

YOUR PARTY

YOUR VOICE



Labour Party A-Z jargon-buster

It can sometimes feel that Labour Party meetings are conducted in a foreign language and it can be confusing for new members. This brief guide explains some of the most commonly used Labour Party terms and acronyms. We hope it will be helpful but if you have any questions, please contact Unite's Political Department on 0207 611 2607 or email unitepolitics@unitetheunion.org

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Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
<i>Definitions are given for words in italics.</i>		
Affiliate		Trade union or <i>socialist society</i> with established formal links with the Labour Party based on common values. Affiliates pay a subscription to the Labour Party on behalf of their members.
Affiliated Supporter		Member of an affiliated trade union or <i>socialist society</i> who has actively chosen to be an individual supporter of the Labour Party.
All Member Meeting	AMM	Meeting of the <i>Constituency Labour Party</i> open to all members.
All Women Shortlist	AWS	Process to increase representation of women in Parliament by reserving 50% of winnable seats for women candidates.
Annual General Meeting	AGM	Yearly business meeting at which the financial accounts are presented, reports of the past year's work are given, officers are elected and <i>standing orders</i> are amended.
Back Bench		MP or councillor with no <i>cabinet</i> responsibility.
Branch Labour Party	BLP	Division of the Labour Party usually based on ward boundaries for local councillors. All members and <i>affiliated supporters</i> are allocated to a branch based on where they live.
Cabinet		Committee of senior government ministers/shadow ministers. Also main decision making body of a Council consisting of the Leader/elected Mayor & councillors with <i>portfolio responsibilities</i> .
Collective Affiliation		Formal link between affiliated trade unions and the Labour Party.
Constituency Labour Party	CLP	Division of the Labour Party based on the electoral district for the MP, comprises Labour Party <i>branches</i> and local <i>affiliates</i> .
Co-operative Party		Political voice of the co-operative movement. It is a separate political party which has an electoral agreement with Labour.
Delegate		Person elected to represent a Labour Party or trade union branch at other meetings, such as <i>General Committees</i> .
Ethnic Minority Forum		Part of the Labour Party's equality structures, a <i>constituency-wide</i> body open to all Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority (abbreviated to either BAEM or BAME) members in the area.
European Parliamentary Labour Party	EPLP	Grouping of British Labour MEPs in the European Parliament.
 Executive Committee	EC	Sub group of the <i>Constituency Labour Party</i> , consisting of key officers and representatives from affiliates, that oversees local party business.
Front Bench		Government minister or Opposition shadow spokesperson. Also a councillor with <i>portfolio responsibilities</i> .

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General Committee	GC	A meeting of the <i>Constituency Labour Party</i> formed of <i>delegates</i> from local <i>branches</i> and <i>affiliates</i> .
General Management Committee	GMC	Alternative name for <i>General Committee</i> .
Get Out the Vote	GOTV	Campaign to identify Labour Party supporters and encourage them to turn out to vote, using canvassing and mailings.
Labour Group		Grouping of all the Labour Councillors in a local authority.
List		System for electing candidates in London, Welsh, Scottish and European elections, where seats are allocated in proportion to the number of votes the party receives.
Local Campaign Forum	LCF	Grouping of representatives from all <i>CLPs</i> in the same local authority with responsibility for overseeing local election campaigning and identifying candidates for council elections.
Local Government Committee	LGC	Former name of the <i>Local Campaign Forum</i> .
National Executive Committee	NEC	Governing body of the Labour Party, comprising the Leader and Deputy Leader, with representatives from the <i>EPLP</i> , <i>PLP</i> , councils, <i>CLPs</i> , <i>socialist societies</i> and trade unions.
National Policy Forum	NPF	Body that oversees policy development outside of conference, with representation from all sections of the Labour Party.
One Member One Vote	OMOV	Ballot system used for Labour Party elections, such as the Leader and Deputy leadership elections, where all members receive one vote and all votes carry equal weight.
Panel		Pool of candidates from which <i>branches</i> can select who they wish to stand in their ward council elections.
Parliamentary Labour Party	PLP	Collective body of Labour MPs.
Policy Commission		Subject specific body that develops detailed policy, comprising members of the <i>NPF</i> , <i>NEC</i> and <i>Shadow Cabinet</i> .
Policy Forum		Local or regional meeting of Labour Party members to discuss issues and feed views into the policy process.
Portfolio responsibility		A specific council service such as housing or social care, that a <i>front bench</i> councillor has responsibility for overseeing.
Prospective Parliamentary Candidate	PPC	Candidate chosen by a <i>CLP</i> to stand in the general election.
Quotas		Policy to ensure gender balance, e.g. at least 50% of <i>CLP delegates</i> to Labour Party conference must be women.
Selection		Process of choosing candidates to stand in local, regional, national and European elections.
Socialist Society		Independent organisation affiliated to the Labour Party, e.g. Socialist Educational Association & Socialist Health Association.
Standing Orders		Set of rules governing local Labour Party structures.
Trade Union Liaison Officer	TULO	<i>CLP</i> officer elected to build links with local trade unions.
Trade Union Liaison Organisation	TULO	Umbrella organisation that co-ordinates the national and regional activities of trade unions affiliated to the Labour party.
Trigger Ballot		Process where Labour Party <i>branches</i> and local <i>affiliates</i> to a <i>CLP</i> decide whether to confirm that a sitting MP can stand for re-election or should face a full <i>selection</i> process.
Ward		Alternative name for a <i>branch</i> .
Women's Forum		Part of the Labour Party's equality structures, a <i>constituency-wide</i> body open to all women members in the area.