

# **London Labour Conference 2019**

## **Motions**

# Housing

## The Grenfell Tower Atrocity

The Grenfell Tower fire was an appalling tragedy; an outrageous atrocity unparalleled in London's history. Grounded in neoliberal politics, it is symbolic of London's inequalities and the result of deregulation, disinvestment and spending cuts. It shows political contempt for housing rights and disregard for Grenfell tenants' repeated warnings of an impending disaster. It should never have happened. Conference resolves never again.

Conference condemns the ongoing cuts from central government to the fire and rescue service, and resolves to campaign to put public safety before profit by supporting the FBU demands including:

- Notwithstanding the public enquiry - for a full enquiry into the deregulation agenda, fire and rescue service and social housing
- To campaign for accountability of responsible ministers and corporate entities
- Improved regulations, comprehensive national standards to guarantee tower block and all public fire safety including that of firefighters

Regarding inflammable cladding on housing and buildings, we call on the London LP to work with the Mayor's office to:

- Set up a stakeholder body to monitor the extent of inflammable cladding
- Bring together leaseholders, social and council tenants to ensure developers and not leaseholders and public funds pay for removal of cladding

We salute the work of Justice4Grenfell and Grenfell United in supporting the survivors and bereaved. Whilst respecting their wishes to be non-political, conference resolves to:

- Participate in and build support for the Silent Walks, particularly, not exclusively, the second year anniversary
- Labour Councils fly a Grenfell 'flag or light' on 14th of every month and advertise the Silent Walks

**Proposer: Bermondsey and Old Southwark CLP**

**Seconder: Kensington CLP**

## Housing in London

Conference:

Notes London's appalling and ongoing housing crisis, to which Tory government policies, the private market and unaffordable homes offer no solution.

Notes that some Student Halls of Residence developments are proposing *en-suite* rooms as small as 7 square metres

Welcomes the actions of the Mayor and GLA in formulating the Good Practice Guide Regeneration Ballot policy and channelling grant funding for constructing council homes.

Reaffirms Labour's Housing Policy motions passed at Regional Conference 2017 and the National Conferences of 2017 and 2018, and calls for their thorough implementation, including:

Retaining full ownership and control of public land and housing.

Direct delivery via DLOs of construction and housing maintenance.

Prioritising building council homes at council target rents on secure lifetime tenancies.

Ring-fencing and providing publicly owned potential housing land (including TFL's) for building council homes.

Minimum 1:1 advance replacement, within the same neighbourhood, of council homes sold or demolished under regeneration schemes, with a minimum of 50 per cent of any additional housing being for council rents.

Conference notes:

The Mayor of London's new affordable housing policy as set out in the Draft New London Plan.

That the Mayor of London's policy fails to provide any specific policy to build new affordable housing at social (target) rent, despite providing for public subsidy to households with incomes up to £90,000 per annum.

- This ignores the needs of the 55,440 homeless households and 88,140 children in temporary accommodation in 2018, whose housing needs can only be met through social (target) rent housing. Of these 17,880 are from BAME communities.

- It is inconceivable that the housing needs of most households with incomes approaching £90,000 are not met by the private housing market.
- The composition of the Homes for Londoners Board (responsible for developing detailed housing policies and programmes) has changed little since the election of the Labour Mayor.
- Two of the five independent members of the Board have private property interests.
- Despite honouring the commitment to provide union representation on the Transport for London Board there remains no union representation on this Board.
- Similarly, there is no community representation on the Board.

Conference calls for:

The Mayor and Local Authorities to insist on ample provision of social and genuinely affordable housing within developer schemes;

The London Plan to cease facilitating the building of sheer quantities of housing, inevitably resulting in predominantly unaffordable developments; instead, the Mayor and Local Authorities should insist on ample provision of social and genuinely affordable housing within developers' schemes.

Planning Obligations in London to require a minimum of 50% genuinely affordable homes, encompassing 35% of homes at council target rents.

The GLA and Greater London boroughs to produce Supplementary Planning Guidance for Student Halls of Residence to ensure decent space standards

Full involvement of London Region Labour Party, and Labour's elected public officials and bodies including the London Mayor, GLA and Labour Councils in London, in ensuring the implementation of this motion, preparing Labour's manifesto for the coming London elections & campaigning publicly alongside Trade Unions, Tenants' Associations and others to oppose Tory Housing and Planning policies and replace them with plans to provide all Londoners with decent homes to live in.

The Mayor not to call-in schemes rejected by Councils which prioritise market over affordable housing.

A policy against building on NHS land which should be retained for health purposes.

A general London-wide policy for all Labour Council's in London to always ballot tenants over housing regeneration proposals in line with the Mayor of London's guidance.

An extension of compulsory purchase on unused land being held in land banks by developers.

Public scrutiny by the London Assembly on excessive service charges on leaseholders with recommendations to use planning policy and Council land-holdings to put a cap on this.

Public scrutiny by the London Assembly to measure how much Landlords in London are refusing private tenants on benefits with recommendations over how landlord licensing and other measures can be used to reduce this.

Conference demands:

1. 'Homes for Londoners Board' and TfL use their legal interests in land, to sell land only where planning permission has been secured for 50% housing at social (target) rent without additional public subsidy.
2. The commitments outlined above are prioritised in the Mayor's work programme in advance of the 2020 election.

**Proposer: Hendon CLP**

**Secunder: GMB London**

## **Racism and the Far Right**

### **Conference notes:**

- The alarming rise of racism, Islamophobia and anti-semitism and far right forces across Europe, America and elsewhere.
- The rise of a far right street movement here in London centred on targeting Muslims, including the DFLA, with UKIP giving open encouragement and support to Tommy Robinson.
- With dismay, the 'hostile environment' initiated by Theresa May when she was Home Secretary and at the financial and emotional impact this has had on the Windrush generation and their families.
- Labour's campaign against the 'hostile environment' and supports the stand taken by the party's Leader and Shadow Home Secretary in opposing the Tories' scapegoating policies.
- Conference welcomes the initiative by London trade unions and Party members in establishing 'London United' a campaigning organisation to combat the resurgent Far Right which aims to:
  - convince union and Party members and the wider working class of the dangers of the Far Right.
  - explain why working class unity and Labour's anti-austerity programme are the only alternative to Tory austerity.
  - oppose them on the street.

### **Conference believes:**

- That we must combat all attempts to divide and rule Londoners.
- That it is not migrants and refugees who undermine wages and public services, but cuts and austerity.
- The importance of a joint union and Labour Movement campaign to confront the Far Right

### **Conference resolves to:**

- Support the 16 March 2019 Anti-Racism demonstration in London to coincide with the annual UN Anti-Racism Day, to publicise this among our members and encourage CLP banners.
- Celebrate an annual Windrush Day on 22 June each year, to recognise and honour the enormous contribution of those who arrived between 1948 and 1971.
- Work with the trade unions to form a trade union and Labour Party 'London United' steering committee. The committee will oversee and coordinate the work of the campaign. This will include:
  - Publicising the activities of the campaign
  - Developing its on-line presence.

- Facilitating Labour Parties, along with trade union activists to distribute campaign literature in their constituency.
- inviting campaign speakers to LP meetings
- supporting the campaigns educational initiatives
- supporting the campaign's mobilisations
- raising funds
- calling for Labour movement affiliations

**Proposer: Unite London**

**Secunder: Barking CLP**

## **Workers' Rights**

### **Precarious Work**

Conference notes:

- The growth of precarious work in London is both greater than other regions of the UK and greater than the national average.
- According to the TUC 83% of jobs growth in London since 2011 have been precarious jobs, compared to a national average of 71%. The Trust for London says that 10% of working age employees in London were at risk of insecure employment, compared with 9% in the rest of England.
- As well as being home to some of the richest corporations and individuals in the country (and the world), London is also home to some of the worst poverty and deprivation, and much of this is 'in work poverty'. Many workers in London are on low pay, zero hour contracts or in bogus 'self-employment'.
- The growth of this work is most publicly visible on the streets with such companies, claiming to be just digital platforms, as Uber and Deliveroo but it also extends to such sectors as adult social care.
- Congratulation to affiliates – Unite, the Bakers' Union and the GMB – for their campaigning work, particularly in the casual dining and minicab sectors, aimed at limiting the worst excesses of precariousness and giving workers some security at work. These

include cinema workers at London PictureHouses, workers at McDonalds in central London, couriers at City Sprint, Uber Eats and Deliveroo and cleaners at SOAS, LSE, and Goldsmith colleges.

- The current #endgame campaign by the CWU against outsourcing of the BT Facilities Management jobs and the franchising of Post Offices in London.
- Conference commends the commitments – Fair Deal at Work – in our Manifesto making clear how Labour will deal with these inequities at work and the commitment from day one rights for employees, whether they have permanent or temporary contracts, work for agencies or are in the ‘gig’ economy

Conference believes:

- The deregulation of the labour market and the corresponding long term decline in salaries and wages brought about by the collapse of the coverage of union negotiated collective agreements are the intended outcomes of neo-liberal economic policies followed by government since 1980.

Conference resolves to:

- Call on GLA family and Labour councils to cease awarding contracts and licences to companies or “platforms” that operate precarious employment practices and congratulates those public authorities that have already taken such action.
- Support the abolition of all the anti -union laws introduced by the Thatcher, Major and Cameron Governments that stop workers in London taking strike action and solidarity action to win recognition and collective bargaining rights to improve their working lives.

**Proposer: London CWU**

**Secunder: Wimbledon CLP**

## **Advocating Transparency of the BAME Pay Gap**

Conference calls upon London Region Labour Party to accept the principles of, and advocate on behalf of, the following policy – The Greater London Authority, the Local Government Association, all other relevant statutory bodies in London, and businesses in London with over 50 employees to disclose pay by ethnicity in a similar fashion to that of the Gender Pay Gap.

Conference calls upon these organisations to:

- (a) Publish the organisation's median ethnic pay gap figures;
- (b) Publish the organisation's mean ethnic pay gap figures;
- (c) Publish people's ethnicities in each quartile of the pay structure (by seniority) to show the spread of earners by ethnicity across an organisation;
- (d) Publish pay gaps by ethnicity for all remuneration for the year.

**Proposer: Croydon North**

**Secunder: TBC**

## **Local Government Austerity**

Conference notes that:

- Tory government-imposed austerity policies have resulted in catastrophic cuts to local authority services, which means that some London councils are struggling to set legal budgets without cutting statutory services.
- Cuts since 2010 have seen London councils lose 60p out of every £1 in 2010 core funding. By 2020 cuts will approach 65pc (over £4 billion). Next year London councils face £235 million more cuts, with many hundreds of millions more after that.
- Councils already lack the funds to provide vital services like housing the homeless and the provision of adult social care. London Labour needs to build on the Red Lines campaign by Labour councillors, publicising the impact of the cuts and the

need to defend locally-delivered services as a priority. Our communities cannot wait for a Labour Government.

- Labour council leaders have warned that Tory funding cuts are pushing London councils to "breaking point".
- London councils' per capita 'spending power' has fallen 37pc in real terms, compared to 29pc for the rest of England, at a time when our population is growing rapidly and we already have higher poverty rates.
- NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds) is a condition applied to most migrants, ensuring exclusion from welfare benefits. However, migrant families may present to their Council seeking help under Section 17 of the Children Act, to protect their children from destitution. This support is provided from Council budgets.
- Incentivised by austerity, many London councils are neglecting their legal duty, prioritising gatekeeping over children's safety, and leaving migrant families with young children street homeless. Antagonistic practices including embedding On-Site Immigration Officers within the council deter migrants from claiming support. This practice of embedding OSIO's in local councils was designed by the Hostile Environment Working Group to increase Data harvesting opportunities with local authorities.
- Eight of the nine councils with OSIO's are London boroughs with a Labour majority.

Conference believes that:

- For decades, Labour has failed to challenge right-wing anti-migrant narratives, allowing a culture of division and scapegoating to pervade UK politics. The appropriate response to brutal Tory cuts is to put a spotlight on the government responsible, not withdraw support from society's most vulnerable.

Conference resolves to:

- Instruct the 2019 elected London Labour Regional Board to implement a co-ordinated London-wide campaign by:
  - Organising a London-wide campaign against local authority cuts as a first step to building a national Labour anti cuts campaign
  - Launch a mass national petition, in electronic and physical form, for these demands.
  - Organise a mass London demonstration with these demands, also inviting people from outside London.
  - Encourage the holding of meetings in every borough to build the campaign.
  - Holding a conference aimed at (1) considering all existing and alternative ways of raising income, including fairer council tax, using council reserves and exploring alternative budgets and (2) building an anti-cuts campaign across the region involving Labour Councils, CLPs, Trades Unions and community and tenants' associations, with the aim of raising public awareness of the scale and severity of the cuts as they affect the lives of communities and individuals, thereby securing public support and building active opposition
  - Setting up a London wide committee to coordinate the ongoing campaign
- Discuss alternative ways of raising income, such as a fairer form of Council Tax including those suggested by Chris Williamson MP.
- Call on Labour-run London councils to:
  - Immediately instigate the removal of embedded Immigration Officers, and end collusion with Hostile Environment initiatives
  - Where there is evidence of hostile policy, immediately instigate an independent review of the NRPF Department
  - Ensure that any future policies are fair, prioritising safeguarding of children
  - Campaign to reverse cuts made by central government
  - Lobby for central government to reimburse councils for Section 17 funding, and end all use of NRPF against migrants.

**Proposer: Tottenham CLP**

**Seconder: Lewisham Deptford CLP**

## Crime & Policing

### Knife Crime

Conference notes:

- With concern the increase in violent crime, and particularly knife crime, across London.
- That both victims and perpetrators are typically of school age and that in London this type of crime disproportionately affects young Black males. 16 young people were killed in knife crimes in London in 2018, and many more wounded. This tragedy is a direct result of the ideological Tory policy to impose austerity, with public services devastated by cuts, a school system that fails our children, grinding poverty, and obscene inequality.
- In 2017-18 the highest levels of knife crime in a decade were recorded, hitting a peak of 14,700 incidents in the Metropolitan Police area, up 21% from the previous twelve months, and up by more than 50% from the lowest levels this decade in 2014-15.
- This trend has also been observed on the rail network, where there has been a 26% increase in violent crime, with offences involving knives or other weapons up by 46% between 2016-17 and 2017-18. Crime on the rail network puts passengers and staff at risk, and it is essential that the British Transport Police are fully resourced to be able to deal with crime on the railways and not leave staff vulnerable to violence and abuse.
- The shocking rise in violent crime has come alongside swingeing Tory government cuts to police funding which have seen the number of officers fall. It is clear that the reduction in police officer numbers is a factor in the increased levels of crime, putting people and communities at risk.
- This conference rejects any increased use of random stop-and-search, and censorship of certain types of music. These are counter-productive knee-jerk reactions that further undermine

trust. Drill music for instance is an expression of young people's lives, and not the cause of the violence.

- This conference believes that a substantive and positive multi-agency approach is required across social welfare, education, mental health, and youth and community services, working alongside but independently of the police and criminal justice system. Such initiatives should be led by the Mayor working in close co-operation with local authorities.

Conference calls on:

- The UK Government to deliver on its promises to provide increased funding for the police, not just as a token but at the levels required to ensure safety and effective law enforcement, and further resolves to resist any cuts or reduction in the number of British Transport Police officers patrolling the rail network, or in their resources.
- London Labour to facilitate a discussion on:
  - The impact of austerity;
  - What is going wrong in schools;
  - The need for mental health, youth and community services;
  - The role of policing;
  - Mechanisms for local democratic accountability.

**Proposer: ASLEF London**

**Secunder: Camberwell & Peckham CLP**

### **Modern Slavery**

Conferences notes that modern slavery is one of the great evils of our time with more than 3805 recorded victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2018. Modern slavery is on the rise, increasing by 17% from 2017 to 2018; and the problem is particularly acute in London.

Conference resolves:

1. To call on local authorities and the GLA to sign the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery

2. To call on the Mayor of London to coordinate cross-London activity tackling Modern Slavery
3. To call on the London Metropolitan Police to prioritise identification and investigation of suspected incidents of modern slavery across London boroughs

**Proposer: London Co-operative Party**

**Seconder: ASLEF London**

### **Making Misogyny a Hate Crime**

Conference Notes:

A 2016 YouGov survey found that 52% of 18-24 year old women had experienced sexual harassment in the last five years and 92% never reported the incident

Office of National Statistics data from 2018 shows women are five times more likely than men to have experienced some type of sexual assault, including unwanted touching or indecent exposure, in the previous 12 months

Sexual harassment can take place anywhere - TUC survey found 52% of women had experienced unwanted behaviour at work. Sexual harassment in the workplace isn't new and takes place across our city. In London 65% of all public sector workers are women.

The positive outcomes achieved for women when Nottinghamshire Police started in 2016 recording crimes motivated by misogyny as a hate crime, including improving the way in which the police tackled all forms of violence and harassment of women

The importance of recognising the intersectional nature of abuse and harassment women from black and ethnic minority backgrounds experience on London streets and the lack of consistency currently in how protected characteristics such as race, religion, sex and sexuality are treated within the criminal justice system

Conference Believes:

Recording these incidents of harassment and assault as misogyny-based crime will provide a vital evidence base to empower police to respond to the experiences of women.

Conference therefore resolves:

To call for London Metropolitan Police to follow the approach of Nottinghamshire Police and record crimes involving misogynistic intent as a hate crime.

To call for the Labour Party to support the inclusion of misogyny in hate crime legislation, require employers to ensure employment policies recognise misogyny, have zero tolerance for sexual harassment and safe reporting routes and work in partnership with trade unions to create a safe environment for women in every workplace.

**Proposer: Walthamstow CLP**

**Secunder: Unison London**

## **Climate Change**

Conference notes:

- The UN warns that we have less than 12 years to stop catastrophic climate change by keeping global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees - the goal of the Paris Agreement.
- Already at just 1 degrees of global warming, we are witnessing extreme weather events, floods, droughts, heatwaves, rising sea levels, and pollution causing ill-health for millions.
- The world's poorest who have done least to contribute to climate breakdown are often most impacted, and the most vulnerable in London are most likely to suffer from environmental pollution like dirty air.

Conference believes:

- The Conservatives are going backwards on climate change - cutting support for green energy, pursuing fracking and failing to tackle diesel pollution.
- We should welcome Labour's transformational manifesto of 2017 for a sustainable economy for the many not the few, and the Greater London Authority's Environment Strategy, but urge stronger action on climate with revised targets including zero carbon by 2030 needed to achieve Labour's commitment to keeping temperatures below 1.5 degrees.

- A Just Transition to a low carbon economy can benefit communities across London, improving air quality, health and living standards, providing decent skilled jobs in green industries.

Conference resolves to:

- Call on Labour-run local authorities and the GLA to work with environmental NGOs and trade unions to develop below 1.5 degrees action plans, including ambitious actions by 2020 to drive down emissions in transport, buildings and waste and divesting from fossil fuels via:
  - Renewable energy and energy democracy
  - Extension of publically-owned affordable and sustainable transport
  - Creation of unionised climate jobs in housing, transport, energy, waste and other sectors
  - Halting airport expansion
  - Divesting from fossil fuels
- Call on the Mayor of London to continue to show international leadership on climate change and push for action to secure below 1.5 degrees temperature rise and reduce air pollution substantially.
- A future Labour government to give the Mayor and local authorities in London the powers to make a real difference on this environment emergency.

**Mover: Hackney North CLP**

**Secunder: Lewisham West & Penge CLP**