



Momentum BAME Labour Consultation

In response to the Labour Party Democracy Review, Momentum undertook a consultation of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic members and supporters asking about their experiences and ideas relating to BAME Labour, eliciting 960 responses.¹

Results

- 40% of the respondents had never even heard of the BAME Labour, only 13% said they were members, and 19% said they didn't know if they are members or not. Only 6% stated they received ballot papers in last Summer's BAME election, demonstrating widespread confusion over and lack of clarity over people's membership of the organisation eligibility to vote in elections.
- 55% stated they have no knowledge whatsoever of the organisation, and 33% said they had very little knowledge, suggesting BAME Labour isn't a meaningful organisation for the BAME members. When asked if they have an ethnic minority forum in their CLP, 59% of respondents stated they were unaware, 34% said there isn't one, and 6% said they have one.
- With regards to BAME members' representation on the National Executive Committee (NEC) 78% of respondents said the positions should be elected by One Member One Vote of BAME members (in contrast to the current elections which are restricted to the tiny number of people who are BAME Labour members), and only 6% opposed this.

Conclusion

The survey indicates that most members believe Labour has a long way to go in terms of its treatment of BAME members and supporters. BAME Labour has been allowed to stagnate, characterised by poor administration, opaque structures and procedures, an absence of engagement, and a lack of autonomy, contributing to an atrophy of membership from the low figure of 3363 members in 2010 to just 731 in 2017. This has compounded historical trends of disempowerment of BAME Labour members and supporters, caused by the party's tendency to engage them through tokenism and clientelism. Whilst support for the party amongst BAME communities has recovered thanks to support for the 2017 party manifesto and leadership, serious structural changes to BAME Labour are required if the party is to empower Britain's BAME communities. Momentum is circulating [proposals to this effect](#) for BAME members and supporters to submit into the Democracy Review.

¹ 837 of respondents are believed to be Labour Party members. It is worth noting that non Labour Party members are currently allowed to be members of BAME Labour providing they are not members of an opposing political party.