



# 2019 Conference: Suggested Policy Motions

## Contents

Things to Consider	2
Labour for a Green New Deal	3
A 4 day week for a fairer, more sustainable society	4
Inclusive Ownership Funds for a fairer economy	5
End Immigration Detention: Restore Human Dignity and Fight Prejudice	6
End the War in Yemen	7
Community Wealth Building to create wealth for all	8
Public Services to Transform Society	9
Conference Motion on Venezuela	10
Implement the Good Friday Agreement	11
Shadow Defence Diversification Agency urgently needed	12



## Things to Consider

*Why should my CLP pass a motion?*

There remains a lack of clarity regarding what happens to motions once passed at Conference. However, it is clear that successful motions nonetheless can and do influence party policy, and even ones which reaffirm existing policies can have an impact by making it harder to remove progressive policy positions from the Manifesto or water them down.

*How many motions can we pass?*

CLPs can pass either one rule change or one motion to be considered for debate at this year's Party Conference.

*When is the deadline?*

CLPs that decide to submit a motion rather than a rule change have until Thursday September 12th to pass the motion.

*How many issues will be debated at this year's Conference?*

This year, the number of issues Conference will debate is being expanded to 10 issues from the CLP section and 10 from the trade unions, and an extra day will be added to the Conference agenda. Meanwhile, it is likely that less rule changes will be debated because of the Democracy Review in 2018 and ongoing reviews by the NEC. So there will be considerable opportunities to debate key policy proposals.

*How do we make sure our preferred motion gets debated at Conference?*

Motions that receive large numbers of submissions generally have a greater chance of being considered for the Conference agenda. Motions covering issues which are included in the Conference agenda will be composited at meetings during Conference, to which delegates from the CLPs who passed the motions will be invited. Delegates should ensure the content and spirit of their CLP's motion is accurately reflected in the composite(s) that get debated.



## Labour for a Green New Deal

### Conference notes:

- To prevent the worst effects of climate change, we must keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C.
- Over 1°C of warming has taken place, causing floods, droughts, heatwaves, pollution, and hundreds of thousands of deaths. The poorest - particularly in the Global South - suffer most. Tackling climate change is thus indivisible from social, racial and economic justice.
- Just 100 companies are responsible for the majority of carbon emissions; and the Conservative government is deregulating the fossil fuel industry and cutting support for renewables.
- Labour has supported the youth strikes for climate and Extinction Rebellion, pushing the climate emergency up the national agenda. A Green New Deal is now a demand we must make.

**Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to include a Green New Deal in the manifesto:** a state-led programme of investment and regulation for the decarbonisation and transformation of our economy that reduces inequality and pursues efforts to keep global average temperature rises below 1.5°C.

### This will include:

- Commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2030;
- Rapidly phasing out all fossil fuels;
- Large-scale investment in renewables;
- A just transition to well-paid, unionised, green jobs available for all;
- A green industrial revolution expanding public, democratic ownership as far as necessary for the transformation;
- Green public integrated transport that connects Britain;
- Supporting developing countries' climate transitions by increasing transfers of finance, technology and capacity;
- Assuring everyone's basic rights through the provision of universal services;
- Welcoming climate refugees while taking measures against the displacement of peoples from their homes.

*Word Count: 250*

(Drafted by Labour for a Green New Deal)



## A 4 day week for a fairer, more sustainable society

### Conference notes:

- That the UK works longer hours than other European countries, with the fewest bank holidays and billions of pounds of unpaid overtime.
- YouGov data showing 63% of Britons support a four-day full-time working week.
- The recent report from the Autonomy think tank and the 4 Day Week Campaign which shows the health and wellbeing costs of overwork, how reduced working time can help equality and that a reduction in working time could greatly contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- The ongoing review for Labour by Lord Skidelsky into the introduction of shorter working time with no loss of pay.

### Conference believes:

- There is a growing consensus around reductions in working time, including support from the TUC, Labour Party frontbenchers and individual unions.
- That the increasing development of the capacity of technology to make work more intense for workers, or else replace jobs entirely in the coming decades.
- That a reduced working week with no loss in pay is an obvious method by which we can share the benefits of increased productivity for the many and not the few.

### Conference resolves:

- To include in the next Labour Party general election manifesto a commitment to introduce a four day week with no loss of pay for all those who want it by the end of the next Labour government's first full Parliamentary term.
- To support the Labour for a 4 Day Week campaign.

*Word count: 234*

(Drafted by Labour for a 4 Day Week)



## Inclusive Ownership Funds for a fairer economy

### Conference notes:

- The announcement by Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell at Party Conference 2018 that Labour would set up “Inclusive Ownership Funds” for companies with more than 250 employees.
- That each qualifying company would have an Inclusive Ownership Fund, into which the company would be required to place 1% of its shares each year, up to a cap.
- That this company Inclusive Ownership Fund would be held collectively by the employees, paying dividends to them and providing them with a collective voice as a shareholder. Dividend payments above a cap will be made to government.

### Conference believes:

- That Inclusive Ownership Funds will transfer wealth and power to working people, giving them a collective stake in large companies.
- That individual dividends from the Inclusive Ownership Funds will redress low pay and shift the balance of income back towards those who work.
- That the democratisation of capital and wealth in our society is critical to the mission of the next Labour government.

### Conference resolves:

- To express full support for the policy, and urge the inclusion of Inclusive Ownership Funds in the next Labour Manifesto as a priority for government.
- To support consultation and work on the best means to implement Inclusive Ownership Funds as a priority for government, including consideration of their legal implementation and level of the dividend cap.
- To support the use of payments above the dividend cap for a national wealth fund.

*Word count: 232*



## End immigration detention: restore human dignity and fight prejudice

### Conference notes:

- The UK's "Detention Estate", one of the largest in Europe, comprises over 8 detention centres, including Yarl's Wood and many others.
- Alternatives to detention exist. Pilot schemes in 2010-2012 run by Refugee Action/UKBA for single people and families were successful in employing a fully holistic approach.
- Violence and mental ill-health faced by detainees is rampant.
- 11 reported deaths in 2017 (almost all self-inflicted); 2 suicide attempts per day, a 22% rise in suicide between April and June 2018.
- Inhumane conditions and cases of rampant racist, sexual and sexist abuse by staff reported at Yarl's Wood.
- Work exploitation in Detention Centres is routine, with detainees expected to work for just £1 per hour.
- Xenophobia is one of the main sources of contemporary racism, as noted by the Durban Declaration.

### Conference believes:

- By criminalising migrants, the Conservatives are stoking anti-immigration sentiment to set a far-right policy agenda; which fuels the far-right movement.
- An alternative to detention centres that treats migrants with dignity can systematically challenge anti-immigrant sentiment.
- A community-based approach to immigration and asylum systems, without detention, encourages social inclusion and promotes human dignity. Those seeking to settle can do so whilst remaining in the country, working within their local communities and receiving legal advice. This promotes wellbeing; combating criminalisation of migrants.

### Conference calls on:

- An incoming Labour Government to end the Detention Estate and adopt a community-led response for migrants that challenges xenophobic sentiment and supports the vulnerable.

*Word Count: 240*

*(Drafted by Labour Against Racism and Fascism)*



## End the war on Yemen

Conference notes the UN has characterised the current situation in Yemen as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. Approximately 80% of the population is dependent upon emergency food and medical aid. 1.8 million children are enduring acute malnutrition; and 85,000 children under the age of five have starved to death in the past three years.

This situation is entirely due to the Saudi led war upon the country, reinforced by a siege of all points of access. After four years of systematic bombardment, and occupation of large parts of the country, the Saudi coalition has destroyed much of the infrastructure of the poorest country in the Middle East.

Conference condemns the Tory Government's support for the war. There is no military solution, yet the Tories are licensing arms sales, supplying intelligence, logistics and British military personnel to the Saudi coalition. Nearly £5 billion in arms licenses has already been granted. We call for the immediate suspension of such sales. We call for a halt on all conventional UK military operations in Yemen.

Conference condemns the government for refusing to support an independent investigation into breaches of international humanitarian law by the Saudi coalition. This is despite well documented evidence of continuing attacks upon civilian targets including schools, medical facilities, markets, etc.

We commend Labour's Front Bench for challenging the Tories' complicity in the suffering of the Yemeni people. We welcome the commitment of an incoming Labour government to embargo arms sales and support an independent enquiry.

*Word Count: 250 words*

*(Drafted by Campaign for Labour Party Democracy)*



## Community Wealth Building to create wealth for the many

### Conference notes:

- Community Wealth Building (CWB) is a people-centred approach to local economic development. It is an intentional reorganisation of local economies to stop wealth being extracted out of our communities, instead placing control of this wealth into the hands of the many.
- That CWB has already been successfully implemented by Labour councils, for example through the 'Preston Model.'
- In 2018 Labour launched a CWB Unit to scale this new movement up and out across the UK.

### Conference believes:

- That CWB is a proven remedy to the failures of neoliberal economic development.
- That local authorities and devolved administrations should utilise CWB techniques as a means of defeating austerity and creating local social, economic, and environmental justice for all.
- That CWB can help achieve the systemic transformation of moving our local economies away from capitalist extractivism and towards a plural generation of wealth in our society. This is critical to the mission of the next Labour government.

### Conference resolves:

- To express full support for CWB, and urge the prioritisation of this agenda in the next Labour Manifesto as a priority for devolved administrations.
- To support consultation and work on the best means to implement CWB as a priority for government.
- To explore policy options for the five areas of CWB. These are: plural ownership of the economy; progressive procurement of goods and services; fair employment; making financial power work for local places; and socially productive use of land and assets.

*Word Count: 239*





## Public services to transform society

Conference notes that after decades of failed privatisation, our party is preparing to build incredible publicly owned public services.

This means making public services democratic and accountable to the people who use them, and to wider society.

Conference notes the 'When We Own It' report, submitted by We Own It to Labour's National Policy Forum in response to the consultation on public ownership.

Conference believes that Labour should take on board the following recommendations from this report:

- All publicly owned organisations should have the following duties:
  - A duty to decarbonise our economy
  - A duty to ensure access for all to public services
  - A duty to work closely with communities
  - A duty to steward and protect public assets and land
  - A duty to maximise public scrutiny by being entirely transparent
- Citizens, civil society and workers should be at the heart of the governance structures in new publicly owned organisations
- A new, independent, democratically accountable organisation should be created with statutory powers to represent public service users, hold publicly owned companies to account and prevent future privatisation attempts
- Public services should foster a participatory culture where everyone is able to be involved in public services in whatever way, time and place is best for us
- New checks, balances and accountability mechanisms should be created and enforced to give the public more power
- Public ownership and participation should be embedded at the local level and connected to community projects, spaces and priorities.

*Word Count: 250*

*(Drafted by We Own It)*



## Conference Motion on Venezuela

Conference notes comments from US President Trump himself, Vice President Pence, and Secretary of State Pompeo that have regularly included threats of military action in Venezuela.

Conference believes:

- that a US-led military intervention in Venezuela may go the same way as previous disastrous wars, such as in Iraq.
- the future of Venezuela is a matter for Venezuelans alone to determine.
- Trump and his far-right allies such as Bolsonaro in Brazil offer no hope to Venezuela or to the majority of people in Latin America.
- US interventions have a bloody history in Latin America, including with previous US backed military juntas, such as Chile under Pinochet.
- The way forward for Venezuela is the call for dialogue from Mexico, Bolivia, Uruguay and others.
- Conference resolves to oppose any U.S. military intervention in Venezuela and any UK government support for it.

*Word Count:* 144 words

(Drafted by Venezuela Solidarity Campaign)



## Implement the Good Friday Agreement

### Conference notes:

1. The Good Friday Agreement is now more than 20 years old
2. The Labour government, along with many others internationally, played an important role in establishing the Agreement
3. That many provisions of the Agreement, and others such as the St Andrews Agreement have yet to be implemented
4. The current Labour leadership has always supported peace, democracy and equality in Ireland

Conference recognises the importance of the Agreement in establishing peace, power-sharing and greater equality. It enshrines the principle that Irish unity can be achieved by consent, and that consent can be tested through a border poll.

### Conference notes:

1. The anti-democratic nature of the agreement between the Tories and the DUP, and public funds used to secure it
2. The unwillingness of the Tory government to address the issues that led to the collapse of the NI power-sharing Executive
3. The political impasse created means key inequalities remain in place, including on language rights, citizenship, a woman's right to choose and equal marriage
4. The undue influence DUP red lines have had in the government's Brexit negotiations

Conference calls on Labour to continue to respect the Good Friday Agreement and to implement it in full. It further calls on Labour to use the mechanisms of Agreement to redress inequalities. Conference resolves that Labour, in line with international law and its moral obligations, will always respect the will of the majority of the population.

*Word Count: 238*

(Drafted by Campaign for Labour Party Democracy)



## Shadow Defence Diversification Agency urgently needed

### Conference acknowledges:

- a) the defence industry is increasingly capital intensive and employment is in long-term decline;
- b) urgent attention is needed to ensure skilled, secure and well-paid employment for defence workers;

### Conference welcomes:

- a) Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to establishing a Defence Diversification Agency 'jointly between workers, industry and government to ensure that jobs and skills are not just maintained, but also expanded';
- b) Motion 17 passed by TUC 2017 which 'calls on trade unions and the TUC to lobby the Labour Party to establish a 'shadow Defence Diversification Agency' and 'urges trades union councils, trade unions and the General Council of the TUC' to assist it work;
- c) Unite's 2018 policy conference decision to 'provide resources to develop a defence diversification strategy' including promoting cross-sectoral work within the union, and working with other unions, the TUC and Labour Party.

Conference recognises that securing jobs for defence workers is best achieved by the establishment of a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency as part of a national industrial strategy, which must encourage workers and communities to take the lead in a broad partnership of all stakeholders.

### Conference resolves to:

- a) encourage discussion about defence diversification at all levels of the party;
- b) work with the TUC, Unite and other unions to encourage research on defence diversification; and
- c) establish a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency as a matter of urgency.

*Word count: 226*

(Drafted by Campaign for Labour Party Democracy)