

NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY CONFERENCE

Draft Motions Document

POLICY COMMISSION: EARLY YEARS, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Motion Title: A Strategy for Free Education

Proposed by: Lara McNeill

Young Labour notes:

1. The National Union of Students, the Trades Union Congress and a large majority of its constituent members, including the University and College Lecturers' Union, and the leader of the Labour Party all support free education.
2. 'Free education' means in this sense higher education which is free at the point of use, publicly funded, accessible, and funded by greater and progressive taxation and clamping down on tax avoidance.
3. With the recently passed Higher Education Bill, the marketisation and privatisation of higher education will only continue and worsen.
4. Other European countries, like Germany, have abolished tuition fees.
5. About 70 per cent of students who left university in 2015 are expected never to finish repaying their loans¹ and long term predictions show the government losing money having trebled fees², showing the system doesn't make economic sense.
6. The commitment to the abolition of tuition fees in the 2017 Labour Manifesto is widely credited with attracting significant levels of public support.
7. Pressure from local areas with high student populations and the campaigning of students and the Labour Party has influenced the Conservatives' U-turning on their tuition fee rise and scrapping grants policy.
8. Students from low income and working class backgrounds suffer disproportionately with the highest levels of debt, given changes to interest repayment rates and the transition of maintenance grants into loans.
9. Applications by students in England to nursing and midwifery courses at British universities have fallen by 23% after the government abolished NHS bursaries.

Young Labour believes:

1. Education is both a right not a privilege and a social good from which we all benefit.

2. A graduate tax system is reworking the current system and taxes those who decide to get an education, not those who can afford it, and progressive taxation of the entire population is fairer and reflects education as the social good that it is.
3. Only a strategy involving the popular energies and activities of young people as well as parliamentary action can achieve free education for all.
4. Actions such as November's Free Education demonstration point the way in building public pressure on the Tories over this issue and should be supported by the Labour Party and all its affiliated bodies, including Young Labour.
5. Educational Maintenance Allowance should be restored at a proper level for all those who need it.
6. Maintenance Grants and NHS bursaries should be brought back for all those HE and FE students, on a universal basis.

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/55f4a6f6-3eab-11e6-9f2c-36b487ebd80a?mhq5j=e5>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/feb/02/nursing-degree-applications-slump-after-nhs-bursaries-abolished>

Motion Title: Creating better, well paid apprenticeships

Proposed by: GMB

Young Labour Notes:

1. In 2016, the Apprentice Pay Survey highlighted that 18% of level 2 and 3 apprentices were paid below the AMW
2. 13% of apprentices in their first year or aged 16-18 were paid below the AMW, rising to 32% in those 19 and above or in their second year.
3. Apprentice hairdressers remain the most exploited, with a median wage of just £2.94 an hour
4. Furthermore, the report highlighted that less than half of all apprentices received at least one day of formal training per week.
5. Finally, there is a lack of awareness of how much individuals should be paid as apprentices, with 3 out of 4 being unaware of the hourly rate for apprentices.

Young Labour Resolves:

1. To support the TUC and affiliated unions in campaigns to unionise Apprentices, raise awareness of rights and campaign for high quality, high wage apprenticeships across all sectors of the economy.
2. To call for strict enforcement of the AMW and sanctions for employers who do not pay the correct rate.
3. To call for the creation of rigid standards supported by legislation that will ensure an Apprenticeship provides, at a minimum, one day per week of accredited training.
4. Write to the Chair of the PLP to ask for a Parliamentary debate on the scandal bogus apprenticeships, specifically addressing non-enforcement of the AMW and the lack of accredited training currently provided.

Motion Title: For Free, Democratic, Public Education, Funded by Taxing the Rich!

Proposed by: Sahaya James

Young Labour Notes:

1. The pledge to abolish tuition fees in Labour's 2017 General Election manifesto played a key role in mobilising young people. Students, activists and now Labour are winning the argument for free education.

Young Labour believes:

1. Education is a public good that should be free, democratically run by students, staff and workers collectively, paid for by the rich and big business through progressive taxation. This includes the end of fees and the start of full living bursaries for all, including home, EU and international students.
2. Free education is necessary to reverse marketisation, which has driven: universities be more intensively run like businesses for profit; increasing casualisation; the distortion of courses towards the interests of big business; huge cuts leading to mass redundancies and course closures; an erosion of working conditions for academic and other workers; extra pressures on students contributing to a rising mental health crisis; rising student debt; and a sustained attack on the idea of education as a public good, among other things.
3. Corbyn's suggestion for a cradle-to-grave National Education Service, modelled on the NHS, is very welcome. What exactly it would be should be fleshed out democratically through discussion, but minimally it should be: universally and freely accessible with full living grants for all and free childcare; well-funded by taxing the rich and big business; democratically governed, including democratic control of curriculum to provide spaces to challenge the dominant narratives and ideologies in society; providing decent, well-paid jobs, secure contracts and strong workers' rights; and an integrated service for social good, free from chaotic market forces, which breaks down divisions between 'academic' and 'vocational' study.

4. The Labour Party and Young Labour should not wait until after the next general election, but campaign now for a free, democratic, public education with living grants, funded by taxing the rich. This will help bring it about as soon as possible and gain support for both it and Labour, which will in turn help Labour implement it.

Motion Title: Practical Education Integration

Proposed by: Alex Jones-Casey

Young Labour notes:

1. That the British education system, from primary to higher education, is a world-leading programme that has produced some of the pioneering minds and institutions of the past century.
2. Since the Conservatives came to power in 2010, a sustained attack on student-accessibility, fiscal sustainability and the teaching profession has been carried out through ideologically driven policy such as the public sector pay cap, trebling of tuition fees, a revived emphasis on grammar schools, academies, the failed 'free schools' initiative and austerity.
3. That the Conservatives' mismanagement of the education system has had a profoundly negative impact on the potential of millions of young people.

Young Labour believes:

1. In line with the Labour Party's proposed National Education Service, young people deserve a new education syllabus that reflects contemporary life and work; one that equips them with practical skills such as responsible financing, sensible online conduct, interpersonal communication, physical and mental well-being and multicultural tolerance.
2. That through integrating 'real life' skills into education, beginning as early as primary schooling and sustained through to university, Britain's next generation(s) will be suitably prepared to navigate life after the education system with an extensive understanding of the practical applications of their education.
3. Through developing an extensive knowledge of the practical, everyday application of maths, language, health, the arts and current affairs over the course of 14 years (primary school – college); Britain can begin to take real, tangible steps in tackling the nation's issues with household debt, obesity, cyber-bullying, depression, class disparity and discrimination.

Motion Title: Restoring a publicly managed and accountable school system

Proposed by: Socialist Educational Association

Young Labour notes that:

1. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the privatisation of education, the promotion of competition between schools and in particular the growth of multi-academy trusts is:
 - In many cases not bringing about the desired improvement in standards;
 - Resulting in decisions being made in the interests of individual trusts rather than in the interests of pupils and the wider community;
 - Leading to financial mismanagement, waste and corruption on an unacceptable scale;
 - Making it more difficult for local authorities to carry out their responsibility to provide school places;
 - Meaning that schools are required to follow the dictates of the trust rather than listening to the wishes of their local communities.

2. These issues are illustrated by:
 - The recent collapse of the Wakefield City Academies Trust, the Lilac Sky Trust and the Perry Beeches Trust amidst accusations of improper financial conduct;
 - The fact that taxpayers had to pay £7million in one year to persuade trusts to take on new schools from failing academy chains.

3. Academy trusts have much greater control over individual schools than local authorities do over maintained schools. As they become larger and more influential, both democratic accountability and the autonomy of individual schools are being seriously undermined.

4. A system based on competition between schools has been shown to encourage bad practice including a focus on short term results and teaching to the test. It is particularly damaging to the interests of disadvantaged pupils. An example is the recent scandal at St Olave's

School which was excluding students at the end of year 12 to make the school's league table position look good.

5. The Labour manifestos of both 2015 and 2017 did not adequately address these issues

Young Labour believes

1. That state funded school education should be delivered by public bodies that are required to adhere to established standards of public accountability and that private companies, trusts and charities should not control state schools.
2. Labour should replace a system based on competition between schools with one based on collaboration and co-operation.
3. Centralising decision-making, monitoring and supervision of schools in Whitehall is inappropriate and ineffective. Schools should be accountable to local democratically elected bodies. Therefore Labour should commit to re-establishing local strategic management of the school system as part of a systematic and coherent devolution of power to English regions and communities.

POLICY COMMISSION: ECONOMY, BUSINESS & TRADE

Motion Title: A Publicly Owned Banking System

Proposed by: Zack Murrell-Dowson

Young Labour notes:

1. That banks and financial institutions sparked the 2007-8 financial crisis, yet were bailed out at “taxpayers” ie workers’ expense so they could continue largely as before – to the tune of £850 billion, £18,000 for every person in the UK.
2. Since then bankers’ bonuses have totalled £128 billion, in stark contrast to the grinding austerity imposed on workers. Thousands of ordinary bank staff have been laid off and bank branches are shutting at a rate of about ten a day. Meanwhile even the governor of the Bank of England has warned that banking regulation is largely unchanged and risks a new crisis.
3. Even the conservative Financial Times columnist Martin Wolf has commented: “Banks, as presently constituted and managed, cannot be trusted to perform any publicly important function... Today’s banks represent the incarnation of profit-seeking behaviour taken to its logical limits...”

Young Labour believes:

1. That we can have no confidence in a private banking sector subject only to “regulatory oversight”. Democratic public ownership is imperative in order to guarantee economic security. We can’t control what we don’t own.
2. We therefore applaud the TUC’s policy, proposed successfully by the FBU in 2012, to nationalise the banks and create a “publicly owned banking service, democratically and accountably managed... [to] play a central role in building a sustainable economy, investing in transport, green industries, housing, creating jobs and assisting recovery in the interests of working people”.
3. The next Labour government should bring the largest retail, commercial and investment banks into 100% democratic public ownership to create such a system, with compensation only for small shareholders.

Motion Title: Capital Controls and Financial Sector Regulation

Proposed by: Michael Muir

Young Labour Notes:

1. That previous radical left projects in government, such as that of Francois Mitterrand in France in the early 1980s and our comrades, SYRIZA in Greece in 2015, had their capacity to implement a socialist programme curtailed by massive and politically-orientated capital flight.
2. That Britain's current account deficit, for which the adjusted OBR projection for 2017 is £45.3 billion, makes the nation vulnerable to concerted action by international financial creditors.
3. That the operational effectiveness of our Greek comrades' decision to impose capital controls was hamstrung by the European Central Bank's political decisions and its lack of control over its own currency.
4. Further to this, the co-operation of reactionary elements within the Greek state and private banking sector limited the potency of capital controls.
5. That capital controls are not a long-term solution to the economic assault a socialist Labour government might find itself under from capital, but can at least provide vital economic and political breathing space.
6. That the City of London, broadly understood, is a reactionary special interest, and the development of finance capital at the expense of industrial capital in the post-war period is an economic development which does not benefit the British working classes.

Young Labour Believes:

1. That Labour should produce detail-driven, researched plans on implementing capital controls in the event of Labour entering the state and a politically-motivated financial crisis.
2. That Labour's development of these plans, in its policy process and elsewhere, should account for the resistance reactionary elements within the state and civil society will offer to the implementation of capital controls.
3. That capital controls are not a neutral policy instrument but a reflection of the balance of class forces; Labour's implementation of such controls must work for the many and not the few.

4. That the City of London Corporation must be abolished and its functions transferred into democratic control, as a vital first step in breaking what Sir Ferdinand Mount calls 'an overlarge financial sector'.
5. That the operational independence of the Bank of England should be ended, in order to give a future Labour Government the monetary policy flexibility needed in a financial crisis.

Motion Title: Ending age banding in the national minimum wage

Proposed by: UNISON

Young Labour welcomes the 2017 Party manifesto commitment to raise the Minimum Wage to the level of the Living Wage (expected to be at least £10 per hour by 2020) – for all workers aged 18 or over, so that work pays.

Young Labour also welcomes that at UNISON's National Delegate Conference in June 2017, Jeremy Corbyn gave an assurance that the Party would extend the manifesto commitment to those aged 16 and 17 years of age.

Young Labour believes that this commitment should be included in the Party's next General Election manifesto.

Motion Title: Industrial and economic strategy – public ownership and investment

Proposed by: CWU

Young Labour notes that the Communication Workers Union (CWU) balloted over 110,000 postal workers in Royal Mail on 14th September in the first national dispute since privatisation.

This is also the first national industrial dispute under the Tories' draconian new trade union laws and Young Labour expresses its support for CWU members, particularly younger workers involved a dispute for the first time.

Young Labour notes that staff in Royal Mail are under relentless pressure to work harder, faster and for less than ever before. Terms and conditions are under attack and young workers in Royal Mail in particular are affected by the company's attempts to introduce a two-tier workforce, with inferior contracts for new staff. The rewards of this are going towards Royal Mail's private shareholders – in just three and a half years since it was privatised Royal Mail has already paid out just under £800m in dividends.

Young Labour believes this is the familiar story of privatisation and therefore welcomes the commitment in the general election manifesto to public ownership of key industries – including rail, energy, and water – and the re-nationalisation of Royal Mail at the earliest opportunity.

The Conservative austerity agenda has created a low pay, low productivity, unbalanced economy over-reliant on consumer debt. For young workers insecure work and exploitative employment practices that should have been consigned to the Victorian era, increasingly define our future.

Young Labour believes that public investment is essential to create good jobs, rebalance the economy and upgrade our infrastructure. Young Labour therefore also endorses from the manifesto: the commitment for a National Investment Bank; plans to invest in our social housing, transport, communications and energy systems; and welcomes the proposals to deliver universal superfast broadband by 2022 and to target the roll out of ultrafast broadband within the next decade.

Young Labour also believes a Post Bank can play a key role in ending the managed decline of the Post Office network and providing banking services for SMEs and tackling financial exclusion.

Young Labour believes the focus now must be on developing the policy detail on these pledges – which command huge public support – for the next election so Labour is ready to implement a transformative programme in government from day one.

Motion Title: Invest In Our Future

Proposed by: Unite the Union

Young Labour notes

1. Since the financial crash the UK economy grew by just 8.1% over 9 years: an annual average growth rate of less than 1% in real GDP. Yet 9 years after the 1929 crash, the economy had expanded by 18.6%.
2. Successive Tory governments have failed to deliver the required funding to improve the UK's infrastructure and boost our economy. The latest World Economic Forum report ranked the UK 24th out of 138 countries on the perceived quality of its infrastructure and that the UK invests less in infrastructure as a share of GDP compared with similar countries.
3. Public investment in infrastructure pays for itself as evidenced by a report by the OECD which showed that investing 0.5% of GDP in infrastructure could boost overall GDP by almost 0.6% whilst reducing the nation's debt as a share of GDP by 0.2%.
4. TUC research has found that 1 in 8 workers are skipping meals to save money and just under half are concerned or very concerned about meeting basic household expenses. This rises to 52% amongst young people.
5. 1 in 10 workers are now in work that is classed as 'insecure'.
6. The UK is distinct in paying under 25 year olds a lower minimum wage.

Young Labour believes

1. Conservative economic policy – austerity – is the cause of the stagnation in our economy; declining living standards, real wage falls and increasingly insecure work. The Labour election manifesto put forward the economic strategy necessary to reverse these trends, transform our economy and provide decent work for all.
2. The commitments in the manifesto to replace Tory austerity with policies to deliver an economy that works 'for the many, not the few' would improve the lives and opportunities for young workers immediately and into the future.
3. Labour's industrial strategy and commitment to strengthening trade union and worker rights would mean that all young people could have greater opportunities and choice over their future.

Young Labour resolves:

1. To support Labour's manifesto commitments for investment in our housing, transport, and energy system to create good jobs, and give a greater role to public ownership.
2. To fully get behind demands for a 20 point plan for security and equality at work, a real living wage of £10 an hour, developing quality apprenticeships and abolishing tuition fees.
3. To put its full weight behind young trade unionists and activists taking action to secure these important demands: for example workers on strike for higher pay, or students demonstrating to scrap tuition fees.

Motion Title: Legal Spending Requirement on Research and Development Spending

Proposed by: Scientists for Labour

Young Labour notes

1. The United Kingdom is a world leader in the science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields. However, the United Kingdom has one of the lowest rates of research and development (R&D) spending compared to GDP in the OECD. In 2014, this rate was 1.67% of GDP compared to an average in the OECD of 2.4% of GDP. Scientists for Labour welcomed the 2017 Labour Party Manifesto target of 3% of GDP to be spent on R&D (combination of public and private spending) by 2030. However, Scientists for Labour have seen similar manifesto pledges in the past go unfulfilled. R&D spending is vital for the prosperity of our country and an increase in R&D spending would help to increase jobs, boost innovation and improve productivity.
2. Currently, UK government spending in R&D makes up 0.48% of GDP (2016), whilst the average public investment in the OECD into R&D is 0.67% of GDP. In order to achieve the goal of 3% of GDP on R&D in the UK, an increase in government investment is necessary.

Young Labour believes

1. If the UK is to maintain its position as a world leader in STEM fields the UK government must increase its R&D spending. Therefore, the Labour Party should seek to pass a bill that will ensure legal minimum spending on public R&D investment at 0.67% of GDP each year, in line with the OECD average. The manifesto's commitments to R&D spending were vague and did not provide any details to how an increase in spending would be made. We have seen similar manifesto commitments be neglected in the past. This motion is necessary as it would set a legal spending requirement that will guarantee an increase in R&D spending to a minimum of 0.67% of GDP. This motion would ensure that the manifesto pledges will be fulfilled and show that the Labour Party fully supports the STEM fields.

Motion Title: Precarious Young Workers

Proposed by: Damian Bailey

Young Labour notes:

1. That Unite the Union's 'Fight for Five-Decent Work For All' campaign and the recent strike by BFAWU members at McDonald's sites in Cambridge and London have pushed the conditions of precarious workers into public consciousness.
2. That the class aspect of this type of labour is also a generational one; a very substantial number of young people in precarious and insecure work are young people.
3. The 2017 General Election Manifesto pledged to ban the use of zero hours contracts.
4. Using a variety of methods, some trade unions have pushed back against bogus self-employment, with GMB's victory over Uber being a recent example of this.
5. The negative impacts of this type of work are extremely well documented and widely accepted; they range from poorer mental health outcomes to difficulties in paying rent and household bills.

Young Labour believes:

1. A £10 an hour wage must be the statutory minimum implemented by the next Labour government.
2. People working regular hours should have a right to be automatically offered a contract reflecting their normal hours.
3. Action should be taken to limit the use of agency workers, with instead a bias for companies and local and central government bringing their contracted services inhouse.
4. The struggle of BFAWU workers should be supported by the entire movement, as their victory would give immense morale and confidence to other young workers engaged in struggle.

Motion Title: Tackling Insecure Work

Proposed by: USDAW

Young Labour notes

1. The publication by the Government of the list of 233 employers who have underpaid the National Minimum/Living Wage.
2. That the 13,000 workers who have been underpaid by around £2million represent a record high.
3. Information from the Labour Force Survey indicating that there has been an increase in the number of people employed on zero-hours contracts whilst the average number of hours worked by people on zero-hours contracts is 25 per week.
4. That people on zero-hours contracts are more likely to be young, part-time, women, or in full-time education when compared with other people in employment.

Young Labour believes:

1. That workers' rights need to be enhanced and properly enforced.
2. That enforcement of the National Minimum/Living Wage needs to be improved and properly funded.
3. That the National Living Wage should be paid from age 18.
4. That the overuse of zero- and short-hour contracts needs to be comprehensively addressed.
5. That there needs to be a statutory right to a contract reflecting the hours a person normally works.

Motion Title: Trade Union Recognition and Access

Proposed by: Leigh Drennan

Young Labour Notes:

- 1) Trade union membership has, for individual workers, a quantifiable social and economic premium.
- 2) Union members, on average, get higher rates of pay than non-union members, work in safer workplaces, have more control over terms and conditions, and better sickness and pension benefits.
- 3) In spite of these benefits to workers, trade union membership has been falling for the past forty years, as a result of a sustained offensive from employers and reactionary governments.
- 4) A number of legal changes, ranging from Thatcher's 1980 Employment Act to the 2016 Trade Union Act, have served to weaken working people's right to withdraw their labour and take industrial action against their employer.
- 5) This weakening of the labour movement has been a cause and symptom of a weakening of the Labour Party, with working people being exposed to a more individualistic and fragmented political culture, as opposed to the collectivism of the trade union movement.

Young Labour believes:

- 1) Allowing trade unions to organise and represent their members aggressively and effectively is vital both for defending and advancing the living standards of working people, as well as building support for socialist politics.
- 2) Unless the Labour Party stakes out a bold, positive policy position, the Tories will continue to be able to undermine public support for trade unionism and trade unionists.
- 3) The Labour Party should commit not only to repealing the 2016 but the legislation introduced by Margaret Thatcher and John Major in the 1980s and 1990s.

- 4) In contrast to the current voluntary system, the Labour Party should support compulsory recognition of trade unions by employers.
- 5) In addition to this, the stated bias of Labour should be for a statutory system that promotes trade union rights, access to workplaces and collective bargaining and the actions and legislation of the next Labour Government should reflect that.

Motion Title: Why Britain needs a genuine living wage

Proposed by: Joseph Dharampal-Hornby

Young Labour notes:

That one of the great landmark achievements of the last Labour government was the introduction of a national minimum wage. Dumbfounding Tory predictions of huge job losses, it improved the lives of millions of low-paid workers, particularly women. In fact, a 2010 survey of British political experts rated it as the most successful government policy of the previous 30 years.¹

That George Osborne's so-called 'living wage' announcement in 2015 was more rhetoric than substance.² The independently-calculated real Living Wage rates are currently £9.75/hour in London and £8.45 outside the capital,³ whereas the Tories' minimum wage is currently £7.50.⁴ With inflation at 2.9%,⁵ Osborne's promise of £9/hour by 2020 is clearly nowhere near a genuine living wage.

That recent studies suggest that a record 60% of Britons in poverty are in working families.⁶ Successive governments have argued that work is the best route out of poverty, but this is only true so long as work pays.

That many university staff are on exploitative zero-hour contracts and earn well below the living wage. Meanwhile, tuition fees are rising to their highest ever level - £9,250/year,⁷ and many Vice Chancellors are earning obscene amounts – for example this year Durham's Vice Chancellor will be paid £287,000.⁸

That with an unresponsive Government, it has fallen on hard-working activists and trades unions to push for all employees to pay the living wage. There has

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11896971>

² <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33437115>

³ <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/calculation>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/live/2017/sep/12/world-stock-markets-record-highs-uk-inflation-data-business-live>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/may/22/record-britons-in-work-poverty-families-study-private-rented-housing>

⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-36856026>

⁸ <https://www.change.org/p/vice-chancellor-professor-stuart-corbridge-durham-university-pay-staff-a-fair-wage>

been some success, with a range of big-name companies – from Aviva to Nationwide – signing up to be Living Wage Employers.⁹

Young Labour believes:

That the Labour Party must implement a genuine living wage, one that falls in line with the independently-calculated Living Wage rates. The principle that someone working 9-5, Monday to Friday, should earn enough to live on, is not a complicated one, and a real living wage would help reduce in-work poverty.

That a real living wage would reduce the £27billion tax credits bill,¹⁰ allowing the Government to increase investment in education and training to help tackle Britain's productivity crisis.

That being forced to pay a living wage could also encourage British employers to up-skill staff, and move us away from a low-wage, low-skill economy.

That with the huge sums of money involved in university tuition, the gross inequality between the Vice Chancellors and the low-paid staff members is both unfair and quite frankly unsustainable.

That until a genuine living wage becomes law, the Labour Party and its affiliate organizations should encourage all employers, including universities, to pay a genuine living wage, and play their part in building an economy that works for the many, not the few.

⁹ <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/who-pays-the-living-wage>

¹⁰ <http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/forecasts-in-depth/tax-by-tax-spend-by-spend/welfare-spending-tax-credits/>

Motion Title: Young Workers' Rights

Proposed by: Alex Stuart

Young Labour notes:

1. That on 4 September, members of the Bakers', Food and Allied Workers' Union at McDonald's branches in Cambridge and Crayford struck for £10 an hour, secure contracts with guaranteed hours, and union recognition, as well as grievances over bullying from management. Attempting to live on low wages, with no guaranteed hours, has meant that some young employees have found themselves unable to meet their rent payments and have become homeless as a result.
2. We also note the ongoing, year-long struggle by Picturehouse cinema workers (part of cineworld) to win the Living Wage, decent maternity and sick pay, and union recognition, as well as the reinstatement of four sacked union reps. This Summer has seen a flurry of strikes, from cleaners at London universities and hospitals to BA cabin crew, London buses, rail workers, Sellafield nuclear workers, Fawley oil refinery, TAs in Durham and Derby, teachers at Forest Hill School and refuse workers in Birmingham and Doncaster.
3. Labour supports these and other workers' struggles, and has committed to a £10/hour minimum wage, banning zero hours contracts, and a rights at work charter. At this year's Trades Union Congress Jeremy Corbyn urged young people to join a union and get organised at work as the most effective way to fight precariousness and low pay.
4. As of 1 April 2017, the National Living Wage of £7.50 is obligatory only for workers over 25, with 21-24 year olds getting £5.60 for ages 18-20 and £4.05 for under 18s. Apprentices under 19, or in their first year, are entitled to £3.50 per hour. There is no minimum wage for under 16s. Over recent years, trade unions have successfully negotiated the removal of these differential youth rates from many agreements ensuring that young workers are paid the same as over 25s.

Young Labour believes:

1. That young people should not be discriminated against through lower rates of pay - all youth rates should be abolished. The National Living Wage should be replaced with a universal living wage of £10 per hour. This starts with supporting and spreading young workers' struggles now. Labour should proudly support and encourage strikes as something

positive in terms of workers standing up for themselves, and organise a big drive to draw young people into unions and workplace organising.

2. For these struggles to be effective, we must restore our right to strike effectively. Labour should pledge to scrap all anti-union laws and introduce a strong legal charter of workers' rights – to unionise; win recognition and collective bargaining; strike, for purposes of workers' own choosing including in solidarity with other workers and for political goals; and picket freely.

POLICY COMMISSION: ENVIRONMENT ENERGY AND CULTURE

Motion Title:

Proposed by: Chris Saltmarsh

Young Labour notes:

The overwhelming majority of known fossil fuel reserves must not be extracted and burnt to avoid the irreversible effects of catastrophic climate change.

While the profits of climate change are privatized, there is significant risk of financial loss in the public sector if investments in fossil fuels become stranded assets and the social and financial costs of the climate crisis continue to be socialised.

The manifesto 'For the Many Not the Few' already calls for greater investment to decarbonize the economy and for publicly owned sustainable energy production.

UK councils' Local Government Pension Scheme have £14bn invested in fossil fuel investments and MPs have millions invested in the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund.

UK universities support the fossil fuel industry directly through their £5.2bn investments in fossil fuel companies, but over one third have now made divestment commitments following student-led campaigns.

Labour councils Waltham Forest and Southwark were the first in the country to divest their pension funds from fossil fuels following local campaigns.

The TUC recently adopted policy to investigate the long-term risks of fossil fuel investments, and promote divestment and reinvestment in the sustainable economy.

Unison recently adopted policy to campaign with other trade unions to divest Local Government Pension Scheme from fossil fuel investments over the next five years.

Young Labour believes:

Young Labour and the Labour Party should follow the lead of young people who will suffer the worst effects of climate change, along with the working class/global poor, women, and migrants displaced from the global south, as they lead calls for public funds to be used to solve the climate crisis rather than worsen it.

The Labour Party should support fossil fuel divestment campaigns, and encourage all publicly funded institutions to divest and positively reinvest in renewables for a just transition.

The Labour Party should support divestment of local government and parliamentary funds in the interests of pension scheme members, taxpayers and those affected by climate change.

Banks should not drive climate colonialism by financing fossil fuel extraction globally. Young Labour and the Labour Party should commit to using ethical banks that do not finance fossil fuel companies, including explicitly boycotting Barclays, who have the highest levels of fossil fuel finance of all UK high street banks, and have been the subject of national campaigning and demands for them to divest.

The Labour Party should work with trade unions and climate justice campaigns to implement divest-reinvest policy as part of the Just Transition industrial strategy to rapidly decarbonise the (global) economy and ensure job security and compensation for workers in affected industries.

A Labour government should found a national green investment bank to fund mass investment in renewable technology innovation and infrastructure.

The Labour Party should express practical solidarity with front line communities resisting new fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure projects in the UK and globally – fracking, coal mining, tar sands, oil pipelines, etc. - by supporting their struggles and exerting whatever leverage available to stop their construction or decommission existing projects.

POLICY COMMISSION: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Motion Title: A Crisis in Young People's Mental Health

Proposed by: Miriam Mirwitch

Young Labour notes:

- The number of young people arriving in A&E with a psychiatric condition has doubled since 2009. (Independent)
- The numbers of students dropping out of university due to mental health problems has increased by 210% since 2009. (HESA)
- During 2016 Childline received over 50,000 calls from young people concerned about their mental health (Childline)
- A fifth of children referred to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in England were refused treatment. (NSPCC)
- Mental health hospital budgets have been slashed by £150m in the past four years under Conservative led governments. (The BMA)
- That Young Labour's priority campaign is on young people's mental health services.

Young Labour believes:

- That every person, regardless of their postcode and background, deserves access to high quality mental health services.
- The Conservatives have pledged time and time again to improve mental health care, but have continued to cut budgets and have failed to invest in vital services.
- Mental health services, including adolescent and child mental health services, are in desperate need of more funding and resources from central government.
- That there must be a real parity of care between mental and physical health.
- It is utterly unjust that young people must travel across the country, away from their friends and family, to access inpatient care and that sometimes inpatient care beds aren't available at all.
- That there is a crisis in young people's mental health, pushed to breaking point by Tory austerity, and that action is desperately needed.

Motion Title: Freedom to donate blood for men who sleep with men

Proposed by: Rachel Megan Barker

Young Labour notes:

- That currently, a man who has slept with a man in the last three months, or anyone who has slept with a man who has slept with a man in the last three months is unable to donate blood.
- This law stems back, originally, to the HIV crisis among the LGBT community in the 80s, and the subsequent ban on all men who had slept with men donating blood. This ban has been rolled back throughout the years, however, the law is still different to those who have only had heterosexual sexual relations.
- Third and fourth generation tests can detect HIV antibodies within three to four weeks of infection, compared with older HIV tests for which the window period was as great as three months.
- Public Health England statistics estimate that 3,320 of the 6,095 people who were newly infected with HIV in 2015 were gay or bisexual; only just over half (1,373 of those newly infected were in London; making being in London vs being elsewhere in the country a better predictor of HIV status than gender of sexual partners).

Young Labour believes:

- That the three month limit on men who sleep with men donating blood is still antiquated and discriminatory.
- That laws surrounding sexual activity and blood donation should be the same regardless of the gender or genders of a person's former partners.
- That the Labour Party in opposition should take a clear stance on this, and argue for the equalisation of blood donation laws.
- That the next Labour government should equalise blood donation laws, making the rules the same regardless of the gender or genders of a person's sexual partners, should this government fail to do so.

Motion Title: Northern Irish Reproductive Rights

Proposed by: Sarah-Jayne Smyth

Young Labour notes-

1. The Abortion Act 1967 has never been extended to Northern Ireland;
2. The foundation of NI abortion law remains the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 which makes it a criminal offence to have an abortion or perform one on another person. The 1861 Act is still in effect in England and Wales;
3. The introduction of the Abortion Act 1967 did not decriminalise abortion in England and Wales: it allowed exceptions to the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act under which the obtaining or performing an abortion would be lawful;
4. An abortion will be lawful in NI if performed: a. To save the life of the pregnant person; or b. Where continuing the pregnancy would risk permanent and serious damage to the physical or mental health of the pregnant person;
5. In 2016 more than 700 Northern Irish women travelled to England to procure an abortion;
6. Before 2017 people from Northern Ireland were unable to have an NHS funded abortion in England instead having to pay privately for the service, at a cost of minimum £500 not including travel expenses.
7. In the past, people have been arrested for trying to procure an abortion (be it through a GP, travelling to England to obtain an abortion or through backstreet/ self-induced abortions)
8. On 4 April 2016, a 21-year-old woman was given a three-month suspended sentence for procuring an abortion with pills purchased online. She had been reported to the PSNI by her housemates;
9. In recent years the use of abortion pills has increased, with a reported 1,438 women from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland making use of these pills in 2015, these abortions are carried out with no medical supervision subsequently putting the lives of women at risk.

Young Labour believes;

1. The next Labour Government should extend the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland, and make free, safe and legal abortions available to people in Northern Ireland.

Motion Title: Tackling the Mental Health Crisis - a National Strategy for Mental Health

Proposed by: Socialist Health Action

Young Labour notes:

1. Self harm and suicide have continued to rise in the last 20 years, and for young people in the U.K. rates are now among the highest in Europe, according to the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
2. NHS Providers reported in July that demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health services rose 44% from 2013 to 2016, far outstripping growth in demand for physical healthcare.
3. Acute mental health crises are manifestations of emotional distress, and can be seen as a symptom of a often complex mix of difficult personal circumstances, past traumas and social and economic deprivation. It is associated with long term mental health problems and drug and alcohol abuse.
4. There are higher rates of self harm among prisoners, asylum seekers, veterans from the armed forces, people bereaved by suicide, some cultural minority groups and the LGBT community.

Young Labour believes:

1. The social context of self harm and suicide demands a cross-sectoral approach, in the form of **community based mental wellbeing collaboratives**, linking health providers with other stakeholders including councils, youth work teams, schools and colleges, ambulance services and police. Minimum standards of timeliness and quality of care should be guaranteed by a new **National Service Framework for Mental Health**.
2. For young people this means focusing on:
 - a. timely access to evidence-based care;
 - b. targeted interventions on drug and alcohol use;
 - c. anti-stigma campaigns; and, most importantly,
 - d. addressing systemic causes of social exclusion.
3. Erosion in funding for primary and secondary mental health care must be reversed, with the aim of achieving **parity of funding**. (That is not to say that funding should be mathematically equal to funding for physical

health, but that the level of funding should be determined systematically according to need.)

4. A **National Strategy for Mental Health** should be created to improve the resilience of communities across the board and should include but by no means be limited to:
 - a. improving the capacity of schools to offer help and support for those struggling;
 - b. restoring universities as places of learning rather than competition;
 - c. providing funded apprenticeships and pathways to meaningful and secure jobs;
 - d. providing access to secure, good quality and affordable housing;
 - e. improving funding to mental health care so that more holistic care can be provided in emergency settings; and
 - f. offering mental health training to all those in key roles such as teachers, police, job centre staff, councillors, and allied healthcare professionals so they can respond sensitively and appropriately to crisis.

POLICY COMMISSION: HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TRANSPORT

Motion Title: Building virtuous local economies

Proposed by: Fred Jerrome

Young Labour notes:

1. The United Kingdom is blighted by a model of capitalism that gives little incentive to the execution or creation of good work
2. The interests of unrestrained markets have dominated politics for too long
3. Despite advances made by the 1997-2010 Labour government, it has been too easy for Tory-led ministries to turn the state into a mechanism for punishing the poor, the vulnerable, and the socially disadvantaged.
4. The UK is among the most centralised countries in the world. Conservative devolution has not changed this as local capacity to act has been limited by cuts.
5. Cuts have left little for creative political leadership at a municipal level as new schemes are scrapped by the Tory-enforced need to reduce spending
6. Nonetheless, councils such as Preston, Manchester and Leeds have shown local markets can be shaped to deliver more just outcomes through state intervention, but also moral and institutional interests countervailing those of capital
7. Local public institutions are uniquely well-placed to create good local economies thanks to their sensitive relationships with public, commercial and community actors

Young Labour believes:

1. While Labour remains in opposition, all effort and education should be made to support Labour councils in developing as radical models as possible under current legislation to build good local economies
2. Good local economies can be defined as ones which enable flourishing of actors for whom the interests of that particular place form an inseparable part of their own personal interests
3. Footloose capital can best be challenged by powerful place-based public and civil institutions; the UK currently suffers from a lack of such actors as the logic of so-called market efficiency pervades public and private institutions

4. The cities, towns and counties that our citizens inhabit form an important part of their identity. Therefore the next Labour government should legislate to ensure as much local control as possible over matters affecting relevant communities
5. Local control should include tax and other fund raising, housing, health, transport, labour market regulation, and economic development
6. Though there is a balance to be struck between national equality of provision and local control, in many cases the right to amend and innovate locally will make the radical programme of the next Labour government more, not less effective.

Motion Title: Fighting to Reverse Local Government Cuts

Proposed By: Andrew Peak

Young Labour notes:

1. That the funding situation for councils is already dire and that under the Tories' plans it will reach crisis-point.
2. That the funding cuts have disproportionately affected Labour councils with high levels of poverty and deprivation.
3. That the party and the councils we control do not seem to have much strategy for fighting these cuts. In fact we do not even seem to be calling for the restoration of lost funding.
4. That a number of Labour councils have pitched themselves into high profile disputes with their workers, eg Birmingham bins, Derby and Durham classroom assistants, Lewisham teachers.

Young Labour believes:

1. That Labour councils and the whole party should explicitly and vocally demand and campaign for the rapid restoration of every penny of funding lost since 2010, and that it should be explicit Labour policy to do this in government.
2. That councils should stop promoting outsourcing, privatisation, academisation, community-devastating "regeneration" schemes, etc – policies which are not the result of cuts but of political choice – and instead pursue the opposite kind of policies, eg insourcing of services.
3. That councils should find ways to stave off cuts (eg running down reserves) in the expectation that we can win restored funding. They should use this time to help mobilise local and wider campaigning, eg protests, strikes, direction action as well as political action to pressure the government.
4. That councils and councillors should make themselves more accountable and engage in dialogue and debate with their local Labour Parties, trade unions, community organisations, etc, about what they do rather than insisting no discussion is possible and simply imposing policies.
5. That we need to dispel myths around these issues, eg the idea that councillors can go to prison or be surcharged, neither of which are the case. Or eg that having government commissioners take over a council – which would mean that elected councillors working with the local labour movement and community could then fight them – would necessarily be worse than us carrying out the cuts on the Tories' behalf.

Motion Title: Homes for the many, not speculative investments for the few

Proposed by: Unite the Union

Young Labour notes:

1. The housing composite passed at Labour Conference 2017 included calling on councils to:
 - a) Directly deliver construction and maintenance services that can guarantee high quality council housing, with secure lifetime tenancies and genuinely affordable rent.
 - b) Ensure a sustainable means of meeting their local housing need by retaining ownership and control of available public land.
 - c) Prioritise providing homes at social rents and to cease disposing or transferring of public land, council estates and commercial property for the benefit of private-sector housing and investment opportunities for the few and to ensure all new homes are built to the highest safety, environmental and construction standards.
 - d) Support full binding - ballot rights for estate residents in any on-going and future regeneration projects.
2. The Labour manifesto recognised the importance of council housing in tackling the housing crisis and committed the Labour government to the largest building programme in 30 years, that councils would have the ability to suspend "Right to Buy" and reinstate housing benefit for under 21 year olds.
3. Jeremy Corbyn highlighted in his Conference speech that many cities around the world already operate rent controls.
4. More than a third of those made homeless lose their homes due to the termination of a tenancy in the private rented sector.

Young Labour believes:

1. The housing crisis is worsening and requires urgent and bold action to tackle it and deliver safe, secure homes for all.
2. Young people are increasingly living in insecure accommodation that is not fit for habitation.
3. Such a basic human need as shelter should not be left to the market. There is an urgent need for greater regulation to ensure that everyone has a genuinely affordable home, and to embark on a large scale council house building programme to address supply.

4. That jobs created in the construction of homes should be good jobs. Business who blacklist workers and other poor employers should not be rewarded public contracts. The Labour commitments to ban umbrella/payroll companies is welcome, alongside other commitments to strengthening trade union and worker rights.

Young Labour resolves:

1. To run a campaign in support of rent controls, producing campaign packs including petitions, correx signs and other materials for Young Labour groups and CLPs to use.
2. Approach trade union youth sections to sign up to the campaign and help promote the campaign.
3. To encourage young councillors to champion the cause of rent controls and council house building to their Labour Groups.
3. To call on councils to use direct labour organisations in the construction, repair and maintenance of council homes as part of ending insecure work.
4. To work with the "Kill the Housing Bill" campaign, which is a coalition of trade unions, local tenants' federations and activist groups.

Motion Title: Support RMT – Against DOO

Proposed By: Marcus Barnett

Young Labour notes:

That Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has used the summer period to break the Tories' promise of rail electrification for the North of England, the Midlands and Wales – regions whose economies are significantly dependent upon improved, electrified rail links.

That further concerns are raised by the 15th August announcement that fares next year will rise by an inflation-busting 3.6%.

That this current dispute around 'Driver Only Operation' (DOO) is political in nature, and has continued longer than the Miner's Strike of 1984-85.

That cuts to frontline staff on the railways have gone so deep that during the recent Parson's Green attack, there was just one member of frontline staff on hand.

That between 2011-16, 80% of the passenger-train interface incidents have occurred on services with DOO in operation.

That guards have played a vital role in the safe evacuation of trains in numerous incidents across the rail network.

Young Labour believes:

That Safety Critical train guards are essential to passenger safety. Alongside other front-line station staff, they are vital to having an accessible public transport system.

That the Tory government and Chris Grayling has refused to engage in constructive or meaningful communication with service users or railway employees with regards to the safety and accessibility of the service.

That this dispute is a politically-motivated attack on the trade union movement by the Conservative government.

That a future Labour government's transport policy will commit ourselves to renationalising the railways and all infrastructure, whilst also halting the introduction of DOO and halting the current schedule of ticket office closures.

That all Labour representatives should stand in solidarity with RMT guards in defence of their jobs, and against Southern Rail, Greater Anglia, Mersey Rail and Northern Rail.

Motion Title: Young care leavers should be exempt from Council tax

Proposed by: Matthew Sullivan

Young Labour notes:

1. That in 2016 in England there were approximately 53,000 care leavers under the age of 25. A care leaver is defined as a person who has been in the care of the local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who was in care on their 16th birthday.
2. That the 2016 report by The Children's Society shows that care leavers can find the transition to independent life extremely challenging, with no family to support them, and limited financial education. In the Rochdale local authority area, 77% of care leavers were found to be in council tax arrears.
3. That the Children's Society recommend that local authorities make care leavers eligible for 100% council tax support until they turn 25, in order to mitigate the possibility that care leavers fall into debt.
4. That research by the Centre for Social Justice found that over half (57%) of young people leaving care have difficulty managing their money and avoiding debt.
5. That although full-time students of any age are not considered adults for the purposes of Council tax, and are able to obtain a 100% exemption, young care leavers are liable as soon as they leave local authority care at the age of 18.
6. That local authorities have a corporate parenting responsibilities towards care leavers up until the age of 25, and have the power to exempt care leavers from paying Council tax. 33 of 152 local authorities have introduced some form of council tax exemption for care leavers.

Young Labour believes:

1. That local authorities in the UK should make care leavers eligible for a 100% Council tax discount until they turn 25.
2. That such authorities should make reasonable efforts to make care leavers under the age of 25 aware of their eligibility for the discount, and allow the discount to be back-dated.

Motion Title: Young People Deserve Decent Housing Too!

Proposed by: Lilian Jones

Young Labour Notes:

1. That at the 2017 General election Labour pledged a radical change to housing that will benefit the many not the few
2. Labour's pledge to promise minimum standards will mean the delivery of radical change in our private housing sector and benefit young people up and down the country
3. That Labour's pledge to reverse the Tory cuts to housing support for 18-21 will benefit young people, improve the quality of housing that young people can afford
4. That until we have a Labour government, Young Labour must continue to campaign for better standards for those living in poor quality housing
5. Young Labour should also campaign for better housing support to ensure young people do not continue to fall through the cracks and end up on the streets
6. That the Conservatives have backed plans to ban extortionate letting agent fees that often disproportionately sting young people renting cheaper properties for shorter time periods

Young Labour Believes:

1. The Tories ideologically driven austerity drive has hit young people the hardest
2. That as Young Labour members we should all work together to campaign against the Tories' attacks on young people
3. Cuts to housing support for 18-21 year olds is pushing people into unsafe and unfit housing
4. That the Tories refusal to back Jeremy's calls for legislation ensuring that *all homes are fit for human habitation* shows they are on the side of rogue landlords and not on the side of young tenants
5. That the number of young people and students living in poor quality housing is too high and that we deserve minimum standards
6. That the Tories cannot be trusted to carry out a ban on letting agent fees as they have promised
7. To back Jeremy's calls to create basic minimum standards in the private housing sector
8. To back Labour's plans to reverse housing support cuts for 18-21 year olds

9. To work alongside the Trade Union movements, the Co-Operative Party and Labour Students to campaign for better quality housing for young people

POLICY COMMISSION: INTERNATIONAL

Motion Title:

Proposed by: Lana Hylands

Young Labour notes: that incredible progress has been made in the HIV response, paving the way for an ambitious target within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. But progress is beginning to slow. New infections remain stubbornly high and in 2016 1.8 million people became newly infected with HIV. HIV&AIDS continues to disproportionately affect young people, with adolescents the only demographic where AIDS-related deaths are increasing.

Without a global scale-up in the HIV response, UNAIDS research has suggested that progress will stall and the epidemic will bounce back, carrying a heavy human and financial toll. At this critical time, support from donors for the HIV response is also diminishing, and in 2016 donor government funding declined for the second consecutive year. Despite a legacy of UK Government financial leadership within the HIV response, under the current Government, Youth Stop AIDS's 'It Ain't Over' campaign has raised alarm that DFID's commitment to HIV is fading.

The gaps in the UK Government's HIV response can be shown by:

- DFID closing the majority of country office programmes focused on HIV, with funding falling from £221m in 2009 to just £23m in 2016.
- DFID's last HIV strategy expired in 2015, and there are no plans to renew it.
- The UK Government has failed to send senior political representation to the International AIDS Conference since 2012.

Young Labour believes: a Labour Government should renew their commitment to the global HIV&AIDS response and lead the world in making AIDS history. A Labour Government can be leaders in the global HIV&AIDS response by following the recommendations in the report by Youth Stop AIDS and STOPAIDS: 'A Stocktake Review of DFID's Work on HIV and AIDS':

1) Plugging the funding gap: Increasing funds to the global HIV response, in particular to organisations and movements working with key population groups that are disproportionately affected by HIV&AIDS, eg. young people, Men Who Have Sex With Men, sex workers. They can do this in part through increasing the contribution to The Robert Carr Network Fund, which specialises in supporting these groups. It is severely underfunded but achieving amazing results across the world.

2) Prioritising young people: A Labour Government should recognise HIV as a youth issue and include HIV in the operationalisation of DFID's Youth Agenda. This includes supporting young people to design, deliver and monitor their own youth HIV programmes, as well as supporting young people to be effective HIV advocates in global spaces.

3) Showing political leadership: A Labour Government should proudly and publicly demonstrate its commitment to ending AIDS by 2030 and ensure attendance at all high-level HIV forums. Labour should use its position on the global stage to advocate for key population groups and an evidence-based approach on issues such as harm reduction.

Motion Title: Peace and Justice - for a Palestinian state alongside Israel

Proposed by: Josh Chown

Young Labour notes:

1. That since 1948, while the State of Israel was established, the Palestinian people have never had a state of their own.
2. That since 1967, the West Bank and Gaza have been under Israeli military occupation which has consistently denied the Palestinians their right to freedom and self-determination.
3. That Israeli settlement activity has continued unabated in recent years, in contravention of international law, threatening the viability of a future Palestinian state.
4. While the hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab countries in the 1940s and 50s found refuge and citizenship in the State of Israel, the Palestinian refugees of the Nakba and their descendants have been denied any such resolution to their suffering.
5. On 27 May of this year, a demonstration took place in Tel Aviv where thousands of Jews and Arabs protested 50 years of Israeli occupation.

Young Labour believes:

1. That there can be no meaningful peace in Israel-Palestine without justice for the Palestinians: an end to the occupation, a just solution for the Palestinian refugees and their descendants, a truly independent Palestinian state with the same rights as Israel, and aid from Israel and its allies to make that state viable.
2. A prerequisite for peace and justice in the Middle East is a recognition of the right of both the Israeli and Palestinian people to national self-determination and both peoples' right to live with independence, dignity and freedom
3. That in pursuit of these goals we should be building links with activists in Palestine and Israel fighting for peace on the basis of justice, self-determination and mutual recognition. We recognise the words of Marwan Barghouti, when he said, "I still seek peaceful coexistence between the equal and independent countries of Israel and Palestine" and that "I do not seek to destroy Israel but only to end its occupation of my country."
4. That organisations like the Workers Advice Centre-Ma'an, which organises Israeli and Palestinian workers including some of the most exploited such as those Palestinians who work in settlements, are exactly the sort of organisation that should be supported; unifying Jewish and Arab workers through fighting their bosses and the occupation.

5. We should publicly affirm Labour's support for an immediate end to Israel's occupation, the dismantling of illegal settlements and the creation of an independent Palestinian state.
6. We should publicise the work of WAC-Ma'an and other Israeli and Palestinian organisations which support peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.
7. We must lobby the UK government to recognise the State of Palestine and demand that any future Labour government recognises the State of Palestine

Motion Title: Support Corbyn and Internationalism, Oppose Trump and NATO

Proposed by: Christopher Barbour

Young Labour Notes:

1. Since at least the mid-nineteenth century, the relationship between 'the West' and the rest of the world has been one defined by imperialism, that is, a system in its broad outlines based on war, racism and exploitation of the less developed parts of the world.
2. Following the end of the Second World War and the advent of the Cold War, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was formed, in order to enshrine the dominance of American interests.
3. Between 1945 and 2000, American imperialism bombed at least 27 countries, assassinated or attempted to assassinate thirty world leaders and tried to overthrow forty governments.
4. Such episodes include the wars of aggression in Korea in the 1950s, Vietnam in the 1960s, the coup in Chile in 1973, the CIA-funded death squads in Central America in the 1980s, and the starvation of a half a million Iraqi children to death in the 1990s.
5. The collapse of Communism post-1989 rendered any real logical justification for NATO moot, since the European glacial states no longer needed defence nor could the immense build-up of military matériel be justified.
6. In order to regain an ideological justification, NATO member-states, including the UK, pursued a policy of wars of aggression against predominantly Muslim countries, first in Afghanistan, then in Iraq.
7. These wars did nothing to make the citizens of Western countries safer; instead they fuelled Islamophobia at home and intense resentment abroad.
8. These wars also triggered a crisis for our own Party, with voters turning away in disgust and public faith in parliamentary democracy falling.
9. Today Donald Trump stands astride NATO, most recently threatening to commit a nuclear atrocity in the Korean peninsula, whilst closing the borders to the refugees of war in the Middle East.
10. Jeremy Corbyn is a long-time opponent of imperialism and aggressive wars.

Young Labour Believes:

- 1) From Guyana to Vietnam to Iraq, the Labour Party all too often been complicit in American overseas aggression.
- 2) NATO has been the lynchpin and institutional expression of American imperialism.
- 3) Like its Leader, Shadow Chancellor and Shadow Home Secretary, the Labour Party should be avowedly anti-imperialist.

Labour should commit to withdrawal from NATO on the basis that it no longer meets our collective security needs, is headed by a man variously viewed as an authoritarian and a fascist, and that its continual aggression makes people in the UK less safe than they otherwise would

POLICY COMMISSION: JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Motion Title: A comprehensive review into drug policy, similar to that recently undertaken by the Republic of Ireland (see 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery... in Ireland 2017-2025').

Proposed by: David Rowland

Young Labour Notes:

There is little argument that the 2017 Labour Manifesto was well attuned to the interests of the British electorate, and this is what the British public responded to (despite the often unfavourable coverage of the Labour Party over the last couple years).

But one area which received no mention in the Labour Party manifesto was drug policy. This was an understandable absence – drug policy is a controversial issue which was unsuited to a General Election fought around more immediate and pressing issues in the wake of Brexit, numerous terrorist attacks and in light of the public service crises and the housing crisis. But this long-standing issue should be ignored no longer.

In the U.K. we have consistently had:

1. The highest number of people seeking treatment for cannabis-related health disorders in Europe
2. The largest proportion of 15- to 34-year olds who have used cocaine in the OECD (thirty-five country organisation).
3. The highest number of drug-related fatalities in western Europe
4. Disproportionate use of stop and search against ethnic minorities, and disproportionate arrest and sentencing rates for drug possession for those of BAME backgrounds. This phenomenon is not endemic to the British justice system: this has also been observed in major cities in France, Canada and the U.S... However, these countries are now addressing these issues: France is depenalising cannabis possession (offenders no longer face criminal penalties), Canada is decriminalising cannabis possession (possession is no longer a criminal offence) and half of all U.S. citizens now live in a state where cannabis has been legalised to some degree.

5. A prison and courts system that is overburdened, leading to a breakdown in law and order.

This evidenced by prison riots, high levels of prison violence, suicides and self-harm and high rates of recidivism, drug addiction and debt. There is typically also a several months waiting period before *serious* drug offences (such as dealing hard drugs to children) even get taken to court, because most courts are so backed-up. There are now only a couple thousand prison places left across the whole of the U.K., with priority for those places assigned to knife crime and acid attack offenders.

6. Under-funded and unprogressive drug-treatment services: modern rehabilitative therapies and ancillary psychosocial services could be integrated, based on neuropsychiatric research and reviews of best clinical practice.

Young Labour believes:

The Labour Government-in-waiting should provide sensible, compassionate policies that have a real chance of tackling the harms and risks of drug use and the injustices caused by our present and historic knee-jerk approach to drug-using trends. This should be done by first consulting with an expert working group and then seeking opinions from ordinary members of the public (via focus groups), organisations active in British public life (e.g. charities, NGOs, religious groups) and those of Labour members.

Motion Title: Defend and extend free movement

Proposer: Rida Vaquas

Young Labour notes:

1. The Government announced in July that free movement within the EU would end in March 2019.
2. On 24th August, the ONS announced EU migration into the UK had fallen by 51,000.
3. The transitional Brexit deal proposed by the Labour Party on 26th August includes free movement.

Young Labour believes:

1. Falling wages, the housing crisis, and overstretched services are caused by the government and employers who are committed to making the rich richer by attacking working people's conditions. These problems are not caused by immigration.
2. The solutions to these problems are large-scale public funding programmes and the strengthening of trade union rights, making all workplaces easier to organise in.
3. The recent victories of SOAS and LSE cleaners against outsourcing demonstrate that migrant workers are central to improving low-paid workers rights and conditions.
4. Labour is an internationalist organisation, we stand in solidarity with working people regardless of nationality or race.
5. Limiting free movement in any way makes migrant workers vulnerable to hyper-exploitation, and therefore makes downward pressure on wages more likely.
6. The Labour Party should commit to maintaining free movement in the EU on a permanent basis.
7. Labour should commit to closing down all detention centres in the UK.
8. Labour should abolish the 'no recourse to public funds' visa requirement, as well as income thresholds for immigration into the UK, as these damage the ability of working people and their families to live and move together, and to challenge exploitative employers.
9. Labour should abolish the requirement of police registration for migrants from specific countries, which discriminates on the basis of nationality.

Motion Title: Exploitation of migrant workers in a post-Brexit Britain.

Proposed by: Cambridge University Labour Club

Young Labour notes:

- That foreign-born workers make up a large part of the labour market, particularly in generally low-paid sectors of the economy such as agriculture and hospitality.
- That workers in these sectors of the economy have been identified by the TUC Commission on Vulnerable Employment as having a high risk of exploitation.
- In 2016, as part of a host of measures recognising the seriousness of the problems of modern day slavery and labour exploitation, the GLAA (Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority) was given a remit to combat exploitation over all sectors of the economy, rather than just agriculture, horticulture and cockle-picking as was previously the case.
- That the GLAA has been criticised by Oxfam for its relationship with the UK Border Agency which prevents the most exploited workers coming forward for fear of punishment or deportation.

Young Labour believes:

- That placing limits on the number of migrants able to enter the UK from the EU will not in itself prevent the exploitation of migrant workers. In reality, denying migrants permission to work in the UK is unlikely to stop them working or prevent employers using them.
- Instead, it may simply push the problem underground, fuel trafficking and mean more workers are afraid to speak out because of fears about their immigration status. As the 2004 Morecambe Bay cockling disaster demonstrated, undocumented migrants without the legal right to work are particularly vulnerable to severe exploitation.
- Therefore, the government must commit to a policy which focuses on punishing exploitative employers and protecting all workers, whatever their immigration status.

Motion Title: Motion on anti-fascism

Proposed by: Artin Giles

Young Labour notes:

1. That the election of Donald Trump to the U.S Presidency in November 2016 has galvanised the far-right, with fascist and far-right movements across the world emboldened by his victory;
2. That the electoral success of the far-right Alternative fur Deutschland in the recent German elections illustrates the worrying rise of the far-right in Europe;
3. That the number of votes gained by Marine Le Pen of the Front National , in the recent French election represents a post-war high for French fascism;
4. That in Britain, far-right activists such as Tommy Robinson and Britain First are attempting to enter the political mainstream through anti-Muslim agitation; that 33 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales saw the highest levels of hate crimes since comparable records began;¹¹ and Theresa May has adopted the language of the far-right when taking of “unsustainable levels” of immigration.¹²

Young Labour believes:

1. Fascism is a scavenger ideology. It is a movement of violence against ethnic minorities and the organised labour movement. Though it poses as a radical alternative to the ruling order, fascism is the strong arm of the rich. When it gains power, fascist movements suppress all organisations sincerely interested in improving the conditions of the working class.
2. Although fascists hide behind patriotic rhetoric, their real intentions are often clear. Marine Le Pen’s robust defence of the actions of the French police in the ‘Vel d’Hiv’ round-up, where Parisian police arrested over 13,000 Parisian Jews for imminent deportation to Nazi death camps, was a telling example of her sympathy for the aims of Nazism.¹³
3. From opposing Oswald Mosley’s Blackshirts to the British National Party, the Labour movement has a proud history of anti-fascism. By exposing the lies of fascists, offering unconditional solidarity with minority communities, and proposing concrete, socialist alternatives to poverty and economic crisis, we have always undermined the far-right.
4. Although British fascism is currently weak, hate crimes against Muslim and Jewish communities rise year upon year, and fascists constantly

¹¹ BBC News, 15/02/17

¹² BBC News, 06/10/2015

¹³ The Guardian, 09/04/2017

attempt to grow – both online and on the streets – preying on fears related to terrorism and declining economic prosperity.

5. That we must redouble our efforts in opposing racism in British society, and to offer unconditional support to ethnic minority communities threatened directly by fascism - particularly to the Jewish and Muslim communities.
6. To support the motion on antisemitism that was passed unanimously by the National Executive Committee (NEC) prior to this year's annual conference in Brighton.
7. To combat attempts to divide ordinary people on the grounds of race or religion, and to undermine the political arguments of fascism both nationally and within our communities..
8. To remain vigilant against the growth of any potential fascist movement growing in Britain; to work with local communities and anti-fascist organisations in opposing these movements in ways they deem appropriate including: demonstrations of solidarity with victims of fascism and organisation against far right movements.

Motion Title: Re-Open the Dubs Amendment

Proposed by: Liron Velleman

Young Labour Notes:

1. From December 1938 to August 1939, Britain allowed 10,000 Jewish children on the Kindertransport to seek refuge from Nazi Germany, including Alf Dubs, a leading campaigner for refugee rights.
2. Exodus 22:20 teaches us that, "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."
3. The Jewish Labour Movement held a fringe session at Labour Party Conference 2017, 'The Jewish response to the refugee crisis' with speakers including Lord Dubs.
4. There are currently 95,000 unaccompanied refugee children living in Europe.
5. In 2016, more than 25,800 unaccompanied children risked their lives to reach Europe.
6. Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, often known as the Dubs Amendment, required the government to relocate to the United Kingdom and support unaccompanied child refugees.
7. Lord Dubs had expected the Government to allow 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees into Britain, however the Government have only allowed 200 children to enter and have announced that the scheme will close after 480 children have entered.

Young Labour Believes:

1. Britain has a responsibility to relocate, support and welcome unaccompanied child refugees to the United Kingdom.
2. The Labour Party should be at the forefront of fighting for these issues as a proud internationalist party.
3. The Labour Party should press the government to reopen the Dubs Amendment as well as honouring the Children at Risk Scheme, the National Transfer Scheme and Dublin legislation under EU law to take in unaccompanied child refugee if they can be reunited with family in Britain.
4. Local authorities should do their utmost to allocate resources to unaccompanied child refugees to show the UK government that more than 480 children can be accepted into Britain.

Motion Title: Rising Islamophobia

Proposed by: Eda Cazimoglu

Young Labour notes:

1. Spikes in anti-Muslim hate in the wake of recent terror attacks is constantly on the rise
2. In 2016, there was 1,219 reported Young islamophobia across London
3. We know far too many incidences are not reported

Young Labour believes:

1. Any form of islamophobia where it be physical, emotional or verbal is unacceptable
2. Young Labour condemns all forms of systemic racism, religious intolerance and discrimination
3. Everyone has a right to believe and practice their faith freely without discrimination, prejudice, violence or hate.
5. Any forms of abuse will be taken seriously
6. Young people should be able to get immediate support.
7. Hate crime, both offline and online, can no longer be seen as separate. They are intrinsically linked and must be tackled together.
8. Freedom of speech should mean the freedom to speak without fear of intimidation and abuse.

POLICY COMMISSION: WORK, PENSIONS AND EQUALITY

Motion Title:

Proposed by: Hull University Labour Club

Young Labour notes:

1. Unlike the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Industrial revolutions being beneficial to human labour, the 4th Industrial revolution is different. Automation is a significant threat to many current and future jobs. The findings of the PricewaterhouseCooper LLP report, stating that 1/3rd of British jobs could be replaced by automation by 2030, should be acknowledged. Whilst automation may not be a threat to jobs now, new technology is developing quickly which could put speciality jobs at risk. One example of this is the potential of self-driving automobiles replacing bus drivers and taxi drivers in the next few years. Britain is not prepared for the 4th industrial revolution and the consequences of automation on human labour must be taken seriously.
2. There are millions of people in the UK that suffer living in poverty, this includes a disproportionate number of children. These numbers should be shameful to a country as wealthy and advanced as that of the UK. Many of the households that are in a state of poverty have a member of that household in work. This type of in work poverty is all too common and goes against the idea of getting work to escape from poverty, as it is often simply not enough.
3. Alongside those households that suffer poverty, there are also many families and households that are in work that are just about managing on the income that they have and can hope for no more than to simply carry on day to day living the lives that they lead, with no hope of upward mobility.
4. There is a considerable amount of Welfare bureaucracy with previous attempts to streamline the welfare system, such as the universal credit, making it harder for people in need to receive their benefits causing much stress and confusion for the people entitled to these benefits and clogging up the system itself.
5. Universal Basic Income (UBI) is the idea that all citizens receive a guaranteed income: enough to cover essential costs.

Young Labour believes:

1. A solution to these current and future challenges is the Universal Basic Income (UBI). UBI could help significantly reduce poverty in the UK (by covering the cost of essentials), help people wanting to start small businesses (by offering a safety net to all those who take the risk of wanting to set up a business), would significantly cut welfare bureaucracy (the only requirement to receive UBI is that you are a citizen of the state - this simplistic model could help save billions) and that UBI would top up wages (people who want more than a basic standard of living - wanting to buy luxuries - would have a strong incentive to work in order to pay for these luxuries). The idea should be considered and discussed by the Labour Party.
2. The British government should allow local authorities/Metro Mayors to trial the Basic Income in their boundaries and offer financial support in order to allow this to happen.

Motion Title: Cohabiting Couples: A Problem Ignored

Proposed by: Ethan Macrae

Young Labour notes:

1. The number of cohabiting couples has more than doubled between 1996 and 2016, from 1.5 million families to 3.3 million. The fastest growing family type of this period.
2. In spite of this certain laws have not changed to accommodate this shift in attitudes. Leaving those 3.3 million families with less rights and legal protections.
3. A report, published by the Law Commission in 2007 (Cohabitation: The Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown), said the current laws are 'inadequate' leaving those cohabiting couples at risk should:
 - A) the couples separate
 - B) One of the partners die

Young Labour believes:

1. An incoming Labour government should take steps to firstly ensure cohabiting couples are not left in vulnerable situations or in any immediate risk should a relationship end.
2. The current law should be updated so that cohabiting couples have near equal rights to married couples, at least in terms of entitlement to certain financial relief and benefits when the relationship ends.
3. We should base a new system on the recommendations in the aforementioned Law Commission report. This new system would ensure that married couples still have advantages but will also ensure that cohabiting couples are not left vulnerable and worried for their future, both financially and emotionally.

Motion Title: Mental Health at Work Act

Proposed by: GMB

Young Labour Notes:

1. That 15% of people currently experience a mental health problem in the workplace.
2. That changing working terms and conditions in 21st Century Britain, namely the growing precarious nature of work particularly facing young workers, is creating a mental health crisis of its own in the workplace which is impacting on mental wellbeing.
3. That poor mental health caused by work is contributing to the wider austerity-driven crisis of NHS mental health service provision in society as those suffering have to seek the same treatment from already underfunded and overstretched services.
4. That there is neither a mechanism nor a legal requirement for employers to report work-related mental ill-health to any authority or Government body.
5. That the Government has made no progress in addressing poor mental health and wellbeing at work.
6. That the best way to reduce the risk of poor mental health at work, and prevent its impact on NHS mental health services is through education, regulation and enforcement.

Young Labour Resolves:

1. That the Labour Party should commit in its next General Election Manifesto to creating a Mental Health at Work Act which would build on the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to specify the approach and methods all employers should take to managing mental health at work.
2. That this Act would include the following policies:
 - Give the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) the proper resources and a clear mandate to carry out enforcement and inspection of workplace mental health and wellbeing practices.

- Making it legally mandatory for employers to report all cases of work-related stress to HSE as part of health and safety issue reporting under RIDDOR regulations.

- Ensure that all managers receive mandatory training in mental health awareness.

- That any employer which is found to have deliberately breached regulations should be banned from receiving public contracts or subsidies of any kind.

Motion Title: Time for Trans Action

Proposed by: Eden Ladley

Young Labour notes:

1. The transgender community in the UK numbers between 1-3% of the population, which equates to between 650,000-1,950,000 people.
2. There is a wide variety of experiences under the trans umbrella, including lacking gender or having a non-binary gender.
3. There has been a flurry of media attention focused on the delegitimation of trans identities & experiences, access to funding with a particular focus on trans children.
4. There are high rates of mental illness and distress in the trans population at all ages which is linked to a lack of access to healthcare and social support.
5. Trans healthcare is inaccessible for many patients on the grounds of long travel times, long waiting lists and a lack of qualified personnel.
6. In order to attend many Labour events, many members are asked for their name and gender on their passport, regardless of whether that is the name they use or the gender they actually are.

Young Labour believes:

1. If Labour is the party of equality, we must stand behind the trans community in Labour and beyond.
2. Trans liberation will come alongside a Labour Party which removes legislative and administrative barriers to us living our lives.
3. There is a presence in the Labour Party of feminists who are not supportive of trans liberation, and often position (cis) women's safety as being at risk as a result of this.
4. The liberation of trans people is women's liberation, as many trans people (regardless of birth assignment) are women.
5. The Labour Party does not need to know the passport gender of attendees at Labour events.

Young Labour resolves:

1. For a Labour government to increase the funding and access to transition related services at all ages, working on the model of informed consent.
2. That Labour will support the demedicalization and depathologization of the legal gender recognition process, including moving to a system of self-definition or even the abolition of legal gender.

3. That Labour in government and opposition should support schools in supporting and affirming transgender and gender-nonconforming children through good teaching on different experiences of gender (including identity and expression), especially in anti-bullying strategies.
4. That Labour will consult with trans members on their experiences of transphobia (especially transmisogyny) in the Labour Party and Labour spaces.
5. That Labour will introduce a greater variety of gender and title options in their registration and monitoring, and will remove the requirement for one's gender on their passport.
6. That Labour will support and fund more events for trans members independent of cisgender LGB members.
7. That (in consultation with trans members), Labour will release a guide on avoiding transphobic and transmisogynistic tropes and arguments.
8. Access to places on all-women's shortlists, women's events and women's officer positions in the Labour Party should be based on the self-identification of individuals as women (whether cis, trans or non-binary).
9. For Labour to replace 'gender reassignment' in legislation involving protected characteristic with wording around one's gender identity/history as a trans person.