

Robert Lugg standing for Disability Officer.

Battersea CLP

Membership Number: L1397098

Email: robert.lugg@unitetheunion.org

Nothing about us without us.



I am proud to stand as part of the left slate for the London Regional Board, to continue to push for a Labour Party with socialist policies and a labour government led by Jeremy Corbyn.

I have been a trade union activist for 21 years in USDAW, Unison, BECTU and now Unite. I am Chair of my ward Labour branch, Trade Union Liaison Officer for my CLP and Secretary of my local Co-operative Party branch. Over the last 21 years I have sat on numerous sectoral, regional and national committees across the trade union movement. I have also organised and run selections for council and parliamentary elections and run campaigns to win seats for Labour.

The position of Disability Officer has never been more vital. The last decade has been disastrous for disabled people with a tory government that has destroyed the lives of millions and set back equality by a generation.

The last Labour Government did a lot to advance equality but the next one must go much further. We need radical action to create a society where no-one is shut out and that means a completely redesigned social security system that is supportive rather than punitive, proper funding for specialised services for disabled people and urgent action to create public transport infrastructure and workplaces that are really adapted to the needs of all.

This must start at home. Within the Labour Party and the wider labour movement inclusion of disabled people is too often an afterthought, or a tick box exercise. Labour must develop a comprehensive plan to ensure more disabled people get involved in the party, campaign for us, feed into policy development, stand for positions internally and elected office and get to select their local candidates.

This work cannot be left to CLPs or LCFs, the Party must develop such a strategy at national and regional level and I would push for this to happen straight away as Disability Officer. I would also work with Disability Labour to establish structures for disabled members at regional level, and look at equalities monitoring info gathering as I think that it's essential that the Disability Officer is directly answerable to, and ultimately elected by, disabled members.

It's also vital that Labour in London steps up campaigning on key issues like violent crime, housing, transport and inequality and that we push for more radical policies to tackle these issues. We must make sure resources are focussed on seats we need to win and hold in national and local elections in coming years.