

WHY
SOCIALISTS
SHOULD
BE IN THE
Labour Party



momentum

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The exit of socialists from the Labour Party has been a major factor in Starmer's ascendancy, and we will not have a prospect of changing the Party until the number of socialists in Labour stabilises and starts regrowing. The aim of this document is to help Momentum activists keep socialists in Labour, recruit people and convince comrades who have left to rejoin.

1. Starmer wants us to leave. We should not give him what he wants.

As Jeremy Gilbert outlined in [a 2021 article](#), 'Keir Starmer wants you to leave the Labour Party. He wants me to leave the Labour Party. If we leave the Labour Party, then we are giving him what he wants.' He continued, 'it is a pretty basic principle of political strategy that we don't give our enemies what they want unless we are forced to do so.' We agree!

2. Our project must be based on an alliance with organised labour.

It is not possible to transform society without the proactive involvement of organised labour. The Labour Party was founded by trade unions and still has 11 trade unions affiliated to it. Socialists in the Labour Party are therefore bound into a shared project with organised Labour - this is not possible outside of the Party.

3. There are unlikely to be viable alternatives outside of Labour.

Any new left Party would have a lower ceiling (highest potential vote) and a much lower floor (lowest potential vote) than the Labour Party. Such a Party could potentially act as a spoiler – but our job is not to be spoilers, but to actively seek power in order to transform society. In our current First Past the Post system, the only way to do that is by organising inside the Party.

4. Socialist MPs in Labour are standing firm against Starmer and his allies

Socialist MPs continue to challenge Starmer and his allies' reactionary policies. New MPs like Brian Leishman, Stephen Witherden, and Neil Duncan-Jordan have made crucial interventions in recent months, joining existing Socialist Campaign Group MPs like Richard Burgon and Zarah Sultana in standing up to Starmer. The selection and election of new MPs who represent our politics in spite of the manipulated selection system is a major win for grassroots activists.

5. Socialist councillors are achieving concrete change in the here and now.

Socialist and progressive Labour councillors in places like Preston and Islington are achieving concrete progressive change in the here and now. This includes implementing community wealth building, building new council housing, and insourcing key services. Last year's NEC elections suggest there are 700 left-leaning Labour cllrs. Being a Labour member is a way to work with aligned cllrs to achieve material changes in your community.

6. Things can and will change!

The Starmer-Reeves project is on borrowed time. It has no mandate for its reactionary agenda and is alienating people across Britain and the Labour Party. The job of the Labour Left is to organise within the Party and keep promoting real Labour values, such as policies like wealth taxes and renationalising our NHS, so that we can take advantage of any openings when they emerge.

To listen to these arguments in more detail, listen to our National Coordinator Rachel Godfrey Wood [speaking on Novara Media](#) in January 2025.

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