

Elections to the

National Executive Committee 2008

Why you should nominate candidates supported by the **Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance** (CLGA)

In 2008 members will again have the opportunity to elect representatives to the constituency section of the National Executive Committee. Since 1998 the CLGA, a body of democratic socialist groups and newspapers across the centre and left of the Labour Party, has promoted candidates who stand up for the rights of ordinary members.

To secure a place in the ballot, candidates need nominations from their own CLP and at least two from constituencies in other Labour Party regions. Each CLP can make up to six nominations — the deadline is 1 April 2008.

Each candidate, while retaining freedom of judgment on specific issues, will therefore campaign for:

A radical reforming Labour government

CLGA candidates will campaign for Labour to win elections as a democratic socialist party, committed to redistributing wealth, income and power from the few to the many, and protecting the environment. They welcome increased government spending on public services and will press for more progressive taxation to fund further improvements in housing, health, education, transport and state pensions. They believe that disputes between countries should be resolved by negotiations through the United Nations, not through unilateral military action, and that Britain and the world would be safer without replacing Trident.

They will:

- promote policies which advance public service and collective ownership, and resist and reverse privatization
- seek to end poverty and to maintain and increase universal benefits
- campaign for improved trade union and employment rights, a living minimum wage, and increased democratic and financial powers for local government

Social Inclusion

CLGA candidates will promote social justice, and fight discrimination on grounds of gender, race, age, class, disability, sexual orientation and religion, both inside and outside the party.

Gordon Brown on taking over as leader of the Labour Party promised to renew party democracy, rebuild the party itself, and give members more say in shaping policy. CLGA candidates will seek to hold him to his word. This is vital to increase membership and activism, and to win back electoral support for Labour candidates at every level.

Democracy, transparency and accountability

CLGA candidates will

- insist that the party and its leadership operate in a democratic, accountable and transparent way, and set an example by regularly reporting back to members
- seek parity with the trade unions for constituency representatives on the NEC, without any reduction in union representation
- monitor recent changes to the policy-making process, and press for their reversal if they do not in fact empower members
- advocate the right for CLPs and affiliates to propose amendments to policy documents at Conference and promote one-member-one vote for the NPF constituency section
- safeguard the right of local and regional parties to choose their own candidates without prior or political vetting
- uphold the sovereignty of annual conference and the existing links at all levels between the party and the unions.

Please urge your CLP to nominate preferably all the candidates whose details are overleaf ⇨

NEC ELECTIONS: NOMINATE CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY THE

Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance

• Mohammed Azam

The recent events have damaged the reputation of the Labour Party at a time when both the opposition parties — Tories & the Lib-Dems — are starting to make a comeback.



We need a strong NEC that will bring more accountability and member involvement. The Party needs to have a Socialist agenda that ensures inclusion, equality and cohesion.

I believe I have the necessary experience to serve you — the members — on the NEC. My experiences include being on the NEC, a Councillor, School governor, convenor for TGWU; Party member for over 20 years; Active in Voluntary sector; Co-Chair of National Assembly Against Racism and Unite Against Fascism supporter.

I will continue to campaign for more member involvement in running the Party. I am contactable at m_azam@ntlworld.com or on 07958 500570.

Member no. A602666; Oldham West and Royton CLP; North West Region.

• Ann Black

I am standing again because the NEC needs representatives with jobs outside politics, speaking for the volunteers on the ground.



The next election will be the toughest yet. As well as expanding public services, raising pensions, tackling child poverty, protecting the environment and enhancing civil liberties, Labour must restore trust in politics itself. Members remain overwhelmingly loyal, and they deserve better. I will continue arguing for the NEC to exercise greater control, and for a more responsive National Policy Forum.

You are welcome to contact me at annblack50@btinternet.com or 07956-637958. For reports of meetings, please send an e-mail address or visit www.annblack.com.

Experience: Joined Labour and UNISON in 1982. Secretary, Oxford East CLP. Member of the NEC, the National Policy Forum, and UNISON's National Political Committee.

Membership no. A353890, Oxford East CLP; South East Region.

For further copies of this leaflet go to: www.clga.org.uk.

For further information: CLGA, 322b Plumstead High St, London, SE18 1JT.

• Fran Griffiths

Labour's members and supporters have delivered 3 consecutive election victories but membership, communication and democratic decision-making within the party have declined, and many now wonder what the party stands for. 'New' Labour has embraced 'free market' policies, dictated by a deregulated global financial system and pioneered by the Tories. We have seen rising inequality and creeping privatisation of our public services.



I am a founder-member of Welsh Labour Grassroots, which was born out of the 'Welsh Labour Against the War' campaign and has provided a platform and support for the alternative socialist policies of the Welsh Assembly. I wish to stand for the NEC in solidarity with those pursuing a realistic socialist agenda within the party at national level and will provide a strong voice and regular feedback to members. I can be contacted on fran_griffiths@yahoo.co.uk.

Experience: CLP Women's Officer; Welsh Executive Member 2004-2006 (standing again this year) former chair, Welsh Labour Women's Committee, one-time local government councillor, school governor; active at Ward and community level and in my Union, TGWU-ACTS (now UNITE). I am Scottish and have lived, raised my family and worked in Wales (Personal Assistant to David Morris MEP; Shelter Cymru and currently clerk in UNISON). *Membership no. A464410; Swansea West CLP; Wales Region*

• Peter Kenyon

I am seeking your vote to strengthen the voice of members on the NEC. Together we can renew Labour as a mass-membership, solvent, ethical and democratically-run party. Restoring morale is vital to win back seats for Labour in local, and regional government, the European and Scottish Parliaments, Welsh Assembly, and secure a 4th term in Westminster. A strong Labour presence in our local communities is the best way of ensuring Labour stays in power nationally. That way we can ensure Labour values are the foundation stone of our policies in power.



Experience: Joined NUJ 1974, Labour 1978. CLP Membership Secretary, Chair Save the Labour Party and clerk to the LabOUR Commission. peter.g.kenyon@btinternet.com. 361 Shakespeare Tower, Barbican, London EC2Y 8NJ. M: 07802 216 591. T: 020 7374 6941. *Membership no. A458146; Cities of London and Westminster CLP; London Region.*

• Christine Shawcroft

I have been a Labour, Co-operative and trade union activist for 27 years. I was a Councillor for 12 years and am a member of the NUT.



I support core Labour values of peace, social justice and public ownership, particularly of the railways and other public services.

I support an increased minimum wage, without discrimination against young workers; the repeal of Tory anti-union laws; pensions being index linked to average earnings; a secular comprehensive education system with student grants, not loans; an end to costly PFI schemes; and retention of universal benefits. As secretary of Labour Against the War, I am campaigning for an independent, ethical foreign policy.

I believe I have been accountable and have reported back. Contact me on christineshawcroft@btoopenworld.com

Membership no. A490373; Nottingham South CLP; E. Midlands Region.

• Peter Willsman

Sitting NEC member. My motivation for standing again can be summed up as 'Keep the Party Labour'. To help build an effective NEC that will return power to the party and its members and ensure that our Parliamentary leadership is accountable.



A commitment to progressive Labour policies, rather than market-based policies, is the most assured way to enthuse our members and voters, defeat our political opponents and achieve a fourth term. A vital part of this process is the election of a determined and effective NEC.

I am always available to give information and advice (020-8854-7326). I provide regular report backs to CLPs (see also www.scgn.org.uk for full NEC reports).

NEC 1998-1999 and 2005 onwards; Conference Arrangements Committee 1981-1994; National Constitutional Committee 1995-1998; National Policy Forum 1998-1999 and 2002 onwards; Constituency GC/EC 1975-2008; Research Officer NUPE/UNISON 1979-1994; Branch Secretary-APEX/GMB 1980-1998; Co-op Group SE Political Committee/Area Committee/Party Council 1988-2008. *Membership no A071448; Erith and Thamesmead CLP; London Region.*

These candidates are supported by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Save the Labour Party, Campaign for Socialism (Scotland), Labour Black Representation Committee, Labour Left Briefing, Labour Representation Committee, Labour Women's Action Committee, Network of Socialist Campaign Groups, Welsh Grassroots, *Chartist* and *Socialist Campaign Group News*. *Tribune's* editorial in 1998 welcomed this initiative: 'The point is to mount a credible challenge to those forces within the party leadership who wish to further downgrade internal democracy and to ensure that the left and centre-left wins as large a presence as possible within the NEC.'