

London Young Labour Annual General Meeting 2019 – Amendments to motions

Motion: Defend and Extend Freedom of Movement

Amendment:

Proposer: Artin Giles, Harrow East, L1377027

Seconder: Oliver Hill, Holborn St. Pancreas, L0134786

Insert point below “Defend and extend freedom of movement”

“Strengthen workers rights in order to end the exploitation of migrants and crack down on social dumping”

End.

Motion: Repeal all the anti trade union laws

Amendment:

Proposer: Kierin Offlands, Lewisham Deptford CLP - L1452281

Seconder: Toby Peacock, Lewisham Deptford CLP - L1230138

"Remove paragraph 5"

Motion: Standing with Palestine in the face of the Deal of the Century

Amendment:

Proposer: Maisie Sanders L1298647, Lewisham Deptford CLP

Seconder: Christina Neary L1599847, Croydon South CLP.

Notes 2: Delete

Add Believes 4:

The best possible democratic solution to the conflict between the Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews is an independent Palestine state, with equal rights to Israel, alongside Israel, including the right to access resources; full equality for Israel's Arab minority; and a negotiated settlement for the Palestinian diaspora. We support the struggles of workers and the oppressed in both Israel and Palestine, against the occupation, against racism and militarism, and for justice and socialism.

Add Believes 5:

We advocate direct links between the British labour movement and the Palestinian unions, the Israeli peace and labour movements.

Add Believes 6:

We oppose Hamas, a clerical fascist organisation which runs an authoritarian, anti-working class, anti-woman regime in Gaza. We support the secular and working class opposition to Hamas.

Add to LYL Resolves 1:

...with banners supporting Labour Party policy of two states for two peoples.

Resolves 2: Delete.

Resolves 3: delete "which led to the ... (the Nakba)" and replace with:

Britain's imperial strategy led to the denial of access to Jews fleeing the Holocaust and post-Holocaust Europe; to war by Britain against the Jews in Palestine; and to the leading role of British officers in the Arab armies attacking Israel in 1948, in a war which ended with the driving out or flight of 250,000 Palestinians and the subsequent driving out or flight of some 600,000 Jews from the Arab states.

Add Resolves 6:

To build links with groups like Standing Together (1), a left wing movement which organises Jews and Arabs in Israel against the occupation and for social and economic equality.

1: www.standing-together.org

Motion: Unseat the Independent Group

Amendment:

Proposer: Maisie Sanders L1298647, Lewisham Deptford CLP.

Seconder: Andrew Warren L1295407, Lewisham Deptford CLP

Add Believes 4:

The record and statements of these MPs, plus the fact they were quickly joined by three Tories, demonstrates clearly that they are neo-liberal advocates for the rich and powerful, deeply hostile to the socialist ideas and strong working class representation we need. We need a democratic, independent-minded party and movement supporting the leadership but also exerting pressure on it as a necessary counterweight to the huge pressure it will continue to receive to weaken its policies and commitments. We need to build a stronger movement that can win a Labour government which systematically opposes capitalism in the interests of the working class and which fights as hard for the working class as the Tories fight for the bosses they represent.

Add Believes 5: If we are serious antiracists, we must take antisemitism extremely seriously and step up political organising and education to make our party and movement an uninhabitable environment for it in all its forms. This must not be counterposed to, but combined with, due process and a culture of debate.

Motion: Fight left anti-Semitism

Amendment 1:

Proposer: Jake Rubin Brent Central CLP L1158885
Seconder Maxim Lundlack-Orr, L1751699, Ealing Southall

DELETE

"In more recent years, antisemitism has also manifested on the left through a conspiracist conception of Jewish nationalism, Zionism, which inflates its real power and ascribes a uniquely reactionary character to Israel and any expression of Israeli-Jewish national self-determination. In antisemitic 'left' discourse, the two are often linked.

To conspiracy theories and the 'socialism of fools', we counterpose rational, class-based struggle against capitalism, seeking to unite the workers of all nations and communities and challenge all oppression. To antisemitic demonisation of Israel, we counterpose rational solidarity with the Palestinians and with workers' movements, socialists, internationalist and anti-racist forces, etc, in both countries.

We demand an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with the same rights as Israel, as the central part of a just settlement which can begin to drain the poison of the conflict."

Amendment 2:

Proposer: Eli Machover L1250630
Seconder: Maxim Lundlack-Orr L1751699

"Antisemitism has existed on the left historically in the form of conspiracy theories attacking "Jewish bankers", which conflate Jews with finance and capital. This was rightly denounced in the 1890s as "the socialism of fools". In more recent years, antisemitism has also manifested on the left through a conspiracist conception of Jewish nationalism, Zionism, which inflates its real power and ascribes a uniquely reactionary character to Israel and any expression of Israeli-Jewish national self-determination. In antisemitic 'left' discourse, the two are often linked."

Delete and replace with

"From the Stalinist campaign against 'rootless cosmopolitans' in the late 40s to contemporary conspiracist thinking around Zionism which inflates it and Israel's real power, antisemitism on the left has taken a wide range of different forms, demonstrating the insidious way that historically rooted antisemitism can appear and reappear even in spaces that by their own self-declaration are antiracist. Early socialists and Marxists recognised prototypical expressions of this, like conspiracy theories attacking "Jewish bankers", conflating Jews with finance and capital, and rightly denounced them as "the socialism of fools".

It is also important, particularly given the stark increase in right-wing activity and the Pittsburg atrocity, to ensure that LYL does more to organise against all forms of antisemitism as part of

LYL's fight against rising fascism, including as part of the broader anti-racist movement, working from collective principles.

London Young Labour stands in complete solidarity with the Jewish community as a whole and Jewish Labour members in particular, when they experience racism and for whom recent times have been extremely difficult."

Motion: Oppose the attempted coup in Venezuela

Amendment:

Proposer: Maisie Sanders L1298647

Seconder: Andrew Warren L1295407, both Lewisham Deptford CLP

Notes 3 (3rd bullet point) delete and replace with:

- Maduro's party lost the 2015 legislative elections to the right-wing opposition. In 2016 Maduro suspended a recall referendum and regional elections. In March 2017 the Maduro supporting judiciary undermined the authority of the National Assembly. In May 2017 Maduro announced elections to a Constituent Assembly which in practise was established to circumvent the right-wing dominated national Assembly.

Add notes 5, 6 and 7 (add to bottom of notes bullet points)

- Alongside external factors the Maduro regime is also responsible for the economic crisis facing Venezuela. A crisis which includes hyperinflation, a collapse of the healthcare system, huge unemployment and a decimation of living standards resulting in starvation and a mass exodus of Venezuelans to surrounding countries. Meanwhile the rich and top-government officials continue to live comfortably.
- Many working-class and poor Venezuelans – including many ex-Chavistas - are also part of the protests against Maduro's rule and the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.
- The regime is responsible for the oppression of protests against it, including mobilising the infamous Special Action Force against demonstrations which has resulted in the murder of protesters.

Under 'further notes'

Further notes 1 (1st bullet point), add:

- However, many of these advances lay in tatters under the current crisis. Alongside relative advances the regime have clamped down on the ability for Venezuelan workers to organise against the government including the arrest and imprisonment of strike leaders under both Chavez and Maduro.

Further notes 2 (2nd bullet point) add:

- The Chavez and Maduro regimes have also been opposed by independent Venezuelan workers organisations demanding trade union rights as well as wage increases. These have often been met with brutal crackdown by the state.

Resolves 4 add:

- while also maintaining a critical perspective of the oppressive actions of the Venezuelan state.

Under resolves, delete bullets 5,6 and 7 and replace with:

- Revolutions do not come about from the benevolence of authoritarian left-wing governments but from workers organising independently from below. We are therefore not in solidarity with the Venezuelan regime but the Venezuelan working class. That means opposing both imperialist aggression as well as the Maduro government who have used state apparatus to break strikes, repress protest, murder protesters and are partially responsible for the current humanitarian crisis in the country.