

Annual Women's Conference
Telford 2019

The Labour Party

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE
Report to Conference 2019

Motions Subjects in the Priorities Ballot

The Women's Conference Arrangements Committee has agreed that the motions in the 31 subject groupings listed below will be included in the motions priorities ballot which will be held online and close on Tuesday 5th February. See below for the motion groupings and the full text of each motion.

Abortion Rights

Cities of London and Westminster CLP

Northern Ireland CLP

Solihull CLP

Totnes CLP

Vauxhall CLP

Access to Justice

Calder Valley CLP

Brexit

Mid Bedfordshire CLP

Carers

Greenwich and Woolwich CLP

Child Poverty

Bethnal Green and Bow CLP

Climate Change

TSSA

Defence Diversification

Sheffield Hallam CLP

Early Years Education and Childcare

Battersea CLP

Dulwich and West Norwood CLP

Middlesbrough CLP

Rossendale and Darwen CLP

Westminster North CLP

Gender Pay Gap

Corby CLP

Independent Living

Harborough CLP

Israel Palestine

Thirsk and Malton CLP

Liverpool Women's Hospital

Garston and Halewood CLP

Sefton Central CLP

Southport CLP

Liverpool Wavertree CLP

Mental Health

East Devon CLP

East Yorkshire CLP

Parental Rights of Convicted Rapists

Arfon CLP

Pensions

Blyth Valley CLP

Burton CLP

Cardiff Central CLP

Chichester CLP

Hexham CLP

Morley and Outwood CLP

Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford CLP

Rhondda CLP

St Ives CLP

Wakefield CLP

Poverty

West Suffolk CLP

Public Health

Camberwell and Peckham CLP

Chipping Barnet CLP

LGBT Labour

Representation in Public Life

Batley and Spennings CLP

Berwick-upon-Tweed CLP

Birmingham Selly Oak CLP

Bishop Auckland CLP
Bournemouth East CLP
Bournemouth West CLP
Brentford and Isleworth CLP
Bury North CLP
Charnwood CLP
Dartford CLP
Ealing North CLP
Finchley and Golders Green CLP
Great Grimsby CLP
Harrogate and Knaresborough CLP
Labour Women's Network
Leeds West CLP
Lewisham East CLP
New Forest West CLP
Putney CLP
Sedgefield CLP
Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough CLP
Slough CLP
Somerton and Frome CLP
Southend West CLP
Stalybridge and Hyde CLP
Stockton South CLP
Walthamstow CLP
Watford CLP
Wells CLP

Rights for Migrant Women

Bristol East CLP
Bristol South CLP
Hackney South and Shoreditch CLP
Hampstead and Kilburn CLP
Islington South and Finsbury CLP
Kensington CLP
Lewisham Deptford CLP
Lewisham West and Penge CLP
Oxford East CLP
Pontypridd CLP
Shipleigh CLP
Sutton and Cheam CLP
Warwick and Leamington CLP

Sanitary Products

Clacton CLP

Crawley CLP

Mid Sussex CLP

Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland CLP

Stourbridge CLP

Security

Holborn and St Pancras CLP

Sex Workers

ASLEF

Social Care

Hackney North and Stoke Newington CLP

Halifax CLP

Perth and Kinross-shire CLP

Rushcliffe CLP

UNISON

Transport

Wythenshawe and Sale East CLP

Universal Basic Income

Swansea West CLP

Universal Credit and Employment Support

Canterbury CLP

Clwyd South CLP

CWU

Cynon Valley CLP

Dundee City CLP

Gateshead CLP

Hornsey and Wood Green CLP

Ipswich CLP

Isle of Wight CLP

Leeds Central CLP

Meriden CLP

North Shropshire CLP

Oxford West and Abingdon CLP

Sheffield Heeley CLP

Socialist Health Association

Tottenham CLP

Unite
Wallasey CLP
Walsall South CLP
Witney CLP
Wolverhampton South West CLP

Upskirting

Tatton CLP

Violence Against Women and Girls

Aberconwy CLP
Brent Central CLP
Dover CLP
Edinburgh Northern and Leith CLP
Edinburgh Southern CLP
Folkestone and Hythe CLP
Gloucester CLP
GMB
Great Yarmouth CLP
Nottingham East CLP
Poole CLP
Richmond Park CLP
South East Cornwall CLP

Windrush

Liverpool West Derby CLP

Women in the Workforce

Angus North and Mearns CLP
Community Union
Doncaster North CLP
Exeter CLP
Musicians' Union
Usdaw

Women's Health Services

Crewe and Nantwich CLP

Motions referred to the NEC

The submissions from the following CLPs do not fulfil the WCAC's criteria for motions and will not be included in the Priorities Ballot. They have been referred to the NEC for further consideration.

Brighton Pavilion CLP

City of Durham CLP

Hendon CLP

Old Bexley and Sidcup CLP

Peterborough CLP

Sheffield Central CLP

Abortion Rights

Conference notes:

1. The huge victory for women in the referendum in the Republic of Ireland to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution which effectively outlawed abortion in all cases.
2. The anomaly that now exists in Northern Ireland, where women there will be the only ones on these islands who have virtually no access to free and safe terminations.
3. The role of the Democratic Unionist Party in blocking any legislation in Northern Ireland that would allow women safe and legal access to abortion.
4. The refusal of the Tory Government to break the legal and political deadlock in Northern Ireland because it is dependent on DUP votes.

Conference believes:

1. Women have a right to control their own reproduction. They have a right to choose.
2. That in all cases it must be the women of any country who lead the fight for their own rights.
3. In all cases public health providers are the best way to ensure safe and legal access to abortion, not costly private clinics or other private providers.
4. The Good Friday Agreement is the foundation of all rights in Northern Ireland, and must be upheld in order to ensure women's rights there, including the right to choose.

Conference supports Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to calling a British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, which can bring forward proposals for new legislation for abortion rights for women in Northern Ireland.

Cities of London and Westminster CLP

Proposed LPNI motion to Labour Women's Conference 2019:

We want abortion law reform

- Women in Northern Ireland suffer under one of the harshest abortion regimes in the world. The 1967 Abortion Act does not apply to Northern Ireland. Abortion is highly restricted.
- Current law (Sections 58 and 59 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1851) breaches both European and International Human Rights legislation and is in urgent need of reform. It is a criminal offence, punishable by life imprisonment, for a woman to procure her own abortion.
- As a result of Stella Creasy MP's welcome initiative, Northern Ireland women can now access free abortions in GB.

- But what about those many women who, for one reason or another, can't travel? We need free, safe, legal abortions to be made available on the NHS in Northern Ireland.
- Human Rights are not a devolved competence of the Stormont Assembly. Despite strong 'anti-choice' opposition from both the DUP and our 'sister party' the SDLP, polls suggest the Northern Ireland public supports reform. We need legislative intervention by the Westminster Parliament.
- We call on the Labour Party to support the Stella Creasy amendment to the Domestic Violence Bill, repealing s.58 and s.59 of the OAPA 1861.

Northern Ireland CLP

Conference notes:

1. The huge victory for women in the referendum in the Republic of Ireland to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution which effectively outlawed abortion in all cases.
2. The anomaly that now exists in Northern Ireland, where women there will be the only ones on these islands who have virtually no access to free and safe terminations.
3. The role of the Democratic Unionist Party in blocking any legislation in Northern Ireland that would allow women safe and legal access to abortion.
4. The refusal of the Tory Government to break the legal and political deadlock in Northern Ireland because it is dependent on DUP votes.

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Solihull CLP

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2. The anomaly that now exists in Northern Ireland, where women there will be the only ones on these islands who have virtually no access to free and safe terminations.
3. The role of the Democratic Unionist Party in blocking any legislation in Northern Ireland that would allow women safe and legal access to abortion.
4. The refusal of the Tory Government to break the legal and political deadlock in Northern Ireland because it is dependent on DUP votes.

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2. That in all cases it must be the women of any country who lead the fight for their own rights.
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Totnes CLP

Conference notes:

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2. The anomaly that now exists in Northern Ireland, where women there will be the only ones on these islands who have virtually no access to free and safe terminations.
3. The role of the Democratic Unionist Party in blocking any legislation in Northern Ireland that would allow women safe and legal access to abortion.
4. The refusal of the Tory Government to break the legal and political deadlock in Northern Ireland because it is dependent on DUP votes.

Conference believes:

1. Women have a right to choose how they control their own bodies and reproduction.
2. That pregnancy termination must be a healthcare not a criminal matter and should be regulated as such.
3. That public health providers are the best way to ensure safe and legal access to abortion.

Conference supports decriminalisation of abortion through the repeal of Sections 58 and 59 of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act, not only to improve abortion care for women in England and Wales, but also to enable Northern Ireland itself to create an abortion framework appropriate for women's needs in the 21st century.

Conference calls for this to be a commitment in the Party's next Manifesto.

Vauxhall CLP

Access to justice

Conference notes that access to legal aid and advice has been significantly reduced as a result of budget cuts, changes to eligibility, and changes introduced under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012. The combined effect is that many people who cannot afford even limited legal advice, are unable to establish their rights. There is a particular impact on women on low income, in being able to access advice and representation where needed, on issues such as debt, immigration, family breakdown including domestic abuse and child contact, housing, benefits and the enforcement of rights to pursue equality and women's economic and social independence.

In the absence of any statutory Right to Justice, access to free legal aid and its availability, is subject to political contingency and whims of the government of the time and can be removed, reduced or limited, by funding cuts, political expediency and disinterested Ministers.

A statutory right will have a significant impact as it would have to be coupled with an applicable right to legal advice for it to have any value at all.

Conference therefore resolves to

- Establish the Right to Justice [as recommended by The Bach Commission and the Commons Joint Select Committee in Human Rights]
- Ensure a just society for all by widening the scope and eligibility to legal aid according to need and establish the framework for funding such action.

Calder Valley CLP

Brexit

Women's Conference notes:

1. The importance for women across Britain of defeating the Prime Minister's Brexit deal and securing an outcome that meets Labour's six tests.
2. the 2018 Labour Party Conference policy on Brexit, that included the following points:

'Should Parliament vote down a Tory Brexit deal or the talks end in no-deal, Conference believes this would constitute a loss of confidence in the Government. In these circumstances, the best outcome for the country is an immediate General Election that can sweep the Tories from power.

'If we cannot get a general election Labour must support all options remaining on the table, including campaigning for a public vote. If the Government is confident in negotiating a deal that working people, our economy and communities will benefit from they should not be afraid to put that deal to the public.'

Women's Conference affirms its support for Labour Conference policy, as the best way to pursue Labour's priorities, and best for women. We note that a general election is preferable to a referendum, because the former provides an opportunity not only to defeat the Tory's Brexit deal but also to remove the Tory government from office and elect the Labour government women need. Only with a Labour government can we introduce anti-austerity policies, tackle housing, social care and mental health crises, protect the NHS and education.

We commend our Party leadership for making the defence of people's jobs and living standards the priority concerns informing its tactics on this issue.

Mid Bedfordshire CLP

Carers

Women make up the majority of an estimated 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK. Many struggle to juggle the needs of both children and elderly relatives. Often they are isolated and face barriers accessing support services which themselves are being cut back.

Care of the vulnerable can require round-the-clock provision. Yet the same minimum wage requirements as paid employment do not apply. As the majority of carers, this disproportionately impoverishes women and affects their psychosocial wellbeing.

Building a fairer society is at the heart of Labour Party values. We must put an end to the situation where so many women are suffering in silence from the stresses and economic hardship resulting from their provision of care.

Current levels of financial support for carers are too low and subject to means testing. The availability of practical and emotional support is limited with the needs of under-represented communities neither fully understood nor supported.

Labour Party policy must take a holistic view of unpaid care to include care of all vulnerable groups – from babies and children to adults of all ages.

The National Women's Conference calls on the Labour Party to go beyond its 2017 manifesto pledge and commit to implementing a National Wage for Carers of adults and children, based on the National Living Wage.

Combined with free universal childcare, this would give women real choices. Rather than being an economic burden, the provision of world-leading support for all carers would contribute to a healthier, stronger and more diverse economy.

Greenwich and Woolwich CLP

Child Poverty

Child poverty is a sign of deep political failure. There were 4.1 million children (30%) in poverty in the UK in 2016-17. Child poverty has long-lasting effects in educational outcomes, health and quality of life.

Child poverty reduced dramatically between 1998-2011 when 800,000 children were lifted out of poverty. This coincides with Labour introducing comprehensive Early Years provision of Sure Start centres and nurseries. Childcare and housing are two of the costs that take the biggest toll on families. When you account for childcare costs, an extra 130,000 children are pushed into poverty.

Despite the costs that child poverty imposes on society – around £29 billion a year, successive Tory governments have sought to dismantle Early Years provision by reducing local authority grants.

Currently, Birmingham Council is selling off its public day nurseries to private providers. Tower Hamlets is shutting down its three remaining local authority nurseries, and reduced capacity of local Sure Start children's centres. Salford Council has put on hold its plans to close nurseries for a year to fight a national campaign for adequate funding. Lambeth Council is restructuring its Sure Starts with 5 threatened with closure. Proposals are live to close 43 of Norfolk's 53 children's centres.

This conference resolves:

- To fight the national Early Years crisis the Tories are creating via a national campaign across CLPs to fight all cuts on Early Years
- To demand that the Labour Party commits to restoring and extending full Sure Start and Local Authority Day Nurseries provision

Bethnal Green and Bow CLP

Climate Change

That this Labour Women's conference recognises that climate change presents a global crisis affecting communities around the world. Conference recognises that women in the UK and internationally, are hardest hit by both environmental and economic crises and notes the importance of public ownership of key sectors in the transition to a low carbon economy to effectively combat climate change.

Conference applauds women leading in the fight against climate change with work on sustainable community projects and leading environmental struggles such as Lancashire Nanas campaigning against fracking and indigenous women opposing new pipelines in North America.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to develop a climate justice and gender equality based economic plan with the participation of all sections of the trade union movement, community partnerships and environmental NGOs to move away from fossil fuels and to plan for future green jobs. This should include:

- i) energy democracy tackling fuel poverty in the transition from fossil fuels to renewables;
- ii) halting Heathrow and aviation expansion, making better use of current capacity UK wide;
- iii) a publicly owned sustainable and extended national network of affordable rail and public transport
- iv) a just transition employment strategy to public sector, unionised climate jobs and well-paid, skilled, sustainable employment as outlined in the One Million Climate Jobs campaign;
- v) establishment of a Climate Justice Fund funded by wealthy nations and polluting companies;
- vi) encouraging pension schemes to divest from fossil fuels, and
- vii) engage members on climate change and in developing positive solutions.

TSSA

Defence Diversification

Following the TUC's lead, we call on the Labour Party to establish a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) as a priority in defence of women employed in the nuclear weapons industry and the communities in which they live.

Labour's 2017 Manifesto commits the party to lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world and implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law.

A shadow DDA, in collaboration with a National Investment Bank and National Education Service, will work with all involved in the arms and nuclear weapons industry to prepare plans for conversion to alternative, socially useful products, such as green energy generation by off-shore wind and tidal power.

The announcement in October 2017 by BAE Systems of plans to axe 2000 jobs shows once again that not only are these plants producing weapons which can have devastating humanitarian consequences and, through the desire to sell, mute UK criticism of human rights violations, but also that jobs in the arms industry are not secure.

A DDA will help fulfil a future Labour government's longer-term goals of an ethical foreign policy, of nuclear disarmament through support of the UN global ban on nuclear weapons and of the provision of secure, sustainable jobs. This agency will report annually to Labour Party Conference until Labour in government has established a Defence Diversification Agency.

Sheffield Hallam CLP

Early Years Education and Childcare

The Labour Party recognizes the unfair, underfunded, and unaccountable system of early education and childcare (ECEC). It accepts that at present the ECEC system depends very heavily on the private sector, which has led to unequal access, and which relies on poorly paid and poorly trained staff. The Labour Party should urgently review current policies and develop new policies with a view to:

1. making sure the ECEC system is fully accessible to all young children, wherever they live, and whatever the employment circumstances of their parents, so that their education and childcare needs are met in an integrated way.
2. Making sure the ECEC system is fully accountable to parents and local communities, especially those services provided by big businesses in the private sector
3. Making sure the ECEC system is fully funded for the tasks it sets out to do, with fair pay and conditions including funding for initial and in-service training for staff.
4. Making sure current standards, evaluation and inspections are fit for purpose

Battersea CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Councils have been forced to make cuts to children's centres across the country.
2. Further cuts are now proposed, despite the 'end of austerity'. The cuts proposed threaten even more Children's Centres with closure or reduction of provision, which would lead to many job losses.
3. Children's centres are a lifeline for parents, carers and children, providing vital services and opportunities for socialisation.
4. Children's centres offer services including antenatal and postnatal classes, breastfeeding support groups, ESOL language classes, debt advice, and much more.
5. Children's centres create much-needed public sector jobs.
6. Children's centres are a central part of the borough's preventative health and social care provision.
7. Campaigns are underway to halt the dismantling of Early Years provision established by previous Labour Governments.

Women's Conference resolves that:

1. The next Labour manifesto should pledge to reverse cuts which have reduced the provision of and closed Children's Centres across the country.
2. CLPs join up with national and local campaigns to save Early Years provision.

Dulwich and West Norwood CLP

Conference notes 2017 Age UK research showing 5 million (or 40% of) grandparents aged 50+ provide regular care for their grandchildren. Of this, 57% say that this care is essential to their offspring working. Weekly, 1 in 5 grandmothers provide at least 10 hours of childcare. Age UK and Grandparents Plus estimate childcare provided by grandparents is worth £7.3 billion annually.

Childcare remains the biggest barrier of returning to work for women in low-income households and lone parents (single mothers make up 90%). Government research shows 1 in 3 single mothers use family-based childcare, and grandparents are the biggest childcare provider for single mothers of young children. Grandparents Plus polling shows 25% of working mothers would give up work while 1 in 6 would reduce their hours without family-based childcare.

Rising costs, inflexibility and oversubscription of formal childcare settings leaves them unsuitable for many families. Family-based childcare offers flexibility where children are looked after by someone they know well. Grandparents feel the benefits too, Age UK found it keeps them physically and mentally active, helps with loneliness and gives them a sense of purpose. There are pros and cons of both childcare arrangements, but similar financial assistance should be available for those whom informal childcare is more suitable.

Conference resolves to call upon the Labour Party to explore the ways a Labour Government can provide assistance, in particular, financial support, to encourage family-based childcare and support families that rely on the childcare provided by grandparents.

Middlesbrough CLP

Rossendale and Darwen CLP notes that a recent survey by the Local Government Association reveals that almost two thirds (61%) of councils, fear that maintained nurseries in their area will close unless future funding is protected. Since 2017 the Government has provided supplementary funding for maintained nurseries which is due to end in 2020. Of the 56 councils with maintained nursery schools, 33% said it was very likely they would close without protected funding and 28% said it was fairly likely. More than half of them (52%) said losing funding would result in reduced support for children with SEND (special educational needs and disability), and the same number said it would mean reduced support for disadvantaged children. We note that both maintained nurseries in the constituency are rated as outstanding. Rossendale and Darwen CLP believes that maintained nurseries are uniquely placed to provide tailored early years education to children with SEND, and in areas of social deprivation. We believe that women disproportionately shoulder the responsibility for pre-school children. We believe that councils should not be forced into a position where they must close nurseries to meet funding pressures elsewhere, which adversely affects women. Rossendale and Darwen CLP resolves to call on Labour to

commit to a fair funding formula for early years education which will protect and enhance the role of maintained nurseries, and ensure that all our children are helped to achieve a positive start in life.

Rossendale and Darwen CLP

Most working parents in England and Wales are entitled to 30 free childcare hours for three and for year olds during term time. But many parents are struggling to afford the additional childcare not covered by this scheme. The current arrangement provides no childcare once parents return from maternity/paternity leave until the child is 3 years. This is a large gap in ensuring affordable care.

Labour has previously said it would offer 30 hours of 'genuinely free' childcare to all parents of two, three and four year olds. At annual conference, Labour promised that even more would be available once Labour wins power. This motion details how that should happen.

Conference believes free childcare should be offered once maternity/paternity pay ceases until children reach school age. As an alternative, women be offered the choice to either retain those funds such that they could bring up their own children or instead return to the labour market. The current system does not provide flexibility to women, providing them little choice but to return to work, only to cover the additional cost of childcare. Allocating a salary to mothers also places a value on childcare and allows women – those most invested in their own children, the opportunity to bring them up. This option would be available not just to women and could be shared with partners, as per the current terms of maternity/paternity leave.

Westminster North CLP

Gender Pay Gap

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

- Change the law to compel companies to act on the causes of inequality, as well as record data on them.
- Change the law require all employers to "address the causes" not just of the gender pay gap, but discrimination against all protected characteristics including ethnic minorities, age and those with disabilities.

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- Change the law require all employers to "address the causes" not just of the gender pay gap, but discrimination against all protected characteristics including ethnic minorities, age and those with disabilities.

Corby CLP

Independent Living

Jeremy Corbyn is supporting the Welsh assembly to keep the independent living scheme in Wales. Harborough CLP believes that a right to independent living should be encapsulated into Labour Party policy and written into the EHRC.

Harborough CLP sends this Motion for consideration at the National Women's Conference 23-24 February 2019, and also to NEC, and to Disability Labour

Harborough CLP

Israel Palestine

Conference welcomes:

1. Policy passed at Labour's annual conference in 2018, which included demands for an "independent international investigation into Israel's use of force against Palestinian demonstrators"; "immediate and unconditional end to the illegal blockade and closure of Gaza"; and "a freeze on UK government arms sales to Israel".
2. Jeremy Corbyn's speech to the same conference which promised the recognition of Palestine by an incoming Labour government.

Conference notes:

1. The UN Women 2018 report "Needs of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action in the occupied Palestinian territory" which registered that women in the occupied territories are particularly disadvantaged due to a limited share of agricultural holdings, economic opportunities and restricted mobility. It also registered that female headed households, pregnant and lactating women are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.
2. The decision of the US government to end support for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine will further worsen the position of Palestinian refugees, increasing the precarious position of Palestinian women and girls.
3. Palestinian women are prevented from receiving adequate medical treatment as a result of Israeli occupation.

Conference resolves:

1. To actively promote solidarity with the struggle of Palestinian women and the Palestinian people, including access to medical treatment.
2. Affirm our support for an immediate end to:
 - a. the blockade of Gaza;
 - b. the illegal occupation of the West Bank;
 - c. the expansion of illegal settlements in Palestinian territory.

Thirsk and Malton CLP

Liverpool Women's Hospital

Garston & Halewood CLP believes

1. That services which exist to ensure the health and wellbeing of women and children should be maintained extended and improved. LWH should stay on site with the resources needed. We support the option to stay on the current site with £40m investment
2. The provision of such services should not be put in danger as a result of the Government's continuing drive to dismantle and privatise the NHS.
3. That the provision of such services should be based on need not profit (though all the facts demonstrate that public provision of health care is a more cost-efficient way of delivering these services than private).

Garston & Halewood CLP calls upon the Labour Party to:

Show its full support for women's health services by keeping Liverpool Women's Hospital on its present site and investing in its refurbishment, as one of only two UK hospitals built with women's needs in the forefront.

Garston and Halewood CLP

Sefton Central CLP and Women's Forum believes

1. That services which exist to ensure the health and wellbeing of women and children should be maintained extended and improved. LWH should stay on site with the resources needed. We support the option to stay on the current site with £40m investment
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Sefton Central CLP Women's Forum calls upon the Labour Party to:

Show its full support for women's health services by keeping Liverpool Women's Hospital on its present site and investing in its refurbishment, as one of only two UK hospitals built with women's needs in the forefront.

Sefton Central CLP

Southport CLP and Women's Forum believes:

1. That services which exist to ensure the health and wellbeing of women and children should be maintained extended and improved. Liverpool Women's Hospital should stay on site with the resources needed. We support the option to stay on the current site with £40m investment.
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3. That the provision of such services should be based on need not profit (though all the facts demonstrate that public provision of health care is a more cost-effective way of delivering these services than private).

Southport CLP and Women's Forum calls upon the Labour Party to:-

Show its full support for women's health services by committing to keep Liverpool Women's Hospital on its present site and invest in its refurbishment, as one of only two hospitals built with women's needs at the forefront.

Southport CLP

Wavertree CLP & Women's Forum believes:

1. That services which exist to ensure the health and wellbeing of women and children should be maintained extended and improved. LWH should stay on site with the resources needed. We support the option to stay on the current site with £40m investment
2. That the provision of such services should not be put in danger as a result of the Government's continuing drive to dismantle and privatise the NHS.
3. That the provision of such services should be based on need not profit (though all the facts demonstrate that public provision of health care is a more cost - efficient way of delivering these services than private).

We call upon the Labour Party to show its full support for women's health services by backing the campaign to keep Liverpool Women's Hospital on its present site and investing in its refurbishment, as one of only 2 hospitals built with women's needs at the forefront.

Liverpool Wavertree CLP

Mental Health

We assert that there are two major omissions from the “underlying principles”* to the Code of Practice for both the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act. These missing, yet crucial principles are TIMELINESS of treatment, review, assessment, or reassessment, and DISTANCE to places of treatment and incarceration. Both Acts deal with incarceration and forced deprivation of liberty and, potentially, override basic legal rights such as habeas corpus. Social isolation is extensively documented as the biggest cause of mental ill-health and a major factor in recovery, or improvement of mental health condition or increased capacity. All other stated “underlying principles” are dependent on time limits for action, and there is a real need for enough funding and resources for services to deliver on their remit. Injury to mental health, confusion and distress can be further exacerbated by the vast distances to places of treatment or incarceration, often deemed expedient, through lack of resources to the Service. The resultant infringement of human rights is unacceptable, whilst the resultant increase in vulnerability of patients can conceal the potential for undisclosed abuses to human rights and physical injury. We assert that TIMELINESS, DISTANCE and RESOURCES must be made the priority of those using both these Acts, and a review of reasonable limits should be carried out, acted upon and adequately funded, as a matter of overriding emergency, in our Mental Health and Social Care Services.

East Devon CLP

East Yorkshire CLP calls upon the Labour Leadership to hold the government to account over its promises to fund eating disorder services properly, and to commit to a thorough and meaningful review of funding for ED care once Labour is back in government. This is not just a women’s issue, but it is predominantly so.

In 2016 Jeremy Hunt said, ‘This is possibly the biggest single area of weakness in NHS provision at the moment’. Yet in our region and across the country, provision is sparse and random. A report in February 2018 showed the number of admissions to hospital of patients with potentially life-threatening eating disorders had almost doubled in six years. Vulnerable patients, mainly teenagers and young adults, were (and still are) being taken hundreds of miles from their homes to receive residential care.

- 1.6 million people in the UK are affected by an eating disorder
- Eating disorders are more common between the ages of 14 and 25 years old
- There are up to 18 new diagnoses of bulimia nervosa, per 100,000 people, per year
- 1 in 100 women aged between 15 and 30, are affected by anorexia nervosa
- Anorexia has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric disorder
- Research suggests that the earlier that eating disorder treatment is sought, the better the sufferer’s chance of recovery

STATISTICS FROM BEAT AND MIND.

It is vital for the future of this country that we invest in the mental and physical health and well-being of our young people.

East Yorkshire CLP

Parental Rights of Convicted Rapists

The Labour Party should commit to review the present guidelines surrounding parental rights of convicted rapists over a child or children conceived as a result of the rape.

Arfon CLP

Pensions

The 1995 Conservative Government's State Pension Act included plans to increase women's state pension age from 60 to 65 to equalise it with men's, with the change to be phased in over 10 years from 2010. However, this was reduced to 1 year by the 2011 Pensions Act. The lack of notice of the changes has affected 3.8 million women. Women were given as little as one year's notice of up to a 6 year increase to their State pension age, and some women report receiving no letter at all. Women and their families have been plunged into hardship because they have not been able to plan for the shortfall.

Until the 1990s many women weren't allowed to join company pension schemes, many women are carers, or in poor health, and are being forced into inappropriate work. In order to make up the shortfall in income, women have been forced into zero hours contracts, or Job Seekers' Allowance, enduring humiliating tests to avoid sanctions.

In the 2017 General Election, the Labour Party pledged to support women affected by the unfair changes to the pension age. The Conservative Government has rejected the demands of the WASPI women, arguing they are too expensive. However, the High Court has ordered a judicial review to determine if these increases are lawful.

We call on the next Labour Government to revisit the issue of pension equality, while urgently putting in place mechanisms by which the WASPI women's pension rights are restored and their hardship alleviated.

Blyth Valley CLP

The failure of successive Governments to properly inform 1950's born women of changes to the State Pension Age introduced in 1995 and accelerated in 2011 have left many 1950's born women financially unprepared in their later years.

The way in which the changes have been implemented with little or no notice given to the women affected have led to women who expected to receive their State Pension at 60 being told that they cannot claim but will have to wait up to six years to receive it.

The impact has been devastating for many women examples include:

- Having to stay in physically demanding jobs
- Losing financial independence and having to rely on partners or family for financial support
- Divorce settlements based on a State Pension Age of 60 leading to financial hardship
- Having to live on savings until reaching State Pension Age
- Becoming homeless

The equalisation of State Pension Age for men and women is a good thing, however the way in which it has been implemented for its 1950's women has led to an injustice that needs to be put right.

Campaign groups have raised the issue in several ways, contacting MP's for support, debates in Parliament and a system of complaints to the DWP to hopefully lead to a claim of maladministration.

1950's women need action, this conference calls upon a future Labour Government to look at ways of addressing this injustice and to come up with a solution that will be fair for all 1950's born women.

Burton CLP

Cardiff Central CLP Conference notes that equality of opportunity is a goal that we strive for in the Labour Party. Equality law should reflect equality of outcomes, including for women who have been hit the hardest by Tory austerity measures. Older women are particularly impacted, remaining one of the poorest groups in society despite playing a vital role in e.g., grandchild care, elder care, volunteering. The impact of equalisation of pension ages between men and women has had a serious negative effect on women born in the 50s many of whom were not told that their retirement age was increasing, at what rate and consequently did not have sufficient time to prepare for retirement.

Conference requests that the Labour Party include in the Labour Party manifesto provisions for the following:

1. Re-instate the pension age of 60 for this group of women only.
2. Or adequately and fully compensate this group of women to the full extent that they are not being given their full entitlement to the wages they have already earned (their pensions).

Cardiff Central CLP

Women are already the most financially exploited. Those who planned to retire aged 60, but - without official notification - found they'd have to wait another 6 years, have been truly ripped off. Government's rationale for this change was supposedly 'equalisation' with the male pension age, but men who turned 65 in 2018 are happily drawing their state pension, while women, who celebrate their 65th year in 2019, will have to wait for their pension until 2020! Women are society's most useful, hard-working and least troublesome people; voluntarily caring for families, grandchildren, disabled relatives, charities - tireless effort so taken for granted that, unlike drug dealing and prostitution, its value isn't accounted in GDP!

Chichester CLP

In 1995 The Pensions Act, in order to equalise the age with men, increased the state pension age from 60 to 65 for women born between 1950 and 1955, with the change to be phased in over ten years from 2010. However this 10 year transition was reduced to one year by the 2011 Pensions Act, thereby giving the women affected little time to make provision for the shortfall. This plunged many women and their families into hardship.

Women are more likely to have small pensions because of pay differentials, part time employment and child rearing. The delay in pension payment further reduces women's standards of living and often makes them dependant on their men folk and partners. Since the launch of WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) the issue of the state pension age has become more prominent leading to its discussion in a number of parliamentary debates. The issue played an important part in the 2017 general election with Labour's Jeremy Corbyn raising it in a session of Prime Minister's Questions and the SNP pledging to support the women. However, the Conservative government rejected the calls of the WASPI, arguing that they had to make the state pension more affordable for taxpayers and latterly stating that any remedial changes would be unfair to other pensioners.

We call on the next Labour Government to revisit the issue of pension equality whilst urgently putting in place mechanisms by which the WASPI women's pension rights are restored and their hardship alleviated.

Hexham CLP

The changes made to the 1995 Pension Act included plans to increase women's State Pension Age (SPA) to 65 have caused extreme hardship to some women, who through no fault of their own, now find themselves destitute. There are growing numbers of these women who are unable to pay their rent and are relying on friends, foodbanks and charities just to exist.

In theory, the 1995 change gave the 3.8 million women affected 25 years' notice. Some planned accordingly but as the Commons Work and Pensions Committee has noted, "more could and should have been done" to communicate the changes. Then in 2011 the Government sought to save almost £30bn by unfairly speeding up the changes. So women who still believed they would receive the state pension at 60, suddenly received letters telling them they would get it as late as 66. Thousands complained they never received any letters.

So changes, carried out in the name of equality, have had a brutal impact on women born in the 1950s, who saw little equality in their working lives – they didn't earn the same wage for the same job and many were denied access to workplace pensions and, in many cases, some now face an additional burden of caring for ageing relatives and or grandchildren.

We ask Conference to support fair transitional arrangements for those affected by the changes in the 2011 Act.

Morley and Outwood CLP

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Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford CLP

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1950's women need action, this conference calls upon a future Labour Government to look at ways of addressing this injustice and to come up with a solution that will be fair for all 1950's born women.

Rhondda CLP

Britain is the fifth wealthiest country in the world but when it comes to pensions it pays retirees the worst state pension in the developed world at only 29% of previous earnings.

Average figures mask the disparity between men and women. Women born in the 1950's will lose on average £48,000 from their pensions, in the name of equality, but a man's average state pension is £154/week whilst a woman's is £126/week.

In terms of top up, the average man has a pension pot of £74,000 whilst the average woman has only £25,000.

Most women lose out on NI contributions because they have to take career breaks, to have children, and/or care for elderly relatives.

Under austerity, the South West TUC estimates that since 2008, the South West has suffered the biggest hit on wages, outside London.

Pensioner Poverty

Over a quarter of single women pensioners are now living in poverty.

Research by Age Concern and the Fawcett Society found that on average women receive just 32p of pension income for every £1 their husbands get. In essence, the pay gap women suffer during their working lives becomes a vast pensions gap when they retire.

Labour's Commitment

Labour has made five key pledges to ensure older people have the security and dignity they deserve.

We therefore resolve:

That the Labour Party should add a 6th pledge; to commit to raising the state pension to a living pension, like the living wage.

St Ives CLP

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We ask Conference to support fair transitional arrangements for those affected by the changes in the 2011 Act.

Wakefield CLP

Poverty

Conference notes that the recent UN report found that a fifth of the population (14 million) lives in poverty in the UK, with the Rowntree foundation reporting 60% in poverty are women. Child poverty has risen to 40% in many areas.

Yet, the government won't acknowledge this. They have rewritten legislation specifically to ignore these figures. In 2015 the Welfare Reform and Work Bill eradicated any focus on income when considering poverty, and adopted "indicators", focusing on "workless households".

Conference notes that two thirds of children in poverty live in a working family. This is undoubtedly connected to zero-hour contracts - in fact the government's accepted definition of "in work" is people who do one hour or more of paid work per week. It is clear that the government's focus on "workless households" is not a meaningful measure of poverty, nor does it examine the policies that created this poverty. By dropping the income-based definition of poverty, the Tories have led the UK into a poverty crisis.

Conference suggests the Labour party adopt an updated definition of poverty to set legal limits and targets that inform policy making. This definition should be based on income, take into account "unavoidable costs" meeting basic needs (housing, food, clothing). The recently published report by the Social Metrics Commission gives one such definition.

Without measuring poverty and applying the results it is impossible to set targets, measure progress and adapt policies.

Therefore, Conference moves that we champion a single, comprehensive measure of poverty.

West Suffolk CLP

Public Health

This Conference notes with concern the recent poor performance of Capita contracts in the delivery of sexual health services for women across the UK. The failures of Capita have led to over 40,000 women not having cervical smear appointments made and there being no follow up letters afterwards, potentially placing many of those women at risk.

This Conference recognises that women are disproportionately affected by privatisation, the drive for profits, and have little say in how sexual health services are planned and delivered. And also notes that under austerity women's sexual and reproductive health suffers.

This Conference has no confidence in private companies such as Capita delivering women's health services in the NHS. We call upon the next Labour Government to remove these private contractors and deliver services to women that are accessible and based on need and not profit. And impress on employers across all sectors to release women for cervical smear appointments.

Camberwell and Peckham CLP

Conference notes that access to contraception is a fundamental human right underpinning equality, impacting on the health, structure and prosperity of both society and families. The 2012 Health and Social Care Act disadvantaged women, separating much of the funding for contraceptive care from the NHS by moving the responsibility for commissioning into Local Authorities, with NHS providers competing for contracts. As a result, the commissioning of contraception is now separate from the commissioning of other aspects of women's health, including abortion. Compounding this, the impact of austerity on Local Authorities has led to a reduction in services, reduced access and to a postcode lottery for contraception in England. The Advisory Group on Contraception published *At Tipping Point* (November 2018) showing the crisis and its consequences.

Conference believes that contraceptive services need to be fully funded and accessible in all areas of the UK, with co-operation replacing competition. It welcomes the commitment of the Shadow Health Department to abolish competitive tendering for these essential services, and to work with clinicians to establish centres of excellence alongside regular accessible clinics to which women have free and easy access to confidential care.

Conference resolves to deliver fully funded contraceptive services in all areas of the UK, setting up a working group whilst still in opposition, composed of experienced clinicians and commissioners, to write a blueprint for delivery which will be implemented within the first year of the Labour Government.

Conference notes that medical advances and technology offer better quality of life and health. For example, IVF has enabled more mothers to have biological children and avoid rare fatal genetic diseases, PrEP offers protection against HIV for partners of those HIV positive, and improved screening techniques can detect potential cancers at more treatable stages. However, Conservative cuts to local authority budgets and underfunding the NHS means that the public is not seeing the benefit of these advances.

Conference notes that cuts in grants to local authorities mean public health is being cut to a skeleton service. These cuts raise teenage pregnancies and the frequency of sexually transmitted disease, while reducing healthy eating and exercise initiatives which reduce health problems in the long term.

Conference Notes that LBT and women from other minorities face a double hit to their specific health care need with minority health concerns given lower priority and prejudice against patients. IVF treatment is less likely to be offered to single parents or same sex couples. Bisexual and lesbian women are being under represented in PrEP trials. Transwomen and transmen are missed from breast and cervix screening respectively and frequently encounter ill-informed GP's.

Conference believes that the fragmentation of health services creates unclear lines of accountability, and less recourse to fair and equal services for all. Conference moves to urge the Labour Party to work in partnership with LGBT Labour and other socialist societies to develop an inclusive public health strategy to address inequality within the current system.

LGBT Labour

Representation in public life

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of All Women Shortlists (AWS).
4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of AWS to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that AWS can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of AWS by political parties.

Batley and Spennings CLP

1. Conference notes:
 - a. There are many historic, societal and cultural reasons why women continue to face barriers to equal involvement in political debate and representation.
 - b. Marginalisation is further compounded by other societal discriminations faced by women who are BAME, disabled, LGBT, older or young, or because of their marital status, care responsibilities and economic disadvantage.
2. Conference believes:
 - a. Labour Party Education policy should be completely non-discriminatory and inclusive, and ensure political development opportunities and support, are available to all women who seek them,

3. Conference resolves that:
 - a. The Labour Party shall strengthen and promote an Education programme that addresses such exclusions both inside the party and in society including:
 - i. Pro-active well-resourced initiatives to address unconscious bias within mainstream schooling involving teachers, parents / carers and communities;
 - ii. Education for young people that helps them become more confident in tackling unfairness, and in promoting shared responsibilities and respect between women and men;
 - iii. Strengthening Labour's new policy commitment to recognise intersectionality within the law and target resources to those who face multiple discriminations;
 - iv. Recognising and resourcing community-based educational initiatives including those run by women's organisations and trade unions, that can build confidence and skills at critical points throughout the lifelong learning process.
 - b. The Labour Party shall widen access to fully resourced Women in Leadership programmes, at every level of the Party, and for these to extend to all marginalised groups using positive interventions if necessary.

Berwick-upon-Tweed CLP

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2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life and Labour use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors. 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Welsh Labour Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
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Birmingham Selly Oak CLP

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Bishop Auckland CLP

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Bournemouth East CLP

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Brentford and Isleworth CLP

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Bury North CLP

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Charnwood CLP

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Dartford CLP

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1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Finchley and Golders Green CLP

'Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to

1. change the law so that positive action can be used by political parties to increase women's representation in all elected public offices.
2. remove all another legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties to increase women's representation in all elected public offices.'

Great Grimsby CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Harrogate and Knaresborough CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.

2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
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Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Labour Women's Network

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.

2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Leeds West CLP

Conference is asked to note:-

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Lewisham East CLP asks that the National Women's conference calls for the next Labour manifesto to pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Lewisham East CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women

comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.

3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

New Forest West CLP

Labour women's conference notes a) women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity as per other submissions

Putney CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.

2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Sedgefield CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.

4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Slough CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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4. To maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.
3. Provide a training framework that empowers women to stand.

Somerton and Frome CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of

Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.

2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Southend West CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Stalybridge and Hyde CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Stockton South CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.

2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Walthamstow CLP

Watford CLP notes: -

1. Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
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4. In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.

2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Watford CLP

Women's Conference notes that:

1. Women's representation in public life remains far from parity. 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women; only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. No recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
2. The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
3. This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
4. In order to maintain parity, it is necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure a diverse range of women are able to enter public life. This requires a law change.

Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:

1. Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, mandatory gender balance selection panels and the invalidity of a selection process based upon same sex candidates, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
2. Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

Wells CLP

Rights for Migrant Women

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations – and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact
2. call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government
3. call for all NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.
 - b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care.
 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Bristol East CLP

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations – and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact
2. call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour’s opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government
3. call for all NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced
 - b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care
 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Bristol South CLP

Women’s Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging Regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 150% charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note these charges, part of Tory ‘hostile environment’ policies, lead to vulnerable and destitute women who often experience high risk pregnancies, being either denied or too frightened to access care. They and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be ‘immediately necessary’ and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute post-natal women face hostile action by the Home Office when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. Call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations – and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact.
2. Call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to lead a Labour campaign against NHS charging, and commit to rescinding the policy under a Labour government.
3. Call for all NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.

- b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care.
- c. ensure that Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Hackney South and Shoreditch CLP

40 women in Yarl's Wood IRC went on hunger strike (Nov 2018), protesting appalling conditions inside and charter flights taking traumatised women back to the violence they fled. 70% of women in detention are victims of rape and other torture.

The chief inspector of prisons has condemned Yarl's Wood as 'a place of national concern'.

A dossier by Black Women's Rape Action Project and Women Against Rape documents a decade of rape and sexual abuse by guards, covered up by Serco, the multi-national company which was granted a £70 million contract to run the centre.

Many women facing deportation have lived in the UK for decades and have contributed immensely.

Windrush citizens have been among those wrongfully detained and deported. The government was condemned for wrongly deporting and then abandoning 49 Commonwealth citizens last year. The government's "hostile environment" for immigrants is causing terrible injustice and dividing and undermining our communities.

Conference urges the Parliamentary Labour Party to reject racist 'hostile environment' policies which wreck lives, and to urgently:

- Close all detention centres.
- Confirm the citizenship of the Windrush generation, and their families, and other Commonwealth citizens; pay compensation to those affected; bring back deportees.
- End charter flights; support the Stansted 15.
- Reinstate legal aid for immigration cases.
- End the government's deliberate destitution policies.
- Stop mothers being separated from their children by detention.
- Recognise rape, homophobia, transphobia and other violence as persecution and therefore grounds for asylum.

Hampstead and Kilburn CLP

Migrant women are disproportionately at risk from gendered violence including domestic violence, sexual violence/exploitation, 'honour-based' violence, forced marriage, FGM, trafficking and domestic homicide. Successive immigration policies exacerbate this risk, creating a context in which women are more vulnerable to violence.

The Istanbul Convention requires that victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG) are protected regardless of their immigration status. For this to happen it is essential immigration policies are designed so they can't be used as a weapon by abusers or as an excuse by authorities not to help women.

Migrant women with 'no recourse to public funds' are more likely to experience gendered violence, are more likely to be subjected to economic abuse and feel less able to leave an abusive relationship.

The Labour Women's Conference 2019 calls on the next Labour government to:

1. Abolish a no recourse to public funds status for ALL migrant women experiencing gendered violence. The current destitute domestic violence concession status is highly limited.
2. All new immigration law AND procedures, including the upcoming Brexit Immigration Bill, to be reviewed before implementation for possible impacts on migrant women experiencing VAWG.
3. ALL migrant women experiencing gendered violence should have access to secure and safe provision as an exit route to the violent situations they endure.

Islington South and Finsbury CLP

Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note that these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election.

They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care, they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is immediately necessary and should be given, regardless of ability to pay.

However, most NHS Trusts charge, and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

There is evidence that this is causing significant harm to pregnant women, their unborn babies and offspring.

It is an inhumane policy and is creating barriers to accessing the essential healthcare they need.

We call upon

1. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the government to rescind the regulations.

2. The Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's fierce opposition to charging and to agree to rescind the policy under a Labour Government.
3. All NHS Trusts to
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.
 - b. not to charge any women in need of ante-natal and maternity care

Kensington CLP

Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations which require undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante natal and maternity care. These charges are made at 150% of the tariff on CCGs and can exceed £6000.

Women's Conference notes that these charges are part of Theresa May's 'very hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women absenting themselves from care, putting themselves and their babies at risk. There is no requirement on fathers to pay the charges.

We welcome research and campaigning by Maternity Action to expose this discriminatory policy and challenge the NHS regulations. We resolve to:

1. Call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations - or at least suspend them pending research on their impact.
2. Call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government.
3. Put pressure on NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.
 - b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care.
 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in the relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Lewisham Deptford CLP

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care; 150% of tariffs on CCGs; can exceed £6000.

We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by HO officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations – and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact
2. call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government
3. Put pressure on all NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced
 - b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care
 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay

Lewisham West and Penge CLP

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay 'up front' charges for ante-natal and maternity care.

We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk.

All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay. However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations - and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact

2. call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government
3. call for all NHS Trusts to:
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 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Oxford East CLP

Annual Women's Conference deplores the 2017 introduction of NHS charging regulations requiring undocumented and destitute migrant and refugee women to pay "up front" charges for anti-natal and maternity care. We note these charges are part of Tory 'hostile environment' policies, introduced during the 2010 General Election. They lead to vulnerable and destitute migrant and refugee women losing care; they and their babies are at risk. All maternity-related care is deemed to be 'immediately necessary' and should be given, regardless of ability to pay.

However, most NHS Trusts charge and destitute pregnant women face hostile action by Home Office officials when they cannot pay.

We resolve to:

1. call on the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Government to rescind the Regulations - and meanwhile suspend them pending research on their impact.
2. Call on the Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express Labour's opposition to charging and agree to rescind the policy under a Labour government.
3. Call for all NHS Trusts to:
 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.
 - b. Exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of anti-natal and maternity care.

- c. Ensure that their overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Pontypridd CLP

This conference notes:

1. More than 1500 women who have come to the UK to seek asylum are locked up in detention every year.
2. Most of them are not removed from the UK, they are released back into the community to continue with their cases.
3. There is no time limit on immigration detention – women can be locked up for days, weeks, even months and years.
4. Detention is unnecessary and expensive – and also very traumatic for women who are detained, many of whom have already survived rape and torture.

This conference resolves to:

1. End the detention of asylum seeking women.
2. End the detention of survivors of gender-based violence.
3. End the detention of pregnant women.
4. Put a 28-day time limit on all immigration detention.

Women for Refugee Women launched the Set Her Free campaign against the detention of women seeking asylum in January 2014. Their research reports, *Detained* (2014) and *I Am Human* (2015) have highlighted how the majority of asylum-seeking women detained are survivors of sexual and other gender-based violence, including domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation and forced prostitution/trafficking. They have documented the harm of locking up these women, and how detention re-traumatises them. They have also documented poor conditions in Yarl's Wood, where the majority of women are held, and the routine intrusions on women's privacy and dignity there.

Shipley CLP

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 - a. provide information on the number of women charged for care since the regulations were introduced.
 - b. exercise their discretion not to charge undocumented migrants in need of ante-natal and maternity care.
 - c. ensure that their Overseas Visitor Managers are trained in relevant law and Regulations and do not charge women eligible for free care or harass destitute women who are clearly unable to pay.

Sutton and Cheam CLP

Research by charities such as Women for Refugee Women and Detention Action has established that 30,00 people are held in immigration detention every year in the UK. These people are detained without any time limit, and their detention is not part of any kind of criminal sentence. There is evidence that women are detained who have been tortured, subjected to sexual violence and who suffer from mental ill health; some pregnant women have been detained, although a 72 hour time limit on their detention has now been introduced.

The Stephen Shaw immigration review (January 2016) recommended that the Government should reduce its use of immigration detention and should implement reform ‘boldly and without delay’. Researchers claim that that reform is not happening and that many vulnerable women are still being detained.

In order to safeguard vulnerable women asylum seekers, we call upon the party to commit a future Labour government to review and change the current system of immigration detention in the following ways:

- implement a pro-active screening process to ensure that vulnerable people, including the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, are identified before detention, and that there should be a presumption against their detention
- introduce an absolute exclusion on the detention of pregnant women
- introduce a 28 day time limit on detention
- end the practice of detaining people while their asylum claims are in progress
- implement a monitoring framework and an accountability mechanism for detention reform.

Warwick and Leamington CLP

Sanitary Products

Conference notes that:

1. One in 10 girls in the UK are unable to afford sanitary products, and 140,000 of them miss school each year. Some are forced to use old clothes, toilet paper and newspapers or rely on foodbanks for handouts.
2. Over a woman's lifetime, sanitary products cost more than £5,000, around £13 every month.
3. Women on low incomes say they are often forced to choose between buying food or sanitary products.
4. Women in prison/police custody have inadequate access to sanitary products, a potential breach of human rights and equality law.
5. The above result in safety (risk of toxic shock syndrome), hygiene and dignity issues.

Conference believes :

1. That no girl or woman should suffer the distressing stigma of being unable to afford sanitary products.
2. That no girl should have to miss vital days of her education to avoid the embarrassment of bleeding on her school uniform in front of her peers.
3. That menstrual care is a human right. We rightly provide free contraception to all, why not free sanitary products too?

Conference welcomes:

Dawn Butler's announcement at Conference in September 2017 that the next Labour Government will provide funding for free sanitary products for secondary schools, food banks and homeless shelters but believes this policy should go further.

Conference resolves:

To call on the Labour Party Conference to extend this pledge in the Party's Manifesto and to commit to a universal system of free sanitary products across the country

Clacton CLP

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Crawley CLP

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Mid Sussex CLP

Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland CLP would like to move a motion to conference to make sanitary products available at the point of use in all public Council Run Buildings, including all our schools, as well as raising the awareness and availability of sustainable products such as Menstrual Cups.

Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland CLP

This Women's Conference welcomes the announcement by Dawn Butler at National Conference in 2017 that the Labour Party will end period poverty. We call on the government to include funding for free sanitary products for secondary schools, foodbanks and homeless shelters. It must go much further though.

Women spend about £13 per month on sanitary products, amounting to more than £5000 over their lifetime, many people, including those menstruating for the first time, cannot afford to buy or access sanitary products – including those at primary school and colleges. This means they miss education, and potentially suffer reduced life chances as a consequence. It may also have a major impact on their mental and physical wellbeing and confidence.

The Labour Party must continue to campaign ending period poverty. CLPs, branches, and Women's Fora should be encouraged to work with organisations supporting women facing period poverty, by setting up schemes donating essential products. In addition the provision of free products should be extended to primary schools, colleges and universities. Projects should also be supported in circumstances such as during school holidays, when those affected are unable to get the items they need. Finally workplaces should be encouraged to provide free sanitary products, as not everyone accesses foodbanks, but may not be able to pay for these.

Stourbridge CLP

Security

Labour Women's Conference:

1. applauds the inspirational struggle of the Greenham Common women against US cruise missiles in Britain which highlighted the danger of nuclear war on our doorstep;
2. recognises women's role in the adoption of the UN of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for which ICAN was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize;
3. is aware that the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty i. led to the removal US cruise and Pershing and Soviet SS20 missiles from Europe, including Greenham Common; and ii. helped end the cold war between the US and USSR.

Conference deplores:

1. President Trump's announcement that he intends to withdraw from the INF Treaty, reintroducing the threat of nuclear confrontation in Europe and beyond; and
2. UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson's support for Trump's statement.

We recall Labour's 2017 manifesto:

1. pledged 'to protect the security of our citizens and country';
2. recognised 'We live in a period of growing international tensions'; and
3. undertook to 'lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world'.

In line with this, we call on the Labour Party to:

1. vigorously defend the INF Treaty in parliament and the country;
2. commit to signing and ratifying the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which will inevitably involve a commitment to scrap the Trident nuclear weapons system; and
3. devote resources to the human security needs of Britain's citizens.

Holborn and St Pancras CLP

Sex Workers

Conference notes that Tory austerity measures since 2010 have led to an increase in the number of women working in the sex industry. In Doncaster on-street prostitution has risen by 60% and in Sheffield by 166%, increases primarily attributed to benefit sanctions. In Birkenhead women's groups and police have linked an increase in sex work to government welfare reform.

Nearly a third of women in the UK do not earn a wage that they can live on, many women do not choose to work in the sex industry, but because of low paid employment, lack of pay equity, zero hours' contracts and other exploitative conditions in traditional women's roles, they do so through economic necessity. 74% of off-street prostitutes work in the sex industry to pay household expenses and support their children

Current UK legislation forces sex workers to work alone, leaving women vulnerable. Conference believes sex workers should have the same rights as all workers. They should be able to work together to increase safety and report violence without fear of arrest.

Conference notes the 2016 Home Affairs Select Committee report which recommended that sex work in the UK should be decriminalised and Amnesty International's decision to adopt the same policy.

Conference supports models of full decriminalisation which would help to improve women's health and safety as well as giving them legal protections and recognition as workers.

ASLEF

Social Care

In August 2018:

the children's commissioner expressed concern that, despite improving standards, over 13,000 children received unacceptable support from the care system and the number of elderly people needing 24-hour care was estimated to double by 2035.

Conference agrees that social care in England has been underfunded, de-professionalised and privatised, no longer providing a coherent, fair or adequate service for those in crisis or with longer term social needs or carers.

Social care policy is an equalities issue: women comprise a majority of social care staff and family carers. It relies on low pay and zero-hour contracts, with minimal training and support.

The Women's Budget Group has shown that investment in care services is an investment in social infrastructure and increased public funding for social care would generate jobs and significantly boost GDP.

Privatisation of social care has undermined quality and locked in instability, with companies teetering on bankruptcy, putting thousands of vulnerable people at risk.

We call on the Party to commit to:

- developing a professional, skilled, user-responsive National Care Service meeting the needs of the population, publicly funded through progressive taxation, publicly provided and free at the point of use
- providing needs-based funding to the sector
- ending privatisation and bringing contracts with private companies back into public ownership
- policy development to ensure that the quality and provision of social care is appropriate to the needs of the UK.

Hackney North and Stoke Newington CLP

We fully support the Labour Party's manifesto commitment to laying 'the foundations of a National Care Service for England' and believe that the next Labour government should re-organise social and health care to form an integrated general welfare system, sufficiently staffed by professionals with high quality, nationally accredited training, and nationally agreed pay and conditions. As part of the re-organisation of social care, there needs to be a radical review of the current arrangement for direct payments from Councils under the system of self-directed support. This places enormous, stressful burdens on women in particular, since they are the majority of both paid and unpaid carers and organisers of care. It also causes unacceptable stress on family members, again mostly women, who have to administer what amounts to a business, without training, financial help or other support.

Halifax CLP

This Conference is seriously concerned regarding the growing social care crisis within Scotland. We call for a socially just Scotland which recognises the strong role that women play as carers, as care workers and as those in need of social care. Social Work Scotland recently advised that 72% of social care service users aged 85+ are female and life expectancy for this group has decreased since 2011.

This Conference is therefore clear that social care is an equalities issue. Women comprise 85% of the 200,000 plus workers employed in social care where low pay and zero hours contracts are standard with minimum training and support provided for this valuable role. In addition, privatisation of social care has undermined quality and locked in instability, putting thousands of vulnerable people at risk. We are clear that the exploitation of women carers and devaluing our ageing population by the profiteering and dehumanising acts of private companies must end.

We call on the Scottish Labour Party to:

- develop a professional skilled, user responsive National Care Service meeting the needs of the population, publicly provided and free at the point of use
- increase investment in the sector
- end privatisation and bring contracts back into public ownership with increased resources for local authorities
- work with Trade Unions to formalise a universal pay structure with excellent terms and conditions
- provide fair recognition and support for unpaid carers and a real increase in carers allowance
- develop a policy of close cooperation with the NHS.

Perth and Kinross-shire CLP

'The Rushcliffe Labour Party Women's Forum call on a Labour Party government to improve working conditions for care workers, to review adult social care provision, to secure a properly trained and re-numerated workforce and to ensure dignity and care for our ageing population'.

Rushcliffe CLP

Conference notes that:

- Research shows around 80% of health and social care workers in the UK are women.
- A 2018 study by UNISON, the UK's largest trade union, highlights the reality for workers in the care economy;
 - Intolerable working conditions pushing them to the brink. Nearly half (49%) of those who responded are thinking of leaving their job, with low pay the main reason (73%), followed by not having enough time to deliver care (53%).

- 48% said there was inadequate time to support those in need with dignity and compassion.
- 2018 saw major industrial disputes by care workers pushed to the limit by staff shortages, cuts, low and unequal pay in Birmingham, Bath and Glasgow.

Conference calls for:

- Agreement of minimum standards for pay and quality employment to avoid a race to the bottom.
- Recognition for care workers in England as trained professionals through registration to help raise standards - replicating arrangements already agreed for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Promotion of ethical and residential care charters, which UNISON has pioneered, and pressing for more councils to sign them.
- The Labour Party;
 - to work alongside the TUC, STUC and WTUC to demand that governments provide the funding levels needed to deliver comprehensive, safe, high quality health and social care;
 - and with trade unions to lobby governments to force social care providers to maintain clear minimum wage records and understandable payslips for workers.

UNISON

Transport

This conference notes the current government's under-investment in transport services, especially bus services. The impact is felt in urban and rural areas and disproportionately affects women. Evidence shows that women are much more dependent on buses, especially younger and older women, and use them more for local trips. The cost of bus services can be a serious barrier to use and we support the shadow front bench call for free bus passes to be extended to WASPI women.

An affordable and reliable bus service is therefore an essential service to fully connect to our communities, thereby improving health and well-being.

We call upon a future Labour government to reverse this decline and recognise the importance of bus services to women's day-to-day lives.

Wythenshawe and Sale East CLP

Universal Basic Income

Conference celebrates with pride Labour's past achievements in creating the welfare state and strongly condemns its dismantling by the Tories in government since 2010.

Conference notes both the insecurity of modern work, with zero hours contracts, the gig economy, low wages and increasing automation, and the complete inadequacy of the current system of benefits, especially Universal Credit, which punishes the most vulnerable in society.

Conference further notes that it is often women, particularly women of colour and those with disabilities, who are worst off whether in or out of work.

Conference believes that Universal Basic Income (UBI) represents a positive, radical solution to such complex problems and that it has the potential to transform lives, especially women's. A regular, guaranteed income for every citizen would afford people more freedom. Freedom to choose between staying at home to care for dependents, going out to work or to do both. Freedom to negotiate a better deal from your boss. Freedom to leave an abusive relationship with financial security behind you. Freedom to explore your creativity or academic interests. Freedom from the stigma of being 'on benefits' or the desperation of falling the wrong side of the line to qualify under means-testing.

Conference resolves we should commit to move forward with meaningful research into UBI, followed quickly by trials across the UK.

Swansea West CLP

Universal Credit and Employment Support

In his damning indictment of the UK government, Philip Alston, the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty, highlighted the adverse impact of Government policies on women. He suggested when launching the report that austerity amounted to organised misogyny. Universal Credit is causing many of the problems:

- five week wait for payment putting many women into debt and often resulting in evictions.
- payment to one person in a household often locking women into coercive and/or violent relationships.

Motion

This CLP demands that a future Labour government reverse all the misogynist policies put in place by the Coalition and Tory Governments:

- stop the roll out of universal credit
- stop the 5 week wait for UC payment
- end the brutal sanctions policy
- end the freeze on working age benefits
- end the freeze on the Local Housing Allowance for private renters, which is leaving many women unable to meet their monthly rent
- end the two child rule along with the appalling rape clause
- repeal the cuts to the legal aid system which impacts heavily on women in violent relationships
- reverse the cuts to local authority budgets which have resulted in the loss of key services on which women rely (e.g. child care, refuges, etc)

These are just some of the worst policies adversely affecting women – a Labour government must ensure that improving the lives of women (and their children) is at the heart of all our policy- making.

Canterbury CLP

Conference notes that in November 2018 the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights delivered a searing verdict on 'austerity' policies and their impact, stating cuts and reforms to social security had been driven by a goal of radical social engineering and 'there is such a gender dimension to these welfare reforms that if you got a group of misogynists in a room and said how can we make this system work for men and not for women they would not have come up with too many ideas that are not already in place'.

Women, particularly BAME and disabled women, have borne the brunt of austerity, with cuts to public services, social security, the growth of insecure work and spiralling housing crisis. This has placed women at greater risk of sexual harassment and violence and restricts our ability to enforce our rights.

Conference welcomes Labour's strong policies to:

- end austerity and build a country for the many not the few;
- deliver social justice, greater equality and stronger trade union and employment rights;
- properly fund our public services – including social care and childcare;
- end privatisation;
- build council homes;
- tackle unequal pay for women;
- extend public ownership;
- invest £500 billion over 10 years to transform our country, ensuring the rewards of wealth are genuinely shared.

Conference resolves to unite behind this agenda, putting women at the centre of economic and social transformation and win a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour government to achieve it.

Clwyd South CLP

Conference is deeply concerned by entrenched inequality in the UK. Women are more likely to live in poverty, be in low paid and insecure work and the gender pay gap remains stubbornly high at over 17%.

This is underpinned by structural inequalities across the economy as a result of forty years of neoliberalism, discrimination, the design of the benefits system, underinvestment in public services particularly child- and social-care, and the impact of unpaid care work. All of this has been compounded by eight years of austerity, with 86% of cuts falling upon women since 2010.

Addressing gender inequality is part of the story Labour must tell about our radical economic agenda for public investment, properly funded public services, public ownership, stronger employment rights and empowering working people.

As part of this agenda Conference calls on Labour to:

- develop a major strategy to eradicate the gender pay gap;
- rollout sectoral collective bargaining, particularly in care and call centre work, covering millions of women;
- develop proposals to radically strengthen rights to flexible working and support caring responsibilities;
- ensure women are represented in proposals for democratic forms of public ownership and workers on boards;
- include gender pay gap requirements for procurement;
- develop proposals to ensure menstrual and menopause related needs are accommodated for in the workplace; and
- conduct a full gender impact analysis of all DWP policies and scrap or completely overhaul Universal Credit abolishing the 2 child rule and 'main earner' payment model.

Women, BAME and disabled women in particular, have borne the brunt of austerity, with severe cuts to public services, social security, the growth of insecure work and a spiralling housing crisis. This has placed women at greater risk of sexual harassment and violence, and our ability to enforce our rights has been restricted.

Conference notes that in November 2018 the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights delivered a searing verdict on 'austerity' policies and their impact, stating cuts and reforms to social security had been driven by a goal of radical social engineering and 'there is such a gender dimension to these welfare reforms that if you got a group of misogynists in a room and said "how can we make this system work for men and not for women", they would not have come up with too many ideas that are not already in place'.

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- properly fund our public services
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- build council homes
- tackle unequal pay and state pension injustices for women
- extend public ownership
- invest £500 billion over 10 years to transform our country and ensure the rewards of wealth are shared.

Conference resolves to unite behind this agenda, putting women at the centre of this economic and social transformation, and win a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour government to achieve it.

Cynon Valley CLP

This women's conference meets at a time when women are experiencing increased oppression, and working class women most of all. The Tory Government has chosen to implement a programme of austerity as a means to manage a crisis in capitalism.

While giving massive tax breaks to the wealthiest and ignoring tax avoidance from big business they have implemented cuts to all our public services to the detriment of communities from the North of Scotland to the South of England and West of Wales.

The cuts to public services disproportionately effect women who still shoulder most caring responsibilities.

Women are the majority in public sector work force, particularly in the NHS and care. Not only are these sectors low paid increasingly they are being tendered to the private sector, or completely privatised. Increasingly women are finding their working condition eroded while costs of care, transport and rents are increasing.

This conference recognises that the only way to reverse these attacks is through the election of a Labour Government, led by Jeremy Corbyn, with policies committed to

protecting and services back into public ownership. This conference agrees that as a priority the Women's Committee will consult with with trade unions and Labour Women's Groups to ensure that our policies and campaigns meet the needs and aspirations of all women, with particular attention to working class women who have too often been left behind

Dundee City CLP

This Conference acknowledges that Universal Credit can cause absolute poverty for women and their families.

Claimants can wait between 5 and 12 weeks to be paid, can be sanctioned for very minor reasons, and find that they have no money for food, heating, rent and sanitary products.

Current levels of food poverty have not been seen in the UK since the introduction of the Welfare State.

Lone parents, of whom 90% are women, can lose up to £2000 per year when they migrate to UC.

Women who are in an abusive relationship can be financially dependent on their partner due to UC being paid into a single bank account.

There are many reports of fluctuating payments which can lead to hardship and which, combined with high costs of child care, can have a detrimental effect on women being able to work.

This Conference believes that Universal Credit has become a “toxic brand” and is acknowledged as a punitive instead of a supportive system of welfare.

Conference therefore calls upon a future Labour Government to scrap Universal Credit and replace it with a system which genuinely and efficiently looks after the most vulnerable in our society.

Gateshead CLP

14 million people in the UK live in poverty (UN rapporteur on extreme Poverty and Human rights' report) - 1.5M are destitute, 1 in 2 children in poverty. The state of UK welfare is 'a disgrace... a social calamity', presenting a 'gradual disappearance of the post war welfare state'.

Universal Credit (UC), is:

- paid monthly to only one person per household facilitating economic control and potentially trapping women in domestic abuse

- paid in arrears, 5 weeks or more delay, cycle of debt. Up to 40% of monthly income deducted for loans, and arrears
- punitively sanctioned
- disproportionately affects single mothers
- computer-based - 50% need help to complete, 33% unable
- reduces entitlement to free school meals, putting 1 million children in poverty, ineligible for FSMs and passported benefits.
- creating reliance on food bank - up by 50% in UC areas(TrussellTrust)
- 'destitution by design' (Rowntree Foundation)

This CLP:

- believes that UC is ideologically driven, branding the working aged poor as architects of their own poverty rather than victims of austerity and poverty pay
- deplores the rollout of UC against numerous warnings
- believes 2018 budget gave tax breaks to the richest, no transitional support for legacy claimants moving to UC
- Calls on the party to immediately mobilise working people, women's organisations, trade unions, and councils in a nationwide campaign to oppose and scrap UC and replace it with a socialist alternative.

Hornsey and Wood Green CLP

This Labour Party notes:

- The steady stream of increasingly appalling revelations and scandals surrounding cuts to benefits, including those associated with the introduction of 'Universal Credit'.
- John McDonnell's pledge to scrap Universal Credit and the party's announcement of a review of the whole benefits system.

The situation is shameful. Labour must completely reverse the decades-long drive, brutally accelerating since 2010, to make welfare less and less about supporting those in need and more and more stingy, punitive and coercive. Neither Universal Credit nor the existing framework (JSA, ESA, etc) are good. We must redesign benefits in close consultation with recipients, workers and their organisations. This must be part of a wider anti-poverty program, with a goal that by the end of our first term foodbanks disappear.

Labour should clearly commit to and campaign for:

1. Ending the benefit freeze; uprating with inflation or earnings, whichever is higher.
2. Reversing all cuts/reductions; increasing benefits to afford a comfortable, not minimum, income.

3. Entitlement conditions that are straightforward, inclusive and available to all, including migrants (scrap 'No recourse to public funds').
4. Paying benefits for all children and dependents.
5. Abolishing all sanctions.
6. Scrapping Work Capability and similar assessments.
7. Relevant health issues being addressed using medical professionals with appropriate knowledge of individuals' conditions and disabilities.
8. Delivery by paid public servants via networks accessible to everyone, including provision of face-to face support for all who need it. Reversing DWP cuts and privatisation.

Ipswich CLP

The current Tory government introduced the two child limit for state benefits in April 2017. Up until now this did not apply to larger families where children were born prior to April 2017. However, from February 2019 the 2 child limit was due to apply to all new benefit claimants regardless of when the child was born. Anyone who had a change of circumstances through no fault of their own such as job loss or a relationship breakdown and who needed to claim benefits in order to support their children would have fallen foul of these rules.

The Tories have now backed down on this but children born after April 2017 are still subject to this discriminatory policy.

This conference calls on the Labour Party locally and nationally to vigorously oppose the two child limit and for a future Labour government to remove this iniquitous two child limit for all benefit claimants immediately.

Isle of Wight CLP

Benefit cuts and the move to Universal Credit severely deepen existing inequalities. The EHRC report on the impact of tax and benefits policies from 2010 to 2021, found that women lose around twice as much as men, reflecting their greater dependency on benefits and tax credits due to the gendered division of labour. Worst hit are single parents, Black and Asian families, and households containing one or more people with a disability, especially those affected by several intersecting sources of inequality. Inequality is a structural feature of a benefit system designed primarily to enforce take-up of waged work, whilst dismissing as "worklessness" the essential labour of childcare, and generating persecution of those living with sickness or disability. Whilst benefits conditionality has the general effect of depressing wages and conditions and entrenching claimants in low-waged insecure work, those forced to fit employment around childcare responsibilities are disproportionately affected. We commit to abolishing Universal Credit outright, replacing it with a system which actively promotes equalities and combats structural causes of poverty. This will:

- operate alongside training, wages and economic policies to promote high quality employment, whilst empowering workers and jobseekers to reject bad pay and conditions
- promote parity of esteem for the labour of childcare, fully collectivising the cost and remunerating the labour of childcare and other care work in the home as well as in professional settings
- abolish economic and social disadvantage associated with living with a disability

Leeds Central CLP

Conference notes that the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights delivered a searing verdict on 'austerity' policies and their impact, stating cuts and reforms to social security had been driven by a goal of radical social engineering and 'there is such a gender dimension to these welfare reforms that if you got a group of misogynists in a room and said how can we make this system work for men and not for women they would not have come up with too many ideas that are not already in place'.

Women have borne the brunt of austerity, with severe cuts to public services, social security, the growth of insecure work and a spiralling housing crisis. Universal Credit has removed child benefit from women's control. Women under 25, especially mothers, have been particularly affected by the age related welfare cap. This has placed women at greater risk of sexual harassment and violence and our ability to enforce our rights has been restricted.

Conference welcomes Labour's strong policies to:

- end austerity - build a country for the many not the few;
- deliver social justice, equality, stronger union and employment rights;
- properly funded public services – including social care and childcare;
- reform the punitive Universal Credit system: end privatisation;
- build council homes;
- tackle unequal pay for women;
- extend public ownership
- invest in our country and ensure the rewards of wealth are shared.

Conference supports this agenda, putting women at the centre of this economic and social transformation.

Meriden CLP

This Conference calls upon The Government to withdraw the two child cap on Universal Credit.

[Supplementary commentary: as women are more often carers of children than men, especially where a relationship has broken up, then they are hit by this rule more harshly than men.]

North Shropshire CLP

Conference notes that in November 2018 the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights delivered a searing verdict on 'austerity' policies and their impact, stating cuts and reforms to social security had been driven by a goal of radical social engineering and 'there is such a gender dimension to these welfare reforms that if you got a group of misogynists in a room and said how can we make this system work for men and not for women they would not have come up with too many ideas that are not already in place'.

Women, BAME and disabled women in particular, have borne the brunt of austerity, with severe cuts to public services, social security, the growth of insecure work and a spiralling housing crisis. This has placed women at greater risk of sexual harassment and violence and our ability to enforce our rights has been restricted.

Conference welcomes Labour's strong policies to:

- end austerity and build a country for the many not the few;
- deliver social justice, greater equality and stronger trade union and employment rights;
- properly fund our public services, including social care and childcare;
- end privatisation;
- build council homes;
- tackle unequal pay for women;
- extend public ownership; and
- invest £500 billion over 10 years to transform our country and ensure the rewards of wealth are genuinely shared.

Conference resolves to unite behind this agenda, putting women at the centre of this economic and social transformation and win a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government to achieve it.

Oxford West and Abingdon CLP

We fear the consequences of claimants' transfer from existing benefits onto Universal Credit (UC) because UC:

- Characterises claimants as 'welfare dependent'; access to benefits is not a right but based on conditions/tests, regardless of labour market conditions and personal circumstances.
- Uses punitive sanctions, leaving claimants in poverty, debt, and malnutrition.
- Has reduced meagre benefit support available to disabled people, and to single parents, most of whom are women.
- Is paid to only one person per household, leaving women in abusive relationships with no guaranteed income or financial autonomy.

- Reduces the financial incentive for 'second earners' in couple households to increase their hours of work, meaning fewer women with an income of their own.
- Was cut in 2015/6, leaving claimants, especially single parents and low paid workers, worse off.
- Is used to cut benefit costs at the expense of claimants' quality of life and dignity.

This Women's Conference agrees to OPPOSE the roll out of UC, to SUPPORT SCRAPPING this benefit, and to PROPOSE a benefit system informed by a new way of thinking which:

- Recognises that a progressive benefit system puts claimants' right to financial support and a living income at its heart.
- Acknowledges how social and economic changes, and changes in personal circumstances, can lead to marginalisation and demoralisation.
- Recognises the importance for women of financial autonomy and access to an independent income
- Breaks down the barriers to employment for disabled people and single parents with young children.

Sheffield Heeley CLP

This Conference notes with dismay the disproportionate effect of austerity on the health and wellbeing of women. Women are poorer than men yet have borne £22 billion of the £26 billion of austerity "savings" since June 2010. Inequality has been increasing, after decades of progress. Amnesty International refers to the precarious position of British women.

Women are more likely to use the NHS, to be on benefits, and to be in precarious or part time work. Cuts and rationing of services, changes to the benefit system favouring men as the holders of the household budget, the freezing or denying benefits, and the weakening of workers protections will hit them harder, impacting negatively on their health.

Women are more likely to be carers, and with the shortage of staff, and the crisis in formal care, and lack of sufficient childcare, look set to be forced to give up employment, affecting their physical and mental health and increasing their dependence. Coupled with cuts to domestic violence services, refuges, and rape crisis centres, and women are left vulnerable and unsupported.

We call upon the Labour Party to redress this appalling situation by:

Ending Austerity

Prioritising the needs of women

Prioritising poverty

Renationalising the NHS, providing universal healthcare for all

Prioritising universal childcare

Strengthening workers' rights, and supporting the Unions

Addressing the crisis in Care, and ensuring informal carers are fully supported, including but not only financially

Ensuring budgets for specialised women's and children's services are both sufficient, and ringfenced

Socialist Health Association

14 million people in the UK live in poverty (UNrapporteur on extreme Poverty and Human rights' report) - 1.5M are destitute, 1 in 2 children in poverty. The state of UK welfare is 'a disgrace... a social calamity', presenting a 'gradual disappearance of the post war welfare state'.

Universal Credit (UC), is:

- paid monthly to only one person per household facilitating economic control and potentially trapping women in domestic abuse
- paid in arrears, 5 weeks or more delay, cycle of debt. Up to 40% of monthly income deducted for loans, and arrears
- punitively sanctioned
- subject to benefit freeze
- computer-based - 50% need help to complete, 33% unable
- reduces entitlement to free school meals, putting 1 million children in poverty, ineligible for FSMs and passported benefits.
- creating reliance on food bank - up by 50% in UC areas(TrussellTrust)
- 'destitution by design' (Rowntree Foundation)

This CLP:

- believes that UC is ideologically driven, branding the working aged poor as architects of their own poverty rather than victims of austerity and poverty pay
- deplores the rollout of UC against numerous warnings
- 2018 budget gave tax breaks to the richest, no transitional support for legacy claimants moving to UC
- Calls on the party to immediately mobilise working people, women's organisations, trade unions, and councils in a nationwide campaign to oppose and scrap UC and replace it with a socialist alternative.

Tottenham CLP

Conference believes income inequality is a women's issue; women are the majority of those in poverty and those in insecure work.

Conference welcomes Labour's economic, industrial and equality policies to invest and transform our economy, recognising that creating good jobs for all involves tackling women's occupational segregation, including BAME women specifically, increasing women's economic participation and autonomy with access to childcare and rebuilding our public services.

Where public investment and public procurement are being undertaken this should have clear and ambitious targets to achieve women's equality. This should be part of wider policies and mechanisms across public and private sectors to break down occupational segregation – including assessing job design, career paths and extending flexible working - end women's unequal pay, access decent occupational and state pensions, ensure job security and better pay. This should include taking stronger action on the multiple discrimination faced by BAEM, disabled, younger, older and LGBT women.

Conference believes that sectoral collective bargaining and stronger trade union and employment rights are crucial to achieving women's equality and should be implemented with this aim. To achieve this Labour should commit to the Ministry of Labour including an equality unit with the power, resources, overview and monitoring ability to ensure that in all sectors women's and other equality targets are being met; women's pay is raised and equal, and action to address the under-representation of women is delivered. Women should be equally represented at the negotiating table in all sectoral collective bargaining – not just sectors where women predominate.

Unite

Wallasey CLP notes:

- The appalling revelations and scandals surrounding cuts to benefits.
- The recent UN report condemning the UK Welfare Benefit system saying it inflicted great misery and calling it 'sexist' and it could have been compiled by "a group of misogynists in a room"
- Universal Credit discriminates against women and the proposed reforms further worsen this discrimination.
- John McDonnell's pledge to scrap Universal Credit and Margaret Greenwood's review of the benefits system.

Labour must reverse the drive, to make welfare less about supporting those in need and more stingy, punitive and coercive. We must redesign benefits in consultation with recipients, workers and their organisations. This must be part of a wider anti-poverty program, that includes foodbanks disappearing.

Labour should clearly commit to and campaign for:

1. Reversing all cuts/reductions; increasing benefits to afford a comfortable, not minimum, income.
2. Entitlement conditions that are straightforward, inclusive and available to all and scrap 'No recourse to public funds'
3. Paying benefits for all children and dependents.
4. Abolishing all sanctions.
5. Scrapping Work Capability and similar assessments.

6. Health issues being addressed using medical professionals with appropriate knowledge of individuals' conditions and disabilities.
7. Delivery by paid public servants via networks accessible to everyone, and face-to-face support for all who need it. Reversing DWP cuts and privatisation.
8. Scrapping Universal Credit.

We call on Women's Conference to adopt this policy and for the setting up of the necessary policy review to make it work.

Wallasey CLP

Women are disproportionately hit by austerity. Living standards are being attacked as incomes and public services are cut, driving up hardship and poverty amongst women.

2. That the 2010-2020 changes to the tax and benefits systems are projected to impose 86% of their burden on women, according to analysis by the House of Commons Library.

Conference believes:

1. The Tories' eight year-long austerity drive needs to be ended and replaced with policies that will expand the economy and make people better off.
2. This is essential to reversing the attacks on women and tackling inequality.

Conference welcomes:

1. Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to replacing austerity with a plan to invest for growth and create an economy that works 'For the many, not just the few'.
2. Labour's plan to establish a National Investment Bank and substantially increase public investment, to stimulate growth, expand infrastructure, create good jobs, increase wages, raise living standards and expand public finances – all improvements that women would benefit from.
3. Labour's industrial strategy, which aims to create high-skilled, high-paid secure work and provide new opportunities for women to escape low-paid, insecure work.
4. Labour's support for action to tackle the gender pay gap – which is still over 18% on average in the UK.
5. The Labour leadership's support for public services, including healthcare, education, childcare and welfare benefits, which are all vital to women.

Walsall South CLP

In his damning indictment of the UK government, Philip Alston, the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty, highlighted the adverse impact of Government policies on women. He suggested when launching the report that austerity amounted to organised misogyny. Universal Credit is causing many of the problems:

- five week wait for payment putting many women into debt and often resulting in evictions.
- payment to one person in a household often locking women into coercive and/or violent relationships.

Many other adverse aspects of universal credit, when put alongside wider austerity policies, have thrown thousands of women into poverty and even destitution. Alston highlights that single parents, the majority of whom are women, have been particularly badly affected. He confirms that the social welfare system set up to support people is being dismantled.

We believe the Womens Conference must build on the Alston Report and press the Labour Party to directly address the impact austerity has had on women.

Motion

This CLP demands that a future Labour government reverse all the misogynist policies put in place by the Coalition and Tory Governments.

- stop the roll out of universal credit
- end the brutal sanctions policy
- end the freeze on working age benefits
- end the two child rule along with the appalling rape clause
- repeal the cuts to the legal aid system which impacts heavily on women in violent relationships
- reverse the cuts to local authority budgets which have resulted in the loss of key services on which women rely (e.g. child care, refuges, etc)

Witney CLP

Since 2010, there has been an appalling rise in levels of rough sleeping and homelessness in the UK. Women are especially at risk of physical and sexual violence both before and during their time being homeless and also experience the threat of being separated from their children.

The Government's recent Rough Sleeping strategy does little to address the root causes of homelessness and rough sleeping. For example, Welfare Reform changes such as the Benefits Cap, Universal Credit and the freeze on Local Housing Allowance rates both massively reduce access to affordable housing and disproportionately affect women, especially lone parents. Recent cuts imposed on councils have also greatly reduced women's access to refuges and other specialist housing and support. This puts more women in danger – forcing them to stay with abusive partners or sleeping in unsafe or concealed locations, where they can't access the services they need.

We welcome Labour's commitment to eradicating rough sleeping within the first term of a Labour government and to increasing the supply of council and other affordable housing. We call on Labour to:

- Restore the level of beds in women's refuges and reinstate funding for other services for homeless women and work with relevant women's groups to develop a secure and viable funding framework for the future
- End the Benefits Cap and freeze on Local Housing Allowance rates
- Get rid of Universal Credit
- Increase funding for other women's support services, especially mental health and substance misuse services.

Wolverhampton South West CLP

Upskirting

In 2018, a brave campaigner, a victim and a strong woman started a campaign to make upskirting a criminal offence. Upskirting can be defined as obtaining invasive and degrading photos of an individual without consent. We believe as a Constituency that this practice and similar practices such as catcalling are a form of a harassment and should be considered as such.

The campaign was deemed successful as women all over England and Wales signed a petition and as a result a Bill known as Upskirting Bill was proposed to the House of Commons which was later blocked by Tory MP Christopher Chope in June 2018. Since then the Bill has been forgotten in the Brexit Saga, however, we would like Labour Party to fully support the Bill and push for it be pass through the Parliament so women in England and Wales can feel safe.

Tatton CLP

Violence Against Women and Girls

Domestic Violence Refuges are at risk of closure, all over our country! We need more, not less! In England, last year, 200 victims a day were turned away! In Wales, 46% of victims had no safe space. Refuges save lives and yet, there is not enough room and not enough funding!

Domestic abuse is rising! 2 women are murdered weekly. According to the Crime in England and Wales Survey, it accounts for 16% of all violent crime, and has increased by 23%! Shelter suggests that domestic violence is the most common reason for becoming homeless. Whilst, 400 people take their own lives each year, after attending hospital for domestic abuse injuries.

In the age of the Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women, why has the UK Government signed, but not ratified the treaty? Does our government not want to be bound, because it is already failing our people? The right to life; the right not be tortured and degraded, the right to tolerance and peace, are all enshrined to us, by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

With central funding diverting to Local Authorities, refuges are now at more risk! The government has increased funding initially, but this is not enough! We demand that along with a social awareness and an educational programme, the government delivers a sustainable funding model for a national network of refuges, and increases the number of spaces urgently, to ensure the escape to freedom, and a happier, safer life, for every victim of Domestic Violence.

Aberconwy CLP

Conference welcomes the UK Government's decision in 2012 to sign the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul convention). Conference notes that the Istanbul Convention, once ratified, requires all signatories to commit to funding and resourcing a number of measures, including:

- ensuring that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence;
- ensuring that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.

Conference notes that the UK Government has yet to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Conference commends the 'I C Change' campaign which brings third sector organisations and individual women together to press for the full adoption of the Istanbul Convention. Conference agrees to:

- Support the demands of I C Change

- Encourage CLPs and affiliated organisations to do likewise, pressing for the UK Government to adopt the Convention in full with immediate effect
- Ensure Labour places this issue high up on our agenda for campaigning, including in the Manifesto, and commits to immediate ratification when in government.

Brent Central CLP

This conference notes that in December 2017 the National Education Union and UK Feminista published a report, *It's Just Everywhere*, highlighting the sexism encountered every day in schools by our children and young people.

This conference believes that to address sexism in society, we must first address it in schools.

We must ensure our education system has the necessary policies and resources to tackle the sexual harassment, violence, language and stereotyping endemic in our schools.

We need Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) that challenges and informs, with relevant professional development provided for our education professionals. The Department for Education should also issue guidance for schools on how to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and sexual violence.

This conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to:

- support campaigns to ensure the RSE curriculum, across all stages, is designed to prevent sexism and harassment among children and young people;
- support campaigns to ensure that RSE teachers have access to high quality professional development, and
- push for sufficient funding to enable schools to tackle sexism.

We also urge the Labour Party to commit to working, once elected to Government, with education professionals, education unions and sexual violence specialists to develop policies and resources for use in schools. Lastly, we urge the Party to commit to fully funding schools in tackling this issue when elected to Government.

Dover CLP

A report published by the "European Institute for Gender Equality" on 22nd November 2018 makes several recommendations for data collection across England and Wales, as well as the devolved governments of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Whether we are in or out of the EU, conference believes we must strive to meet the monitoring requirements set out by the "Istanbul Convention." Meeting these requirements will ensure we have the most appropriate data to use in our task of preventing intimate partner violence, protecting its victims and prosecuting the perpetrators.

We believe it is essential that data is accurate and comparable across regions and nations in order to tackle the issue.

A summary of report recommendations -

We should create a new policy/legal framework for collecting administrative data on intimate partner violence. This should include a specific code that captures the specific type of intimate partner violence (physical, psychological, emotional or economic). This should also include types of offences as well as repeat victimisation. It will be necessary to include the recording of the sex and age of the victim and the perpetrator and the relationship between them.

That efforts be made to harmonise data collection across local police forces.

Conference calls on the Labour party to push for these recommendations to be implemented. Furthermore, and as it is the Police Service who will be recording most of it, we must ensure they are fully supported, trained and given the paid time to do so.

Edinburgh Northern and Leith CLP

Conference welcomes the UK Government's decision in 2012 to sign the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul convention)

Conference notes that the second stage of ratification of this Convention has not yet taken place.

Conference notes that the Istanbul Convention, once ratified, requires all signatories to commit to funding and resourcing a number of measures, including

- ensuring that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence.
- ensuring that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.

Conference believes that this Convention should be ratified as a matter of urgency, recognising that services are currently under severe pressure and are unable to meet need.

Conference welcomes the commitments given by the Scottish government in the 'Equally Safe' strategy to adhere to international commitments including promoting the terms of the Istanbul Convention.

Conference agrees to:

- Encourage CLPs and affiliated organisations to press for the UK Government to adopt the Convention in full with immediate effect
- To campaign for increased funding at every opportunity, across all devolved governments too.
- Ensure Labour places this issue high up on our agenda for campaigning, including in the Manifesto, and commits to immediate ratification when in government.

Edinburgh Southern CLP

Conference notes that funding for victims of Domestic Violence has been slashed from £31.2 million in 2010/2011 to just £23.9 million in 2016/17 and the cuts keep coming.

Conference believes a future Labour government must be committed to providing a comprehensive service for victims of domestic abuse. This service will involve both the re-establishment and the commissioning of new professionally staffed safe houses for these victims, and their children.

Counselling, support and advice will be made available on a 24-hour basis. Ideally, this service should be rolled out nationwide.

In order for victims of domestic abuse to safely transition from the abusive environment in which they live, a fit for purpose benefit system needs to be in place to direct funds to the abused party, without interference from any other parties involved.

Conference resolves that obtaining the means required to provide this comprehensive service will be the remit of a Labour Party government commissioning group, via consultation within the relevant statutory sectors. The required funding will be made available for the immediate and foreseeable future.

Folkestone and Hythe CLP

Domestic abuse has been a curse on society throughout our history. The curse is insidious in its manifestations and spreads like a disease. The cycle of abuse takes hold and is passed on to future generations through parents and children, then parents and children again.

Change is hard, but a campaign which emphasises open engagement with dysfunctional families, by those who are aware of the problems, and who can give help and advise before violence becomes a way of life. This way, the door to the outside world has been open, and there is nowhere to hide.

The more open channels there are, the more children will see that an abusive life is not normal, and they will stand a better chance of breaking the cycle.

It is also essential that survivors fleeing domestic abuse should have access to safe refuge. This is becoming more difficult due to withdrawal of housing benefit funding for those residing in a domestic abuse shelter, leading to many refuge closures.

We call for:-

Set-up of a country-wide early prevention campaign.

This campaign should focus on improving awareness and a better understanding of early prevention of domestic abuse, including by high quality relationships education for school children.

This campaign should be inclusive, working with relevant organisations such as the Women's Aid Federation and working across party lines.

Cuts to housing benefit funding for refugees to be reversed.

Gloucester CLP

Domestic abuse is more than a domestic issue – it impacts every part of life, including the workplace. Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background - this is true for both the abuser and the abused.

Employers have a shared responsibility to support staff. Too often workers experiencing domestic abuse are subjected to disciplinary action or job losses.

Everyone should have the right to work in a safe environment and workplaces should have effective and understanding domestic abuse workplace policies. This will build a nurturing working environment, encouraging greater staff retention and economic independence for individuals living with or fleeing domestic abuse.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to build on our pledge to grant paid leave for those experiencing domestic abuse:

- Enshrine in UK law that those experiencing Domestic Abuse will not be disadvantaged within the terms and conditions of their employment;
- Give workers the right to reasonable adjustments in their workplace including: flexible working hours with reasonable changes to working patterns, changes to specific duties which would help to keep the employee safe, and changes to contact details at work if necessary;
- Managers should be trained in spotting the signs of domestic abuse and how best to implement workplace policy;
- Make it a legal requirement for workplaces to provide all employees with access to information – including how to access support - in a format that is easily and discretely accessible within the workplace.

GMB

Two million people in the UK suffer from some form of domestic abuse, women are more than twice as likely to be the victim and, on average two women are killed by their current or former partner each week.

1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse, we can and we must ensure that through our schools we challenge the culture that allows domestic abuse to be perpetuated.

In a recent survey, it was found that almost a quarter of UK adults believed sex without consent in long-term relationships was usually not rape.

One third of schools in the UK are not providing high quality Sex & Relationship Education to their pupils.

To initiate and accelerate a much needed change in culture we are calling for the following;

A Labour government will:

- Reaffirm its commitment to ratify the Istanbul Convention.
- Legislate that all schools from primary age and above will deliver a high quality, compulsory PHSE curriculum designed to cover all types of domestic abuse, to help young people understand the difference between abusive and non-abusive relationship and to know where they can get help.
- As part of the above, the compulsory PHSE curriculum will robustly cover the issue of consent.

Great Yarmouth CLP

Conference welcomes the UK Government's decision in 2012 to sign the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul convention)

Conference notes that the Istanbul Convention, once ratified, requires all signatories to commit to funding and resourcing a number of measures, including:

- ensuring that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence;
- ensuring that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.

Conference notes that the UK Government has yet to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Conference commends the 'I C Change' campaign which brings third sector organisations and individual women together to press for the full adoption of the Istanbul Convention.

Conference agrees to:

- Support the demands of I C Change
- Encourage CLPs and affiliated organisations to do likewise, pressing for the UK Government to adopt the Convention in full with immediate effect
- Ensure Labour places this issue high up on our agenda for campaigning, including in the Manifesto, and commits to immediate ratification when in government.

Nottingham East CLP

Conferences recognises that whilst one in four women will be the victim of stalking either in person or online at some point during their lifetime, the law and enforcement system is currently failing to properly protect them.

On average, a victim will experience over 100 incidents before they even report it to the police, and when they do report it they often find the response is completely inadequate. According to Home Office figures, in 2014-15 of the 6,702 cases in which a

charge could have been brought, only 1,692 offences (25%) led to any action at all being taken.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has an appalling track record of dealing with cases of stalking; with a recent inspection finding that none of the 112 sample cases were dealt with properly and the care of the victims was judged to be inadequate in 95% of those cases. Furthermore, three quarters of them were never investigated by detectives. At present, courts will not consider patterns of stalking or harassment, but merely individual cases and perpetrators can sometimes avoid getting a criminal record. This has got to stop.

Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party in Parliament to:

- Press for the introduction of a stalking register to identify, track and monitor repeat offenders
- Ensure police forces provide protection to victims as cases progress
- Require the CPS and courts to enforce restraining orders and take appropriate action against those who transgress

Poole CLP

Conference notes the continuing unacceptable level of violence against women and girls in the UK, including domestic abuse.

Conference welcomes the UK Government's decision in 2012 to sign the The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul convention)

Conference notes that the Istanbul Convention, once ratified, requires all signatories to commit to funding and resourcing a number of measures aimed at combatting violence against women, including those outlined in Convention Article 20:

ensuring that victims have access to services facilitating their recovery from violence. These measures should include, when necessary, services such as legal and psychological counselling, financial assistance, housing, education, training and assistance in finding employment.

ensuring that victims have access to health care and social services and that services are adequately resourced and professionals are trained to assist victims and refer them to the appropriate services.

However, Conference notes that the UK Government has yet to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

Conference commends the I C Change campaign which brings third sector organisations and individual women together to press for the full adoption of the Istanbul Convention.

Conference agrees to:

1. Support I C Change
2. Encourage CLPs and affiliated organisations to do likewise, pressing for the UK Government to adopt the Convention in full with immediate effect
3. Ensure Labour places this issue high up on our agenda for campaigning, includes in the Manifesto, and commits to immediate ratification when in government.

Richmond Park CLP

Domestic violence and abuse affects the lives of millions of women in the UK. The most recent ONS survey shows 1.2 million women have experienced domestic abuse in a year. Under the Conservatives, over a third of all local authority funding to domestic and sexual violence services was already cut by 2012.

Conference welcomes the manifesto pledge to establish a National Refuge Fund and provide stable central funding for women's refuges and rape crisis centres; and the commitment made by Shadow Equalities Secretary Dawn Butler in September 2018 that Labour will require employers to provide up to 10 days paid leave for victims of domestic abuse.

Conference believes that all victims of domestic abuse, and their children, should have access to the services they need, whether they use a refuge or not.

Conference resolves that the Labour Party should commit to:

1. Ensuring that specialist services for survivors and children escaping domestic abuse, both those provided within refuges and those provided in the community, are fully resourced across all areas of the country, including ring-fencing a dedicated source of funding and return to 2010 levels as a minimum.
2. Working with women's groups specialising in the sector to identify what access to specialist services women and children affected by domestic abuse should be entitled to, including long-term counselling;
3. Campaigning to ensure that no more women's refuges or support services will close, or have to turn away any women or children due to lack of funding.

South East Cornwall CLP

Windrush

West Derby CLP recognises the contributions of the African-Caribbean people and Windrush communities are at the heart of Britain's multi-culturalism that we all benefit from today.

We want Labour Women to support celebrating an annual Windrush Day 22 June each year an annual celebration of recognise and honour the enormous contribution of Windrush women who arrived post war 1948 and 1971 to help rebuild our NHS and other public services.

Secondly, we ask Labour Women to actively campaign for an 'Amnesty for anyone who was a minor that arrived In Britain between 1948 to 1971' and an end to all 'hostile environment' policy and to ensure all eligible claimants have access to completing the form and to remove fees for citizenship applications to all those affected and reinstate full access to the NHS, public services, pensions, benefits, loss of earnings, property rights and access to counselling and support for trauma and depression. Labour Women must demand fair and reasonable justice for victims and urge for the following safeguards:

- Challenge Governments planned implementation of a compensation cap on victims of Windrush scandal and support a No minimum or maximum cap that will inadequately compensate those who have suffered emotionally, financially, lost their homes and citizenships to prevent the processing of 'low value claims'.
- Support a minimum timeline of 5 year period of opportunity victims and potential claimants to make applications and extended similarly to the duration of PPI compensation scheme

Liverpool West Derby CLP

Women in the workforce

Within the Labour movement there has always been a strong voice for women. Introducing the Equal Pay Act (1970), the Sex Discrimination Act, the Equality Act and the minimum wage The Labour Party has actively promoted the equal representation of women in the workforce. In the UK women are increasingly becoming the job creators and growth drivers. According to new research from the federation of small businesses (FSB), which was authored by Women's Enterprise Scotland and staff from the University of Portsmouth and the University of South Wales, in 2018 women-owned businesses in UK now contribute an estimated £105 billion GVA (gross value added) to the economy, an increase of 40% since 2012. However the report also notes that women still face a number of difficulties and obstacles in establishing and running businesses. This includes competing demands on time in terms of the balance between caring and work responsibilities.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to address the issue of childcare which prevents many women from achieving their professional potential and from venturing into enterprise. Conference calls on the Labour Party to support an increase in the tax allowance for childcare costs for small business owners to help tackle this problem of extortionate childcare which disproportionately affects women. This Conference believes that this is an inclusive motion which helps traditional families as well as single parents. Moreover, it creates less stress for the individual as it ensures that the pressure of competing work and family demands are reduced.

Angus North and Mearns CLP

Conference notes that self-employed women have little or no access to maternity protections, shared parental leave and adoption leave and pay.

Conference notes that self-employed mothers claiming Maternity Allowance have none of the legal protections afforded to employees when they go on maternity leave, and that self-employed parents are also ineligible for Shared Parental Pay.

Conference also notes that a number of self-employed women need Keep In Touch days in order to be able to maintain their business. Currently, self-employed mothers who take up paid work whilst on maternity leave are likely to lose their maternity allowance.

Conference believes that the lack of maternity protections makes it difficult for self-employed women to support their families and adds a barrier to improving their standard of living. This leaves some women having to make a choice between having children and pursuing their career.

Conference further believes that all working women, not just those in traditional employment, should have access to adequate maternity pay and robust protections in the event they choose to start or grow their family.

Conference resolves that Labour Party policy should be to review maternity pay and protections. Conference further resolves that the Labour Party should pledge to introduce a parental benefits package that works for the self-employed to include increased maternity pay and paternity pay, and shared parental leave. Party Policy should also be to ensure that Keep In Touch days for self-employed women are flexible and don't affect eligibility for Maternity Allowance.

Community Union

Doncaster North CLP notes:

Women are undervalued as a whole, in the workplace, both financially and socially

Doncaster North CLP understands:

A woman worker is often forced to accept poor entitlements for the flexibility as she requires to care for children and sick or older relatives.

The implications of maternity leave has on any future career and pension entitlements, employer depending.

The social defined separation in what is seen to be "women's" and "men's work".

Therefore, Doncaster North CLP resolves:

For women doing exactly the same-valued role as men in society should absolutely be paid the same.

Doncaster North CLP

This Conference notes that women are 3 times more likely than men to shoulder the majority of childcare.

Uptake of shared parental leave is extremely low at 2%.

Uptake of 10 days statutory paternity leave is not measured by the government but some employers illegally refuse even this.

Couples make decisions on parental leave based on their respective incomes but in the UK women earn an average of 14% less than men. Rates of all types of parental leave pay are among the lowest in Europe. Only 33% of councillors and only 17% of council leaders are women yet only 4% have parental leave policy for councillors.

Parental leave should not be a barrier to public life. We support campaigns in Parliament and local government to introduce formal parental leave for elected officials. Parental leave policy, culture and enforcement must go further to reduce the entrenchment of women as primary carers.

The Labour Party should:

- Work with trade unions to challenge the government and employers on the scandal of parental leave discrimination.
- Develop a robust parental leave and pay policy, which reduces women's economic and domestic disadvantage.
- Call on Councils to introduce childcare and parental leave policies for Councillors and require all Labour led councils to introduce such policies as soon as practicable.

We call on Women's Conference and the shadow cabinet to commit the party to these policies, which will give children the best start in life, and ensure we are committed to furthering equality.

Exeter CLP

Musicians primarily work as freelancers, and female musicians are often disadvantaged by parental rights legislation that has been created for people in more traditional employment.

Maternity Allowance is only payable to self-employed mothers. This places the entire burden of childcare onto mothers, and reinforces gender inequalities at home and at work. Maternity Allowance should become more flexible so that it can be shared between parents, working in exactly the same way as it does for people in more conventional employment.

Recent research conducted by Parents and Carers in Performing Arts (PIPA) has identified that access to ad-hoc, flexible childcare is critical in order to maintain a career in the performing arts at the same time as meeting caring responsibilities. The PIPA Balancing Act Survey also identified that those who are able to survive in the industry are dependent on the goodwill and availability of family and partners. Needless to say this is not always a viable solution for many.

Conference welcomes current Labour Party manifesto commitments in this area and requests that further commitments are made to ensure that:

Affordable childcare is available to freelance musicians and performers who work unsociable hours

That the right to paid time off for antenatal appointments is extended to workers.

That pregnancy and maternity-related rights available to workers are reviewed to give greater parity between workers and employees.

That shared parental leave and pay is enshrined in law for freelancers

A paternal/parental allowance be available for those who don't qualify for statutory pay

Musicians' Union

Conference is concerned that women in low hours, low paid, insecure and temporary work including women in self-employment are frequently unable to access maternity pay and other significant family friendly rights. Existing maternity, parental and family friendly rights assume a pattern of work that is no longer a reality for many millions of women workers, namely full-time, permanent, well paid employment.

Conference notes that many of the rights contain a requirement to be an employee and to have worked for the same employer for a period of at least 26 weeks. This is the case for maternity pay, shared parental leave, parental leave and the right to request flexible working.

Conference also notes that underpinning family friendly working in the UK is the assumption that the best way to balance work and care is for women themselves to negotiate flexible working. However, even where women are aware of their rights and meet the qualifying conditions, women in 'insecure' employment often feel unable to approach their employer for fear of being seen as unreliable or a liability. This includes many women on short-hours contracts or women whose hours are subject to regular change.

Conference calls upon the Labour Party in consultation with trade unions to explore and commit to designing more effective family friendly employment rights including opening them up to agency workers, women in self-employment and women on temporary or short-hours contracts.

Usdaw

Women's Health Services

There are many debilitating illnesses and 'hidden disabilities' which, either solely or disproportionately, seriously affect women of working age - PCOS, osteoporosis, menopause, Fibromyalgia, ME to name but a few.

The recognition and understanding of these conditions within both primary and secondary health care is patchy to say the least. NHS doctors and hospital specialists train and graduate at different times and have wildly varying levels of experience in these fields, leading to something of a lottery for women who present at GPs and hospitals with undiagnosed or inconclusive symptoms, which are caused by one of the above conditions.

Too many women find themselves not only experiencing these illnesses and their life-changing impacts, but then also find the support and treatment they need and deserve is not forthcoming, because of a general lack of understanding or specific lack of knowledge and experience in the parts of the NHS they have contact with. It is essential that all GPs, specialists and associated workers in the NHS, and also bodies such as the DWP, and employers receive training on the existence and impact of these conditions.

We call on the Women's Conference and the party to actively support Labour activists across the UK engaged in this issue, together with charitable and research bodies in their fight to have these lifelong, life-altering conditions properly recognised in primary and secondary NHS care, and the wider health and welfare system.

Crewe and Nantwich CLP