

# Momentum Proposal for the National Executive Committee

## Key Principles

The Labour Party exists as an instrument of its members and affiliated organisations who seek to transform society in favour of the many, not the few. On this basis, the NEC should be based on the following principles:

- The NEC should be the governing body of the Labour Party, with oversight over policymaking, finances, campaigning, administration, and key staff appointments, subject to the control and directions of Party conference.
- All representatives on the NEC should have a direct mandate from either members, affiliated trade unions, or both, rather than from the patronage of institutions which already hold significant influence within the party.
- All future changes to the composition of the NEC should be based on the principle of parity between members and affiliated trade unions, and should aim to defend and enhance the representation of both groups.

## Accountability to Conference

All the NEC's powers should be subject to the control and direction of Party conference. On this basis, the NEC's accountability to Party conference should be enhanced in the following ways.

- The NEC should report back to conference with a written report, with time given to delegates to ask questions and scrutinise all key decisions taken by the NEC during the course of the year.
- All key procedures affecting the governing of the Labour Party, including ones which are currently categorised as appendices, Codes of Conduct, guidelines, and procedures, should be included inside the rulebook, and therefore be amendable only at Conference, unless there is a strong argument to the contrary.
- All remaining documents should be amendable by the NEC, with any amendments being reported back to Conference in the NEC Report. All procedural documents should be collated in one place (potentially on Membersnet), accessible to members, regardless of whether they are in the rule book or not.

## Changes to the Composition

- The three Shadow Cabinet positions and three Parliamentary Labour Party positions should be abolished on the basis that they do not owe their positions to a mandate from members or affiliated trade unions.

- These positions should be replaced with four positions reserved for MPs. Two of these positions should be elected via One Member One Vote, and two should be chosen by the trade union section at the annual Party conference. At least one person from each section must be a woman.
- The two positions representing the Association of Labour Councillors (ALC), elected Mayors and police commissioners should also be abolished on the basis that they do not owe their positions to a mandate from members or affiliated trade unions.
- The two positions reserved for the ALC, elected Mayors and police commissioners should be replaced with two positions reserved for councillors. One of these should be elected via One Member One Vote, and the other should be elected by the trade union section at the annual Party Conference. In each section, the representatives must be a woman at least every other term.
- The position held by the leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party should be abolished when the UK leaves the European Union.
- The number of CLP representatives should be expanded to ten.
- The representative of BAME (Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic) members should be elected via One Member One Vote of all party members who self identify as BAME, in order to ensure that the BAME representative is accountable to BAME members. This representative should not be an MP.
- The representative of Young Labour should also be elected by One Member One Vote of members.
- The representatives of Socialist Societies should be elected by Party Conference from the full electoral college of CLP and trade union delegates.
- The representatives of the Scottish and Welsh Labour Parties should be elected by the respective conferences of those nations.
- Disabled members should be represented via one person elected via One Member One Vote of all party members who self-identify as disabled in order to address the underrepresentation of disabled members in the party.

## **Supporting Argument**

*Labour Party democracy depends on having a National Executive Committee which is fully representative of party members and affiliated trade unions. Other key actors in the party, such as MPs, councillors, and socialist societies, should have reserved places on the NEC to ensure their voices are heard, but those positions must be based on democratic mandates to members and trade unions rather than to patronage from institutions which are already sufficiently well represented within the party structures. This would also allow for a control of the size of the NEC, which would limit the extent to which key decisions have to be devolved to the Officers' Group, thus ensuring greater accountability. Representatives of younger party members, BAME members, and disabled members should be elected via one member one vote (OMOV) ballots of members in these groups. The NEC should have oversight over all key areas relating to the governance of the party, including policymaking, finance, staffing, and administration, subject to*

*the control and directions of Conference, and it should be required to report to Conference each year, with delegates allowed to scrutinise the key decisions taken in the course of the year.*