

Motion re Postponement of Women's Conference 2025

This CLP notes;

The Labour Executive Committee has voted to postpone/cancel Women's Conference indefinitely without providing a clear, full and satisfactory rationale.

The annual Labour Women's Conference has been taking place since working women got the vote. This event serves as a space for women's political participation and empowerment, where Labour Women come together to deliberate policy, organise around grassroots campaigns, build networks of support and solidarity and push forward an agenda for equality and justice.

The Labour Party Rule Book (Chapter 11A, clause 1) states that the aims and values of the Women's Organisation are as follows;

- 1) To lead political work relating to women members**
- 2) To organise women members**
- 3) To build the Labour Party amongst women across the country**
- 4) To strengthen the voice and presence of women throughout the party**
- 5) To make recommendations to the NEC and its subcommittees relating to women**

Appendix 1 of the Rule Book emphasises the importance of members, supporting the principle of policies being developed on the basis of input at member level which includes women.

Previously the Women's Conference was a two day event with space for motions and debate, recently being reduced to a 1 day event with scope for discussion being limited.

This CLP believes that;

This decision will damage women's activism across the party, will stall momentum and will deepen the widespread perception that women's voice and issues are not a priority in today's Labour Party.

The NEC agreed that the Party's positive action measures as they relate to women will be interpreted as applying to biological women only; this will apply to women in main conference too but there seems to be no need to cancel that.

To postpone/cancel this event with no concrete plan for rescheduling it, when women are already bearing the brunt of economic hardship, rising misogyny, epidemic levels of violence against women and girls and chronic under representation in decision making structures - including within our own party - sends a bleak message to the thousands of women who give their time, energy and expertise to the Labour Party.

There are myriad other issues, such as migration, poverty and employment rights that remain of immediate concern to women. This retreat from

supporting Women's Conference will negatively affect women's wider involvement in the Labour Party generally and removes our right to convene to address the very real challenges we face.

The backlash against all equalities work - whether for women, people of colour, disabled people or the LGBTQ+ communities - is in full flow amongst the UK political class, fuelled by right-wing parties around the world, supported by a right wing media.

Effectively cancelling Women's Conference is ultimately a symptom of a lack of commitment to the principles of equality at a time when the Labour Party in government should be leading from the front.

This CLP resolves to;

Write to the Chair of the NEC (Ellie Reeves) to demand the following

- **An immediate, full and detailed explanation from the NEC and leadership about the reasons behind this postponement/cancellation**
- **That women members and officers be consulted urgently on how to rectify this situation**
- **A new date be set for a full, in-person Labour Women's Conference**