

Apsana Begum for Section 5 City & East (City, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Barking & Dagenham) and Havering & Redbridge

CLP: Poplar and Limehouse
Membership: LO149325
Email: ApsanaForLondonRegion@gmail.com



I am committed to a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour government. In London, I am committed to democracy, accountability and equal opportunities for Labour members. For too long there has been a top-down approach by Region where rank and file members, particularly in Section 5, have been disenfranchised and disempowered. To flourish, CLPs need to be as autonomous and democratic as everywhere else in the country and not be stifled by bureaucratic measures.

In 2017, I became the first British Bangladeshi woman Secretary of the Tower Hamlets Labour Party. I organised the Borough Labour Party diligently to allow for a new kind of politics: building trust among underrepresented groups (particularly ethnic minorities and working class members, who have too often not been valued beyond delivering votes and funding elections); supporting a new generation to become activists and take up Executive roles; employing digital tools and focused campaigns to engage the wider membership and fostering links with other boroughs to share learning. I campaigned for and was instrumental in delivering the first members' selection process in my CLP in over a decade and oversaw the de-merging of my local party into two CLP's, bringing it in line with the rest of the country.

East London has the worst child poverty rates in the country, a fact which underlines the desperate need for a Labour Government. But the party still has some way to go to show it understands the struggles and experiences of minority groups and working-class communities. This is why I campaigned against the closure of public nurseries and called on the Party to tackle the national childcare crisis at the Women's Conference. It is also why I have worked to encourage party members on low wages and the unemployed to join trade unions.

As a diversity and inclusion practitioner in the public sector, I am acutely aware of the need for institutions to be representative of diverse groups. How can we claim to be a party For the Many if we are unable to be institutionally reflective of the people we claim to represent? Tackling institutional barriers to make our Regional Party, Office and elected London representatives more reflective of London's diversity is a key priority for me, not just a tokenistic pledge. The Chakrabarti recommendations must be delivered in full as a matter of urgency, in the interests of natural justice.

As your Regional Board representative, I would:

- Lobby to deliver targeted activities to support BAME activists, disabled, LGBT+, women and those from working class backgrounds to stand as MP's and councillors for future elections and develop policies.
- Lobby for a review of decision-making into the allocation of resources and develop a framework to determine marginal seats which are able to expand Labour's support.
- Ensure greater scrutiny of our Labour Mayor of London and GLA representatives.
- Challenge unfair processes and incorrect applications of rules.

Please also give your support to Bob Littlewood in Section 5