimates that air transport is responsible for 2% of global CO2 - equivalent to the overall emissions of Germany.

But aircraft also emit particles such as nitrogen oxides, which can trap heat at high altitude, meaning the industry is actually responsible for 5% of global warming.

However you calculate it, the UK is a major contributor to this powerful greenhouse industry. **vote for Free Movement, Equality and Solidarity!** All the science is clear: airport expansion is not compatible with meeting our emissions targets for stopping runaway global warming.

Aviation is one of a number of industries that has to shrink in order to give our civilisation a chance of long-term survival.

A majority of wealthy travellers are responsible for most emissions.

Labour has to empower aviation workers to decide their future. That means retraining and job guarantees, and supporting aviation workers struggles in the here and now. But a transition away from ever-expanding aviation sector is non-negotiable in light of the climate emergency. We can't get away from this inconvenient truth: our movement has to come up with the answers, not kick the can down the road.

## IMMIGRATION: VOTE FOR FREE MOVEMENT, EQUALITY AND SOLIDARITY!

With the racist right on the march and Brexit threatening one of the biggest single expansions of border controls in decades, it's long past time for Labour to mount a serious challenge to the racist right on immigration. And for the first time in years, our conference will have the chance to vote for a policy that does so. Let's seize that chance and make sure that Labour fights and wins the next election on an unapologetically pro-migrant-rights manifesto!

The motion drafted by the Labour Campaign for Free Movement and submitted by 5 CLPs – Camberwell & Peckham, Canterbury, Coventry North West, Edinburgh Central and Stevenage – will commit our party to not only defending existing free movement within Europe, but extending it. And not only that, but unconditional right to family

reunion, closing all detention centres, extending equal voting rights to all migrants living in the UK, ending "no recourse to public funds" policies that deny equal access to social security, and scrapping the Hostile Environment and NHS charges.

Xenophobic lies, blaming immigration for unemployment, stagnant wages, crumbling services and the housing crisis, only serve to divide and weaken the working class and labour movement. They shield the real culprits: a ruling class of exploitative employers, rip-off landlords, and wealthy hoarders, and the successive governments that have protected their interests against ours. Border policies that make migrant workers vulnerable and precarious, disrupt and undermine the trade union and community organising

that we need to tackle these problems.

So the labour movement needs to bring a radical pro-migrant, pro-free-movement manifesto to the doorstep and into workplaces and put in the work to win people round to it. Both out of straightforward humanitarian duty in the face of the barbarity of the UK's Hostile Environment and Fortress Europe, and out of an internationalist, socialist understanding that we cannot win unless we unite as workers in solidarity, across divides of birthplaces and borders, against our shared exploiters and oppressors.

Vote for this motion, and then bring it back to your community and workplace – it's time to turn the tide in favour of anti-racism and solidarity.