



# **AGM MOTIONS**

# **BOOKLET**

# **2020**

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Note that Motion 5 will only have a consultative vote. UNISON is affiliated to the Labour Party and in UNISON rules the Labour Link deals with all Labour Party related issues. As this is a branch AGM we cannot pass policy directly about the internal workings of the Labour Party.

If you want to join the Labour link please let the Labour link officers now!

## Motion One: Fighting Johnson tooth and nail in 2020

### This Branch notes:

1. The election of Boris Johnson as Prime Minister with an increased Tory majority on Thursday 12 December

### This Branch further notes:

2. A rise in racist rhetoric and national authoritarianism from the Tory Party in the run up to and following the election;
3. The Conservative manifesto commitment to continue the hostile environment rebranded as the “compliant environment”. This will include the end of EU freedom of movement, citizen-on-citizen document checking, restrictive rules on visas for spouses and elderly relatives, high fees and erosion of routes to appeal.
4. Uncertainty in local government spending despite promises to end austerity;
5. Boris Johnson’s proposal to introduce a new anti-strike law.
6. Run away climate change is still looking like a very real possibility

### This Branch Believes:

7. As a trade union we focus on workplace issues but we cannot imagine that the issues that affect our members stop outside of work.

Trade unionism is about justice and defending our rights more generally.

8. A united campaigning labour movement can defeat many of Boris Johnson’s plans
9. That workers must unite with students and others to fight to stop climate change when those in power are either dragging their feet or actively pursuing policies that are contributing to an increase in carbon emissions.

### This Branch will:

10. Build the widest possible local labour movement coalition, involving trade unions, Labour Parties and pro-worker campaigns, to defeat the Tories’ plans
11. Take this spirit and commitment into our national union and labour movement organisations
12. Support any group of workers who want to take collective action to protect jobs or terms and conditions
13. Foreground anti-racist and migrants rights campaigning as key trade union activity
14. Send delegates to Campaign Against Climate Change meetings, Xtinction Rebellion and join protests and campaigns around the environment. Continue to lobby employers on this issue.

Proposed: Ruth Cashman

Seconded: Simon Hannah

## **Motion Two: Working with the Trades Council and local Labour Parties**

1. With the election (12 December) of a Tory government with its biggest majority since 1992, Unison members can expect an onslaught on our trade union rights, our living standards, our jobs and the services we both provide and use.
2. The Tories' manifesto promised to make it a legal obligation for public service unions to provide a minimum level of service during industrial action. The Queen's Speech watered down promises of more spending, adding the phrase
3. Our branch (and its predecessors) has a proud record stretching from the 1980s through to the 2010s of providing solidarity to others defending themselves against Tory attacks, both locally with working class residents and other trade unions, and more widely with other un-

ion branches and sectors fighting back.

4. This branch therefore agrees to:
5. Contact Lambeth Trades Union Council, Lambeth Labour Parties, other union branches, as well as community organisations, with a proposal to meet and discuss how best to organise local resistance.
6. Register our support, financially, politically and physically, for any Unison branch that goes into battle to defend local services and jobs against the Tory government's cuts programme.
7. Invite all London Unison branches to discuss with us the setting up of a solidarity network that can systematically plan supportive actions and prepare for future fights as they develop.

Proposed: Jeremy Drinkall, Elmgreen School

Seconded:

## **Motion Three: Fight the Tory Anti-Trade Union attacks**

1. This Unison AGM believes that:
2. The election of the Boris Johnson led Tory government represents a renewed threat to the pay, jobs and working conditions of workers as well as trade union rights
3. It will act in the interests of big business
4. This Unison AGM notes that:
5. The government's implicit support for the High Court decision to prevent strike action in Royal Mail despite the national CWU ballot result of a 97% yes vote on a 76% turnout
6. The Tory manifesto commitment to introduce new anti-union legislation, targeted specifically at the rail and transport unions but we believe would be extended to other sectors
7. This UNISON AGM believes that:
8. There needs to be an immediate meeting of the TUC and the unions to discuss and prepare the union movement for attacks by the

Tory government

9. No union or unions must be allowed to fight alone – if any union is targeted by anti-union laws, all others must come to their aid, supporting any action they deem necessary
10. This UNISON AGM resolves that:
11. Our union NEC calls on the TUC to:
12. organise a special conference open to workplace reps and shop stewards on opposing the anti-union laws;
13. organise a Saturday London demonstration in early 2020 on the demands: Stop the Tory anti-union laws, defend the transport unions and the CWU – workers' unity against the Tories

**Proposed: Andy Tullis, Convenor Children's Service**

**Seconded:**

## Motion Four: Support the work of Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance

1. This branch notes the statement from the COPS campaign
2. The Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance exists to help co-ordinate, publicise and support the quest for justice for people affected by political undercover police spying and to ensure such abuses do not continue.
3. A swathe of campaigns and individuals have been targeted by Britain's secret police for decades, undermining efforts for social justice that should be welcomed in a democratic society. Everyone has the right to participate in the struggle for social and environmental justice, without fear of persecution, objectification, or interference in their lives. However, citizens have been spied on and psychologically and sexually abused by officers for being part of, or simply knowing people who were part of, such campaigns.
4. **We condemn:**
5. the spying on families, friends, witnesses and campaigners seeking truth and justice over the deaths of loved ones, such as the Lawrences and the associated institutional racism
6. the gross intrusion of undercover officers forming intimate and sexual relationships whilst in their undercover persona and the associated institutional sexism
7. the use of the identities of dead children by undercover officers
8. police aiding the illegal blacklisting of trade union members and political activists, and passing information on individuals to private investigators and corporations
9. the large number of wrongful convictions brought about by misconduct of police and prosecutors
10. the use of 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' as a tactic to avoid accountability
11. the creations of police files on solicitors representing protestors
12. We have no confidence that these practices have stopped.
13. We have no faith in any of the ongoing police inquiries or reports, including Operation Herne, nor those from the satellite bodies such as the Independent Police Complaints Commission or Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Several have already been thoroughly discredited.
14. A public inquiry has been announced; it must be transparent, robust and independent. It should happen without delay rather than waiting for the raft of police investigations to be completed. To ensure it is credible the Minister and the Chair of the Inquiry should meet with those affected and act on their suggestions and concerns. Senior police officers past and present, especially former Met Commissioners and Special Branch Commanders since 1968, must be held to account for any wrongdoing attributed to the units under their command.
15. **We call for:**
16. An end to spying on social justice and environmental campaigns and on families, friends, witnesses and campaigners seeking truth and justice over the death of loved ones
17. The outlawing of intimate and sexual relationships by police officers whilst in their undercover persona
18. An end to the use of 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' to cover up these abuses
19. Support and encouragement for police whistleblowers
20. Protective measures to prevent serving and retired intelligence gathering officers passing information
21. No to private sector corporations and investigators
22. A thorough, transparent independent inquiry. It should supersede the self-investigations such as Operation Herne which should be scrapped immediately
23. The abolition of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal and its secret trials without right of appeal
24. Openness and transparency about the past;

with those spied on by the political policing units informed and given access to their files; and information provided to the families of deceased children whose identities were used by undercover officers

25. A public apology from the police to all those affected. – *January 2015*
26. This branch resolves:
27. Following Lambeth UNISON's delegation to the C.O.P.S Trade Union Conference in November 2019 (as ratified by the Lambeth Unison Branch Committee September 2019),

this AGM:

28. Agrees to affiliate to the Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance.
29. Agrees to support and publicise events around the forthcoming public inquiry to our members, send branch delegations and encourage members to attend.
30. Make a donation of £50 to the campaign.

**Proposed: Andy Tullis,**

**Convenor Children's Services**

**Seconded: Jeremy Drinkall, School's Convenor**

## **Motion Five—Full Consultation for UNISON Labour Leadership Nomination**

1. This AGM endorses the open letter to UNISON General Secretary regarding the nominations for the Labour Leadership.
2. This AGM encourages our branch members to sign the open letter and requests the Labour link officers to circulate it.

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### **The Open Letter**

Dear Dave & Gordon,

We received the email from the UNISON email address to say that UNISON has nominated Keir Starmer to stand in the Labour Party leadership contest.

At the post-election December NEC recently you both agreed that there should be a full discussion involving all layers of the union about the Labour party's failure to win that election and the loss of seats that led to a Tory Majority Government. That meeting had a limited debate because of time.

Points were made that the Labour Link Committee would have to have that debate to then make a decision about who should be the next leader and deputy leader of the Labour Party.

When Labour Link Committee agreed to back Jeremy Corbyn both times he stood for leader, you reported to the NEC that it was on the basis that he supported the overwhelming majority of our union's policies and that he had actively campaigned for them as an MP. There was a significant consultation before both decisions.

We believe the NEC reps to Labour Link should be

bound by 'collective responsibility' when they attend Labour Link. They broke conference policy – the sovereign policy decision making body for our union – and therefore 'collective responsibility' when they supported all the motions on BREXIT at the Labour Party conference in 2019.

Given the assurances stated to the NEC, can you let us know why the NEC delegates to the Labour Link decided not to have a wider consultation amongst Labour Link payers about which candidate UNISON should support for the Labour Leadership?

Given the principles of the decisions taken in 2015 and in 2016 by the Labour Link Committee on what policy basis has the Committee given to back Keir Starmer as opposed to the other declared candidates? His campaign website to date has no detail of his policies on anything on it apart from the cases he defended as a lawyer. He did not vote against the Welfare Bill before it became an Act in 2015.

It's clear that BREXIT was a key reason that other Labour policies were not heard and supported by many in working class communities, along with a failure to fight cuts to public services, particularly in the North of England. Given that Keir Starmer was the architect of Labour's disastrous BREXIT policy, why have the Committee decided to back a mistaken strategist?

We are opposed to the way the decision to nominate Keir Starmer was made. Less than 20 people decided on behalf of the Labour Link payers. And this has implications for the wider union. All the publicity is declaring this is the decision of 1.3 million UNISON members. The Labour Link Committee rejected a proposal to have a wider consultation with regions and branches, particularly by the NEC bloc of representatives to the committee. We can only believe this was done because of a fear that a wider consultation amongst Labour Link payers would not come up with the same result.

As this decision is being made in the name of 1.3 million members of this union. We are asking that:

- An emergency NEC is called before the closure of the nomination procedure for a hustings of the leadership candidates,
- Regions and branches are allowed to hold consultation meetings on the same basis as the 2015 &

2016 consultations,

- That the national Labour Link Committee is reconvened after this process to then make a new nomination for the leader and deputy leader of the Labour Party.

**Proposed: Andy Tullis, Convenor Children's Social Care**

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## **Emergency Motion Six: Fighting LGBT+ Hate crime**

Conference notes:

1. That reports to the police of anti-LGBT+ hate crime in Britain have increased 144% from 2013/14 to 2017/18. In May, 2019 Melania Geymonat and her partner Chris were brutally attacked on a London night bus in a homophobic attack. In August, left wing journalist Owen Jones was also violently attacked after a night out. A disturbing trend has developed in 2019.
2. That transphobic hate crime has trebled over the same period.
3. In Britain, LGBT+ prejudice has also been more prominent through the campaign against LGBT+ inclusive education and RSE in schools with protests outside some Birmingham primary schools. Anti-LGBT+ inclusive education leaflets have also been distributed in some East London primary schools.
4. That internationally LGBT+ people have come under attack after the electoral success of right wing politicians, for example, the US, Brazil, Poland, Russia and Turkey. In some cases these attacks are also the result of the growth of the far right/fascist movements.
5. The successful protests against LGBT+ attacks in

Liverpool, Manchester and the recent kiss-in in parliament Square, London in August.

Conference believes:

1. The rise of right wing politicians like Johnson, Trump and Bolsonaro have emboldened bigots everywhere and made them more confident to physically attack LGBT+ people.
2. Whenever attacks against LGBT+ people occur there needs to be a counter protest to oppose the bigots. This can unite our forces and marginalise the bigots.
3. Age appropriate LGBT+ inclusive education and RSE should be supported in British schools.
4. The struggle against homophobia/biphobia and transphobia should be linked to the struggle against all forms of racism including Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. We cannot allow the bigots to divide us.

Conference resolves to:

1. Encourage branches and regions to support protests against LGBT+ attacks, informing members about them and bringing the union banner.
2. Affiliate to Stand Up To LGBT+ Hate Crime and support its activities and mobilisations.

**Proposed: Tim O'Dell, Libraries**

**Seconded: Harold Wilson, Environment & Streetscene**

## Emergency Motion Seven:

### Climate Change

#### System change not climate change

##### 1. National Delegate Conference notes:

- (a) That catastrophic climate change is the greatest threat facing humanity. The Earth's temperature has already risen by 1 degree above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC report in 2018 warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Carbon emissions need to be cut by 45% by 2030 and reach zero carbon by 2050 in order to avoid a dangerous tipping point.
- (b) That the technology exists to stop climate change but the political will does not.
- c) The tremendous impact of the school students' strikes initiated by Greta Thunberg and Extinction Rebellion (XR) rebellions in shifting government complacency over climate change.
- (d) The participation of workers in the Earth strikes including solidarity strikes, rallies and protests.

##### 2. Conference believes that:

- (a) Climate change is a trade union issue.
- (b) The fight to stop climate change is an issue for all working people not just those employed in industries that emit greenhouse gases.

(c) The involvement of the trade unions in the fight to stop climate change can ensure that there is a just transition to a sustainable economy. Active union involvement can ensure that measures to combat climate change will create jobs as proposed by the One Million Climate Jobs campaign and the Green New Deal.

(d) The future of our planet is at risk if we do not organise now to force governments to cut emissions in line with the IPCC report.

(e) The decision by the last Labour Party Conference to commit to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030 and implement a Green New Deal is very welcome.

(f) We must keep the pressure up - the school students have led the way but the trade union movement must act now to ensure that they do not fight alone.

##### 3. Conference resolves to:

- (a) Call on branches and regions to show solidarity with further Earth Strikes within the law.
- (b) Work with the UK Schools Climate Network, XR and the Campaign Against Climate Change.
- (c) Invite Greta Thunberg to address National Delegate Conference.

**Proposed: Tim O'Dell, Libraries**

**Seconded: Roger Lewis, Adult Social Care**

*NOTE: AGM will have to hear why this motion qualifies as an emergency motion*

## **Emergency Motion Eight: Grenfell**

1. National Delegate Conference condemns the attacks in the media on London Fire Brigade staff after the publication of the interim findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

2. Conference believes that the inquiry should have looked at the causes of the fire first and what happened on the day in the second phase as this lets those responsible for the tragedy off the hook and puts the focus unfairly on the London Fire Brigade and its staff.

3. Conference believes that no-one would have died if inflammable cladding had not been fitting to the building and if the correct fire safety measures had been in place. Deregulation, outsourcing of council housing and cuts in the fire service lie behind the tragedy. Warnings from previous fires were ignored.

4. Conference believes that the Government must now take responsibility for ensuring that recommendations from the inquiry are applied nationwide. A real change in fire safety in the UK can only be achieved by establishing a new, credible and accountable body responsible for fire and rescue service policy in the UK.

5. Conference believes that prevention of another Grenfell Tower fire means a reversal of cuts to the fire service an end to the neo-liberal belief that fire safety measures are just "red tape".

6. Conference is concerned at the high level of jobs losses amongst Fire and Rescue Staff, include Fire Safety workers, since 2008 many of whom were UNISON members.

7. Conference supports the following measures:

(a) Full funding for the Fire Service nationally, including increases in the number of fire safety inspecting officers and support staff.

(b) Proper professional training for fire safety inspecting officers and fire fighters and for an end to the provision of fire service training at a profit.

(c) A reversal of cuts to local authority building control departments.

(d) An end to the outsourcing of building control responsibilities to private "approved inspectors"

(e) Extending of current fire safety legislation to cover all parts of high rise residential buildings and not just the common parts.

(f) Provision of sufficient resources to make it possible for local authorities to ensure that new buildings are actually constructed and alterations made in line with council and fire authority recommendations.

(g) Legislation to make the installation of sprinklers in all existing and newly built high rise residential buildings and schools compulsory.

(h) Closure of loopholes which allow technical fire safety elements to be designed without the involvement of competent fire safety professionals.

(i) Legislation and adequate funding to ensure the removal of all of inflammable cladding from high rise residential buildings and prevent its installation in the future.

6. Conference calls on the NEC to work with Labour Link to raise these proposals within the Labour Party and suggest that they are included in the manifesto for the next General Election.

7. Conference resolves to continue to support the Grenfell survivors' fight for justice

**Proposed : Harold Wilson**

**Seconded by**