

# **Left Unity**

# **National Conference**

Saturday 24 June 2017 and Sunday 25 June 2017

Agenda, with motions and amendments

10.00 – 11.00	Registration	
11.00 – 11.30	Welcome, SOC/Conf agenda report/EC emergency resolution	Page 3
11.30 – 12.20	The General Election and the work of Left Unity – Motions X1 – X10	Pages 5-12
12.20 – 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 – 13.15	Grenfell emergency resolution	Page 3
13.15 – 14.00	The General Election and the future of Left Unity – discussion	Pages 5-12
14.00 – 14.45	International Affairs – Motions B1 – B6	Pages 13-18
14.45 – 15.00	Break	
15.00 – 16.00	Employment, TUs, Housing, Democracy. Motions C1 – C4, D1 – D2	Pages 18-19
16.00 – 17.00	Social Justice and Equality. Motions F1 – F5.	Pages 19-24

# Emergency Motions

## Disputes and Procedures

*Executive Committee*

At its meeting on 10th June, Left Unity Executive Committee noted that the Disputes Committee is not functional in line with the constitution. It is required to have 7 elected members, of which at least 50% should be female. At the time of the EC discussion it had two male members. It was agreed by the EC that immediately after the forthcoming National Conference a national online by-election will be conducted in accordance with the constitution. It was also agreed that in the meantime, in the absence of a DC, any urgent actions will be taken by the EC, in accordance with point 13a of the constitution. Once the DC is elected it will immediately investigate any cases pending. It was agreed that this process would be put to the National Conference, as highest body in the party, for ratification. NC members have been informed of this by the National Secretary and the NC will further discuss this at its next meeting.

We submit this process to National Conference for ratification.

## Grenfell House Fire

*Doug Thorpe, Andrew Burgin*

Left Unity sends its condolences and solidarity to the survivors of the Grenfell House fire and the friends and families of those who died in the tragedy. This was a horrific and heartbreaking tragedy that should entirely have been avoided.

The Grenfell Action Group has been raising concerns about the safety of the block and the refurbishment for several years. They were not listened to.

Similar cladding has been a factor in fires at Knowsley Heights in Liverpool, Lakanal House in Southwark, and in several other countries. But, successive governments

have failed to heed warnings from fire safety experts, the Building Research Establishment, and the parliamentary group on fire safety. The Coroner after the 2009 Lakanal house fire recommended retrofitting of sprinklers in tower blocks. The government rejected this as too great a burden on developers. Eight years on, despite promises from the government ministers (including Gavin Barwell, now Theresa May's adviser) no action has been taken to review building regulations.

The problem is not tower blocks, or even the use of insulating cladding to reduce heat loss. The rich live safely in multi-million pound tower blocks with safe materials, multiple fire exits, alarms and sprinklers. The problem is cost cutting and penny pinching at the cost of people's lives.

It is not just austerity since the financial crash in 2008 that has led to this dereliction of safety, and cutting of costs, although this has undoubtedly exacerbated the failings. It is more structural. It is the neoliberalism that underpins austerity that has been the guiding economic orthodoxy of all governments and major parties Tory or Labour since Thatcher, through Blair to date (until partly broken with in the 2017 Corbyn led Labour manifesto).

The Thatcher government in the early 1980s capped the amount Councils could borrow or use from rents to build new Council housing and refurbish existing blocks. Later, management of public housing was outsourced. And requirements introduced to privatise building and maintenance to private contractors (and their sub-contractors) who would tender for work on the basis of the lowest cost. Anything that would reduce their profits, such as upgrading building safety requirements, was rejected as red-tape that would hinder the private market in providing the necessary housing supply. Building control functions and fire inspection duties were privatised. Successive governments have deprived

local authorities of funds for public services, and run down the fire service.

This deregulation, privatisation of functions, and race to the bottom with costs has led to a housing shortage, and to sub-standard and unsafe refurbishment of public housing. In the case of Grenfell House this undercutting included using flammable cladding rather than inflammable panels, for a 'saving' (read increased profit) of only £5000, and moving exposed gas pipes to the single stairwell. No sprinklers were installed. This from a Council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, that has offered its richer residents £100 Council Tax refunds! Austerity and neoliberalism are direct causes of the deaths at Grenfell.

There is also a democratic deficit. Residents were not voiceless. They raised concerns, wrote letters and complained about the dangers and sub-standard refurbishment and maintenance. But they were ignored by the Council, let alone given any say in the design of their homes. The misnamed Tenant Management Organisation, their landlord, refused their requests to form a Tenants and Residents Association. The Council and the law gave them no power in the process. Even now when survivors take their demands on the street, and directly to the Council offices, they are called a 'mob'. This cannot be allowed go on.

The families of residents have not been told the true number of people who have died. They need this information to grieve for their loved ones, and time and support to do so. The true numbers are needed to hold the Council/TMO to account for the scale of their negligence. The response of the Government and the Council to the fire was late, and woefully inadequate. The survivors and their families must be provided with every support that they need to rebuild their lives.

Left Unity resolves to affiliate to, and assist in any way we can, the Justice 4 Grenfell Campaign.

We support the demands of the Grenfell Action Group and the Radical Housing Network:

- That all surviving Grenfell residents regardless of tenure or immigration status be offered long-term and affordable housing in their local area – to meet this need, RBKC should buy private property and turn it into council housing.
- That public investigation into the tragedy (via inquest and/or inquiry) is independent, and has the complete trust of those affected. It should leave no stone unturned.
- That not a single unit of social housing is lost following the Grenfell catastrophe – this must not be an opportunity to denigrate council tower blocks with the back-handed intention of privatising homes or for developers to make a profit.
- For long-term investment in decent, secure, safe public housing. Grenfell is the result of 30 years of council housing disinvestment, deregulation and austerity.

The Council or government should requisition local vacant properties for emergency housing for survivors. If any residents take over empty local properties as temporary housing, and squat them, they should be allowed to remain there until decent permanent housing is found.

More than this, it is now time to overturn the relationship between people and profit. This is a debate that goes well beyond the provision of housing, to how we create a fairer alternative society that meets everyone's needs. But in the intermediate term Left Unity calls for:

- a mass program of council/public housebuilding and refurbishment to

the safest modern safety and environmental standards.

- An immediate fire safety audit of all public buildings (housing, schools, hospitals etc). All public buildings should be fitted with sprinklers as standard, and all flammable cladding should be removed and/or replaced with inflammable insulating materials. The building regulations should be reviewed and amended to require the highest safety standards for all buildings, public and private.
- an end to the restrictions on council borrowing for building and refurbishing housing, and an end to the right-to-buy that depletes those public housing resources
- a public unionised building corporation to directly carry out public building works
- real democratic involvement by residents in the design, management, and control of their homes, including refurbishment
- vacant buildings to be taken into public control

## **The General Election and the work of Left Unity**

### **X1 Left Unity and the ‘Corbyn Revolution’**

*Birmingham*

Left Unity was founded because there was no longer a strong voice of the Left in British politics. The Labour Party under Blair turned towards Neoliberalism and subsequently colluded in implementing the austerity agenda. The aim of Left Unity was to unite the diverse strands of radical and socialist politics in the UK. What was

unpredictable back in 2013 was that within four years a sea change would take place.

At its October 2016 Conference Left Unity welcomed the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party and agreed to strongly support his struggle to restore it to its original remit and ethos in the face of vicious attacks. What began as a defensive struggle has been transformed by the 2017 General Election which has been characterised as ‘the beginning of a once-in-a-generation transformation of the whole political landscape.’ The question being posed in this process is what position does Left Unity occupy?

The ‘Corbyn Revolution’ has for the foreseeable future closed the electoral space to the Left of Labour, however, it remains the case that there continues to be a need for clear political expression of anti-capitalist principles and policies. Despite the radical nature of Labour’s Manifesto there were serious absences and weaknesses within it. Left Unity still stands to the Left of Corbyn’s Labour in many crucial policy areas. Our association with the European Left Party provides a unique opportunity to articulate the building an alternative socialist Europe. The ‘Corbyn Revolution’ has unleashed expectations which can’t be met within the confines of the existing structures of the Labour Party; the struggle will be conducted upon the streets, in campaigns and communities. As a priority Left Unity will:

1. Work in conjunction with others to topple the minority Tory government and prepare for a second General Election.
2. Step up the anti-austerity campaigns and put forward strategic plans to defend NHS and address the damage cause by the cuts.
3. Campaign for all the urgent measures necessary to bring about the aims of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
4. Defend free movement of labour and women's reproductive rights, combat Islamophobia and xenophobia.

5. Within the context of Brexit, work with the European Left Party to strengthen the ties and make the case for an alternative socialist Europe.
6. Develop the profile of key policies which make Left Unity distinct as a political tendency.
7. Take the case for an eco-socialist future out into communities, trade unions and campaign bodies we are involved in.
8. Work with those who have particularly suffered at the hands of neoliberal policies through inequality such as children, young people, women, disabled and older people and give expression to their issues.
9. Continue to oppose workplace exploitation - support industrial action; better than zero campaigns; fighting job losses.
10. Reverse the dumbing down of politics by looking at ways of increasing political education and discussions.
11. Engage in constructive criticism of policies or positions which may hold back developing a progressive platform for social change.

## **X2 Left Unity and the ‘Corbyn Revolution’**

*Andrew Burgin, Kate Hudson, Bob Williams-Finlay*

Left Unity was founded because there was no longer a strong voice of the Left in British politics. The Labour Party under Blair and Brown turned towards neo-liberalism and implemented the austerity agenda. Left Unity was founded as a radical socialist party to offer an alternative at both electoral and activist levels. What was unpredictable back in 2013 was that within four years a sea change in British politics would take place with the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party.

Left Unity welcomed the election of Jeremy Corbyn. We agreed to strongly

support his struggle to restore it to its original remit and ethos in the face of vicious attacks from within his own party and from the establishment. What began as a defensive struggle has been transformed by the 2017 General Election which has been characterised as ‘the beginning of a once-in-a-generation transformation of the whole political landscape.’ The question we need to address is what position Left Unity occupies in this struggle.

The ‘Corbyn Revolution’ has for the foreseeable future closed the electoral space to the left of Labour.

Conference notes:

It remains the case that there continues to be a need for clear political expression of anti-capitalist principles and policies. Despite the radical nature of Labour’s Manifesto there were serious absences and weaknesses within it. Left Unity still stands to the left of Corbyn’s Labour in many crucial policy areas. Our association with the European Left Party provides a unique opportunity to articulate the building of an alternative socialist Europe. The ‘Corbyn Revolution’ has unleashed expectations which can’t be met within the confines of the existing structures of the Labour Party; the struggle will be conducted upon the streets, in campaigns and communities, through ideas and policy development, and in international solidarity and cooperation.

Conference resolves: that while we support and campaign for a Corbyn-led labour government we will remain an independent radical socialist party, working for the transformation of society as a whole.

## **X3 Time to Regroup – Left Unity after the General Election**

*South London*

This conference welcomes and congratulates Jeremy Corbyn’s historic overcoming of the odds in the General Election. This has denied the Tories a

majority and placed the Labour Party in a good position to win power in a future General Election.

Understandably, this obscures the need for Left Unity, and it is likely that many members may leave to work in Labour.

This conference believes that the need for Left Unity has never been so pressing. Although we recognise that the role of the party has changed from being a broad party of the left to being a pathfinder and conscience of the left.

We are committed to internationalism; freedom of movement in Europe and beyond, anti-imperialism, anti-nuclear; for the end of the reckless exploitation of the planet's resources as if they were infinite; women's, black, disabled and Gay liberation, for the transformation of the economy to a mixed-economy of socially owned industry; and democratic revolution.

This conference believes that Left Unity's existential crisis is less to do with purpose than with capacity. That we need to rethink how we work, broaden the involvement of members and do less, better.

This conference instructs the National Council to:

Maintain our registration as a political party, with standing in elections being a secondary priority, and determined case by case by the National Council.

Have a more strategic approach to our involvement in both national and local marches and demonstrations, and the literature produced for these

Reorganise on a regional or sub-regional level where necessary

Reorganise the website, slimming it down by the removal of local reports and discussions, and make it more attractive.

Set up with friends and allies of the party an additional, separate magazine style website, aimed at the general reader that reports news, views and reviews from a radical left perspective.

Organise more tours akin to the European Left Party tour, this time open to all branches willing to host

Organise an away day or weekend for party activists, to group think new ideas and ways of working

Produce a "what we stand for" style pamphlet.

#### **X4 Post General Election Situation**

*Pete McLaren (Rugby LU), Liz Peck (Rugby LU)*

Left Unity recognises that the ever developing and changing situation post-June 8 General Election means a need to assess our political priorities. We note and applaud the success of the Labour General Election challenge based on an excitingly quasi-socialist programme.

However, Left Unity remains concerned that the Blairite right wing still control the Labour party structure, that there is a lack of democracy within the Labour Party, and that Labour Councils and councillors are implementing cuts without any serious or co-ordinated protest against them.

As a result Left Unity must retain its independent political identity for the short term at least. In the meantime, Left Unity must:

- a) Immediately initiate discussions with other left groups about how best to approach supporting Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party
- b) Call a Conference of the Left in the early autumn to discuss ways of working together, or separately, to negotiate ways to affiliate to the Labour Party as factions or affiliates or whatever else is appropriate
- c) Continue to oppose all cuts.

## **X5 After the general election vote take action now!**

*Liverpool*

Conference notes with alarm that councils are facing yet another round of severe cuts to its budget by the Tory Government in 2017. In many cases Labour councilors have voted for cuts to local services and to cut fire and transport services and have voted for Driver Only Operations on trains.

Labour councillors since 2010 (if not before) have simply passed on Tory cuts which are destroying our communities, undermining Labour's claim to be anti-austerity.

Left Unity will actively support all trade union and community opposition to cuts. We call for a local and regional needs budget. We will support petitions, public meetings, conferences, lobbies, publications, demonstrations and industrial action, against austerity and its local implementation.

We call on all Labour council groups to reject the cuts and join local working class struggle for the provision of a Local Needs Plan and Budget 2017/2018.

We call on Labour councillors to take a principled stand and vote against cuts.

We oppose all cuts in public services including local authority, NHS, education, Jobcentres, transport, disabled people's services.

We support student mobilizations for EMA and against tuition fees.

We will call for publicly the level of resources needed that will meet the real needs of local people.

## **X6 The Brexit election, the democratic deficit and the future direction of LU**

*Steve Freeman, Matthew Hurry*

The UK is facing an unresolved political crisis triggered by the EU referendum

result. England and Wales voted to leave and Northern Ireland and Scotland vote to remain. The 2017 general election, the defeat of Theresa May and a hung parliament, has shown the crisis is continuing.

This election has confirmed the importance of Northern Ireland and Scotland. The 'democratic deficit', represented in the UK constitution by, for example, British Unionism had a significant impact on the outcome. In Northern Ireland the election gave leverage to the Democratic Unionist Party. In Scotland the revival of Tory Unionism saved the May government from defeat. An undemocratic constitution kept the Tories in office with the right to impose a newly invented Tory-DUP programme on the country.

The Labour Manifesto identified the democratic deficit. It opposed Scottish self-determination and a second referendum, called for federalism, and an elected House of Lords. It called for a constitutional convention to discuss a new constitution. In response to the democratic vacuum in England, Labour proposed a new Minister of the Crown to represent England.

Not only was the Labour Manifesto inadequate and inconsistent but the Labour campaign did not promote the democratic part of its programme. The crisis growing out of a British exit is a crisis of a failed Westminster system. If Left Unity is to survive as an independent party in the face of a growing Labour Party committed to the United Kingdom it must make a case for democracy, how it can be achieved and why this is so vital for the working class.

Left Unity must become identified as the party of democratic revolution and working class democracy. We must continue to develop our radical democratic programme for England, the UK and Europe. We must mobilise people to campaign for democracy and build a democratic movement and represent that movement in elections.



Left Unity already has democratic policies which are republican, anti-Unionist and in favour of proportional representation etc. Whilst supporting self determination for Ireland, Scotland and Wales, there is a vacuum in our democratic demands for England, not addressed by Labour's bureaucratic Ministry for England.

After conference Left Unity should begin to work on producing a democratic programme for England whilst working in consultation with LU (Wales), and with RISE and LU comrades in Scotland. The following points will be included in discussions.

Democratic Exit - self determination for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales on leaving the EU

Immediate repeal of the 1707 Act of Union and other Unionist laws.

A parliament for England elected by proportional representation

Written Constitution, or Agreement of the People

For a social republic, or 'Commonwealth of England'.

For a European democratic revolution

The conference agrees the National Council/Executive will encourage consultations with branches, educational meetings and to report back to the EC and the membership by September.

## **X7 Left Unity after the Snap general election of 2017**

*Ashley Walker, James Fisher*

Left Unity welcomes the gains of the Labour party under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn, just under 30 seats gained a good amount of which were taken from Tories, we also welcome the news that we now have a record number of Female MPs and a record number LGBT MPs and a good turnout among young voters.

Labour must now fight for its Manifesto organise a mass mobilisation over tuition fees, instruct Labour councils to stop the local cuts fire service transport, Labour mayors should be instructed to fight for health and education etc.

People voted now Labour should mobilise them on the streets.

Most of all we welcome that the Tories have lost their majority in parliament, however with the Tories still in government now propped up by the DUP Left Unity does not believe this is a victory it is progress and as mentioned before there has been many good outcomes, but the Tories are still in power, they will still be managing our exit from the EU, they could still carry on with their agenda of privatising the NHS and furthering their austerity.

Some may say well what if Tory MPs rebels, what if other parties forge a progressive alliance, what if there is another election this year or the next, to those we say that making plans based on supposition and what ifs is like building on sand it may look good for a little bit, but the building will still sink and when the tide comes in will still collapse.

As such Left Unity will take a minute, take a deep breath and think about where we truly are now and where we will go from here, the following matters will help guide our future.

This conference decides:

- The National Council is instructed to reach out to the Green party to see how Left Unity can work more closely together with them, with actions including but not limited to attending each other meetings locally, regionally and nationally, joint statements on a variety of issues, delegates to each other's conference and leading towards some form of official association with each other. This will be done before our annual conference of 2017 and a report

about this action will be sent to that conference.

- The National Council is instructed to organise a meeting for all Left Unity members interested on the topic of nationalism specifically can/should we as socialists work with parties who will always put the interests of their nation state before almost all else such the SNP, Plaid Cymru and Sinn Fein. This meeting should happen between now and our annual conference in 2017, at which a report will be given from the meeting on the conclusion it has come too.
- From the conclusion of this conference onwards the only party body with the power to decide on a blanket policy or position to not stand in elections as Left Unity is our conferences as such each case to stand in an election as a Left Unity candidate will be based on the local branch's decision as long as the candidate is standing on a platform that is compatible with Left Unity's ideals and policies, if the local branch wants funding from the national party for the purpose of standing in elections they must apply for funding to the Executive Committee who must consider each case on its own merits and again not adopt any kind of blanket approach.
- All Officers, National spokespeople, the National Council, the Executive Committee and all other party bodies are instructed to make sure any and all decisions they make are 1, in line with the powers granted to them by the constitution 2, are backed up by the constitution and/or a policy of one of our conferences and 3, does not contravene any part of the constitution or party policy as decided by conference. This will ensure that all members can get behind and follow such decisions as we will know they are guided by the decisions of our conferences and by our constitution.

## **X8 Outcome of the General Election**

### *Liverpool*

Conference celebrates the general election campaign, the defeat of the conservative party who hoped to achieve a landslide reactionary majority. The result was also remarkable given the unprecedented onslaught from the tabloid press and TV news. Conference recognises the historic significance of this campaign in breaking the ruling classes' triple mantra from 2010:

We are all in this together

There is no alternative

and

There is nothing you can do about it any way

Each of these points was comprehensively demolished.

There is work to do to convince still more people to oppose the conservatives. We congratulate the Corbyn team and all who worked for this campaign, including the vast majority of our own members. The number of young campaigners was excellent.

Each of these areas of concern remains

Housing

Education

Sanctions

Homelessness

NHS cuts and privatisation

Free movement and migrant rights

Low pay and working conditions

Poverty

Violence against women

Child poverty

LGBT rights

Fascism in its various forms

Local Government Austerity Programmes

Adult social care

Libraries

Child care

Trade union organisation and trade union rights

Struggles in all of these areas are needed, up to and probably after the next election.

Left Unity recognises the surge of members into the Labour Party and understands that some of our members will choose to join Labour.

Left Unity maintains policies distinct from Labour including:

Free Movement and migrant rights

Nuclear Disarmament and not supporting Nato

End to municipal austerity

Internationalism and

rejection of capitalism as a just form of economic organisation.

We are looking to end capitalism, which breeds war, greed and environmental degradation.

Working class communities, adopting socialist ideas are the potential organisers of a break with capitalism, and have the potential to change society.

We have a concept of democracy where each person and each community helps organise the society and that only in depth mass organisation will change society. There is more to democracy than parliament.

We recognise that some socialists will feel this may best be fought for within the Labour Party. We are happy to work and cooperate with them to this end.

Conference sees Left Unity's immediate future being:

in social struggles, women's struggles and in opposing austerity

in defending the rights of migrants and of free movement

linking social and political struggles across Europe

in building internationalism

opposing war, and building solidarity

In opposing the build up to war with Iran

developing the ideas of socialism, and of the end of capitalism

linking up with other socialists and trade unionists fighting for these aims in different organisations

Opposing a Brexit destructive of workers' rights, human rights and living standards

Opposing the developing threats of racism and sectarianism

## **X9 Political priorities in the new context**

*Andrew Burgin, Kate Hudson, Bob Williams-Finlay*

As a priority Left Unity will:

1. Work in conjunction with others to topple the minority Tory government and prepare for a further General Election; Left Unity will not stand in parliamentary elections during the Corbyn leadership of the Labour Party and will work with others on the left, including in the Labour Party, to advance shared progressive politics.
2. Step up our work in the anti-austerity campaigns and put forward strategic plans to defend the NHS and address the damage caused by the cuts, working with the People's Assembly against Austerity and Keep our NHS Public.
3. Campaign for all the urgent measures necessary to bring about the aims of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.
4. Defend free movement of labour and continue working within the Alliance for Free Movement; defend women's reproductive rights, combat Islamophobia and xenophobia, ensure the issues around ecology do not fall off the agenda.
5. Within the context of Brexit, work with the European Left Party to strengthen the

ties and make the case for an alternative socialist Europe; continue working within Another Europe is Possible.

6. Develop the profile of key policies and theoretical contributions which make Left Unity distinct as a political tendency; support the development of *Transform* journal.

7. Take the case for an eco-socialist future out into communities, trade unions and campaign bodies we are involved in.

8. Work with those who have particularly suffered from neo-liberal policies through inequality such as children, young people, women, disabled and older people and give expression to their issues.

9. Continue to oppose workplace exploitation - support industrial action; better than zero campaigns; fighting job losses.

10. Reverse the dumbing down of politics by looking at ways of increasing political education and discussions.

11. Engage in constructive criticism of policies or positions which may hold back developing a progressive platform for social change.

## **X10 Post-election work**

*Andrew Burgin, Kate Hudson, Bob Williams-Finlay*

Left Unity pays tribute to the fantastic election campaign of Jeremy Corbyn and his leadership team. From a position where Labour were almost 20 points behind in the opinion polls he managed to turn the tables on the Tories and bring the Labour Party almost to level pegging with Theresa May. It was an election that he won and she lost.

The Labour vote share increased by 10% on the last election and the party won seats across the country.

Jeremy has united his party and looks almost certain to win the next election whenever it is called.

The election campaign has electrified politics in this country and inspired many tens of thousands of young people into political activity.

The turn in electoral fortunes was made possible through a manifesto that outlined a positive vision of social progress and socialist ideas.

We in Left Unity share that ideals and will work alongside those in the Labour Party to bring them to fruition. We campaigned actively for Jeremy's victory.

Many of our former members have joined the Labour Party and we wish them well and will continue to work alongside them in the many campaigns we share. We do not seek to do entry work in the Labour Party but we will work with members of the LP in campaigns and elections sharing common goals.

This country needs a Labour government implementing the policies of social justice contained in the Labour manifesto.

While we remain a separate political organisation we seek to help bring that government to office as soon as possible.

We have seen the terrible burden that austerity and endless cuts have placed on the backs of the working class. As we write this resolution news has come in of a terrible fire in West London with many deaths. We need to know what role the cutting of fire provision and the privatisation of the management structure of the building played in that tragedy,

We call for a full public inquiry into the Grenfell tower block fire and pay tribute to those firefighters who bravely fought that fire. Cuts and privatisation are making all our lives unsafe and precarious.

That insecurity needs to be ended.

With all this in mind we will not stand in national elections against Labour but will support Labour in those elections while continuing to actively campaign in those

policy areas that we do not share with Labour.

## **International Affairs**

### **B1 International priorities for the next few months**

*Left Unity International Commission*

#### **1. Membership of the European Left**

The Party of the European accepted Left Unity as an observer member at its December 2016 Berlin Congress. We have been fully participating in all the main meetings for a year leading to the Congress and had a constructive input into the political strategy that was agreed at the Congress.

Our involvement to date has been a positive experience and has helped us to establish our political presence in the UK. We should seek to increase our involvement in relevant EL working groups and explore bilateral political relationships. Links with other non-European Left Parties should be developed where possible. The EL structures can assist with this.

Participation in the EL will remain our first priority. This will mean maximising UK support for the European forum being organised for the autumn of 2017. We should also prioritise publicising the EL political strategy perhaps with a shorter 'manifesto type' publication, which will include reference to a wide range of international issues. Our work with migrant communities here could strengthen the ELP project and should be developed in this light.

#### **2. Brexit consequences**

Related to being part of the EL we will continue to monitor and respond to the events emanating from the referendum result and negotiations emphasising our internationalism and the need for international solidarity in opposing neo

liberalism and the political shift to the right.

Key to the arguments will be the defence of the right of free movement, opposition to all racism and xenophobia, defence of workplace and human rights, democracy and environmental protections.

#### **3. Stopping Trump**

Not only is the US still the most powerful capitalist nation it also has an historical influence with the UK. What happens in the US is important for the world and we are closely tied in. The election of Trump represents a powerful shift to the right which consequently has global implications.

LU has been right to prioritise these dangers and relate these to similar trends involved with Brexit.

It will be a priority for us to continue to act in solidarity with those who oppose Trump in the US and across the world. The aim has to be to do all that is possible to remove him from power.

#### **4. Peace, nuclear disarmament and threats of war.**

The election of Trump, heightened tensions between imperialist powers, right wing moves against democracy and the continued totally destructive wars being pursued under the guise of being against terrorism but often for oil and other commercial gain, directly involves the UK.

Our priority will be to oppose UK government action that increases these tensions and contributes to military action. We need to oppose the role that UK arms manufacture plays in these conflicts and in our society. In particular we need to continue to support unilateral nuclear disarmament, opposing the Trident replacement programme, as well as supporting global disarmament initiatives.

#### **5. Develop LU internationalism**

LU will continue to develop links with other radical socialist organisations around

the world where they share the basic commitments in our manifesto.

## 6. International capitalism

The IC will work with the LU Economic Commission to develop economic theory and resistance policy in relation to the global economy, growth of inequality, exploitation and concentration of power.

### *Amendment B1a*

*South London*

Insert after section 4 ("Peace, nuclear disarmament and threats of war") and renumber accordingly:

#### **5. Global Warming and Ecological Sustainment**

What efforts there have been to tackle the grave environmental problems that we face, such as global warming and pollution, have been set back significantly by the election of Trump and the Brexit vote.

We recognise that these environmental problems threaten the very existence of our society, and are therefore a priority. We know that capitalism, particularly in its modern neo-liberal form, is grossly exploitative, creates huge inequalities and stifles any genuine progress by humanity.

These two issues are interdependent. Capitalism, by its very nature, endlessly exploits a finite planet. It depends on the pursuit of profit regardless of the environment damage involved. Our environmental problems cannot be solved under capitalism.

We therefore regard it as futile to seek a transformation to socialism without a similar transformation in our attitude to our environment. Equally, it is futile to attempt to

solve our environmental problems while accepting the capitalist system.

We recognise that neither of these issues can be tackled or transformed on a mere national basis, but only in collaboration with fellow eco-socialists in Europe and beyond.

### **B2 The terrorist attacks in Manchester and London and the Middle East war**

*Emergency motion from Steve Freeman and Joseph Healey*

1. The recent terrorist murders in Manchester and London have shown the grave and continuing threat to the security and safety of people in the UK. The source of this danger is the imperialist war being fought in the Middle East and North Africa and the UK's support for a reactionary Saudi Arabian regime.

2. HM Government has continued to avoid or divert attention from the root cause of the terror attacks in a Middle East war involving America, Russia, France and Britain along with the regional powers of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel, in conjunction with civil wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Bahrain and Libya.

3. HM Government is deeply involved in these wars as a supplier of troops, armaments, bombing missions and military training. The government has diverted attention from, and denied its responsibility for, this Middle East war and concealed the profits made by the British arms industry, banks and corporations.

4. Left Unity condemns HM government for misleading the people about the causes, solutions and preventative actions to be taken to minimise and end the danger of domestic terrorism. The government and the national press present the problem of safety and security simply as a domestic matter of police, security forces and civil liberties.

5. There can be no solution to the threat of domestic terrorism without a fully comprehensive democratic peace in the Middle East. There can be no democratic peace without resolving the issues of national self determination for Palestinian, Kurdish, Houthis, and other oppressed minorities in the region. There can be no democratic solution without ending dictatorships – Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran etc
6. In 2012 democratic movements and revolutions (known as the Arab spring) spread across the region from Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria, alongside long standing self determination struggles of the Kurdish and Palestinian people.
7. The Egyptian democratic revolution was overthrown by military coup. In Syria the people’s revolution was crushed between the hammer of the Syrian dictatorship and the anvil of clerical fascism (Al Qaeda and ISIS) in a civil war involving Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia with bombing and military aid from America, Russia, Britain and France.
8. The main ideological support for clerical fascism comes from Saudi Arabia, one of the most powerful reactionary forces in the Arabian Peninsula. It spread its influence through a combination of immense oil wealth and the reactionary religious ideas of Wahhabism. In 2013 the European Parliament stated that Saudi Arabia was the main source of global terrorism.
9. The citizens of the UK have been placed in danger by Britain’s involvement in this imperialist war. Left Unity will give further consideration to civil defence against terror, whether from clerical fascism or Islamophobic Anglo British fascism.

### **B3. Europe and the UK**

*South London*

After the EU referendum LU recognises the need to develop an action plan to guide our

intervention and seek to play a leading role in shaping the new working class politics needed for the next period to guide our campaigning in the labour and trade union movement. It will take account of the following:

#### **a) Critical of the European Union**

The EU is a bureaucratic semi-unification of the capitalist states of Europe ‘from above’. The aim of the European ruling classes led by Germany and France is to create a single European capitalist economy able to contest the world market with the USA and China.

The European Union is not a democratic state. Power is concentrated in the hands of the European Commission and Council of Ministers. The ‘citizens’ of the EU are not sovereign. They do not control the European parliament or the EU Commission and its neo-liberal corporate policies.

#### **b) Uniting Europe**

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century the international social democratic movement has supported the unification of Europe with the slogan of a United States of Europe as a federal, social and secular European republic including the right of all nations to self-determination.

A by-product of EU capitalist integration has been the creation of a more integrated European working class. This is the only class that replace the EU with a United States of Europe by a democratic revolution ‘from below’, bringing political and economic power into the hands of the sovereign people of Europe.

This conference recognises the strategic choice for the European working class is between supporting a nationalist breakup of the EU or the transition to a full democratic unification through a European democratic revolution. The current democratic struggles in Scotland, Ireland and Catalonia are part of this European revolution.

### **c) Tory referendum**

The Tories have long been divided between 'Europeans and 'Atlanticists'. The 2016 EU referendum was set up to resolve that dispute. It was won by the reactionary right wing of the Tories in alliance with UKIP, a victory for the 'Atlanticists', boosted by the victory of Trump in the USA.

The victory of Tory Brexit strengthens the growing danger facing the European working class of a nationalist breakup of the EU led by right wing nationalist, racist and fascist parties. We place responsibility for this on the neo-liberal anti-working class policies of the UK and EU.

### **d) Oppose Tory Brexit**

LU will strongly oppose a hard anti-working class Tory Brexit. LU will continue to defend all working class rights recognised in EU law. LU will continue defend the free movement of workers throughout all states currently in the EU. LU will continue to demands full and immediate citizenship rights for all EU citizens currently resident in the UK.

### **e) Ending the UK**

The UK, as the Brexit state, is now become one of the main dangers the democracy and the working class in the UK and one of the main supports for US imperialism. We have reached a time when all progressive, democratic and socialist forces must bring the UK to an end by means of democratic revolution.

LU stands for ending the Union with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, not on nationalist grounds but for reasons of democracy and internationalism. Ireland, Scotland and Wales must be free to establish self-government based on the sovereignty of the people (i.e. republicanism) and free to determine their future relations with England.

### **f) Pan European party**

LU will work with others on the European left to create a European wide party

organisation with the aim of a European democratic revolution to be fought for both in individual European states, for example Scotland in the UK or Catalonia in Spain and on a European wide (or pan-European) basis.

### **Amendment B3a.**

*Haringey*

Delete (in the final paragraph):

to create a European wide party organisation

Insert:

including the European Left Party

### **Amendment B3b.**

*Stockport*

Delete section (e) 'Ending the UK'

### **Amendment B3c.**

*Richard Farnos, Joseph Healey, Steve Freeman, Matthew Hurry*

Insert the following as clause (e) and renumber proceeding clauses accordingly:

### **e) A Mandated Exit**

The Tory referendum did not offer voters a choice between various future options and therefore there is no mandate for so-called "hard Brexit". Nor is there a mandate for Scotland and Northern Ireland to leave the EU. In opposing Tory Brexit, LU recognises that there is a mandate for England and Wales to leave the EU.

LU is in favour of England and Wales remaining in the Single Market with free movement, existing EU workers' rights and maintaining security for all EU citizen's resident throughout the UK and UK citizens living in the EU



and would not in itself require Scotland or Northern Ireland to leave the UK.

LU demands that the Tory's negotiated agreement to leave the EU should be put to the people in a referendum. We reject the idea that the decision should be left to a corrupted undemocratic Westminster (i.e. Commons and Lords), especially when the Commons has a Tory majority and a Parliamentary Labour Party having a majority of right wing Labour MPs.

#### **B4. Defend and Extend Freedom of Movement**

*Camden & Islington branch, Waltham Forest branch*

Conference re-affirms its existing policies against immigration controls. This resolution is an addition serving as an application of our policy to the current situation around Freedom of Movement.

1. Left Unity will campaign for the rights of existing EU citizens resident in Britain to stay and suffer no withdrawal of services or benefits as a result of the Brexit negotiations.
2. Left Unity defends the right of ALL EU citizens to live and work in Britain, not only those who are currently resident.
3. Left Unity will campaign to reverse the pre-Brexit controls against some EU citizens, especially Roma, for "not exercising their Treaty rights".
4. Left Unity will campaign to open the borders of Britain and the EU to the thousands of refugees and migrants displaced by war, persecution, environmental exploitation and famine stuck in inhuman conditions at the borders of Europe or being forced out of Europe.
5. Left Unity opposes internal denial of Freedom of Movement and the right to stay

and establish their homes by Gypsies, Travellers, and Roma and develop a more comprehensive police on Gypsies, Travellers, and Roma in the future.

#### **B5. Northern Ireland**

*South London branch*

The recent Assembly elections in Northern Ireland has led to some profound changes in the political situation there including a non-Unionist majority for the first time in the Northern Irish legislature since partition in 1921. The vote of Northern Ireland against Brexit has also changed the political and economic contours there making the prospect of Irish reunification much closer than at any time in the last 96 years.

We call for Left Unity to work closely with Sinn Fein as a critical friend and other progressive forces in Northern Ireland working towards Irish reunification and to arrange for representatives to attend each other's conferences.

#### **B6. The War in Yemen**

*South London branch*

The war in Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the world, continues to kill and maim thousands of people including children and is now leading to a declaration of famine in Yemen by the UN. The Saudi led coalition which has been armed to the teeth by the UK is carrying out indiscriminate air attacks and atrocities, many of which are war crimes. Meanwhile the war continues to lead to further support for Al-Qaeda in Yemen and alienate thousands of Yemenis against 'the West'.

We call upon Left Unity to mobilise along with other anti-war organisations to campaign against the war and the UK's support for it and to organise a national demonstration against it.

### **Amendment B6a.**

*Central & East London*

Add at end of final paragraph:  
and campaign to end the arms trade.

## **Employment, Trade Unions, Housing**

### **C1. For a Class Struggle Programme for Trade Unions**

*Liverpool branch (referred from 2016 National Conference)*

Conference reaffirms the resolution of the 29 March 2014 Party Conference, viz:

“Left Unity needs to clarify its relationship to organised labour, work within the grassroots of the trade union movement, and develop policies that link the crisis of working class representation to the development of a rank and file trade unionism”.

In order to stimulate and develop the discussion within the Party, on policy and programme, Conference instructs the National Council to circulate to branches, and to all members via the email distribution list, and to place on the discussion forum page of the Party website, the draft ‘Class struggle programme for trade unions’ which has been produced by a minority of the Party’s Trade Union Commission: <http://tinyurl.com/jemfpb3>.

This action is to be taken with the intention that the document, subject to review arising from the discussion, shall be submitted to Party Conference 2017, together with any alternative document that may be produced by other members of the Trade Union Commission.

In light of Brexit, we need to deepen our direct links and solidarity actions with the European Workers Struggle as highlighted in the class struggle programme.

### **C2.Housing and Immigration**

*Haringey branch*

Left Unity opposes:

1. Restrictions on access to rented housing, both private and public, based on immigration status; and,
2. The forced deportation of homeless rough sleepers (including EU and EEA nationals).

### **C3. "Better Than Zero"**

*Left Unity Wales*

It is vital that Left Unity is publicly committed to trying to take a lead in helping to challenge the massive growth of precarious work, which disproportionately affects young people and those who can be marginalised and is likely to accelerate following the Brexit vote.

Extremes of exploitation and the growth of the ‘gig’ economy can only be challenged through trade union organisation leading to recognition and collective contracts. Successful court cases and press exposure have been a great help giving voice to people facing precarious employment but are no substitute for collective organisation.

Conference consequently instructs the Trade Union Commission, National Council and the National Executive to help initiate a trade union and community action against precarious work using the "Better Than Zero" campaign in Scotland as a model. Steps need to be taken so that action has been started at least in those areas of the UK where we have active branches by the autumn of 2017.

The key aim of the campaign would be to help bring together joint union and community action to help recruitment and any required industrial or other direct action. This could involve using established trade union bodies such as trades' councils but also be prepared to organise locally as a specific campaign.

### **Amendment C3a.**

*Haringey*

Delete (in paragraph 3):

National Executive

Insert:

Executive Committee

### **C4. Land Value Tax**

*South London branch*

The current council tax system is simply a watered down version of the much despised poll tax. Furthermore it is a grossly inequitable system of local taxation which is becoming more and more significant as central government reduces the government grant to local authorities forcing them to rely on business rates and council tax income alone.

We call for the replacement of council tax with a Land Value Tax. The value of every parcel of land in Britain would be assessed regularly and the land value tax levied as a percentage of those assessed values.

"Land" means the site alone, not counting any improvements. The value of buildings, crops, drainage or any other works which people have erected or carried out on each plot of land would be ignored, but it would be assumed that all neighbouring properties were developed as at the time of the valuation; other things being equal, a vacant site in a row of houses would be assessed at the same value as the adjacent sites occupied by houses.

The valuation would be based on market evidence, in accordance with the optimum use of the land within the planning regulations. We believe that this would result in the end of speculative land holdings, would be an easier local tax to collect and could contribute significantly to local government finance.

## **Democracy**

### **D1.Treatment of motion H6 at Conference, 29 October 2016**

*Ashley Walker, James Fisher*

Conference notes:

- That at the end of conference October 2016 many different motions were voted on without discussion on them being held.
- One of these was motion H6 on Left Unity calling for the abolishment of the act of union.
- That deciding on such a course of action that could if it came into being split the United Kingdom into 4 separate nations, should not have been voted on without a discussion at the conference it was voted on.

Conference resolves:

- That this issue be discussed at this conference and voted upon at this conference to decide if this is the course Left Unity truly wishes to take.
- That if sufficient time(at the very least 30 minutes) cannot be found at this conference then this motion and a decision on whether to oppose the act of union should be deferred till our annual conference in 2017, since spring conference is a special conference.

### **D2.House of Lords Replacement**

*Ashley Walker, Robert Brenchley*

Conference notes:

- That having an un-elected body such as the House of Lords in any position of power is a complete and utter betrayal of the very ideals of democracy.
- That if the House of Lords is just abolished the fate of over 70 million

people would lie in the hands of just 650 or in fact since the government only needs a simple majority to pass laws 326 MPs.

Conference resolves:

- That from this point onwards Left Unity will campaign for the House of Lords replacement by an elected body.
- Any and all policy on abolishing of the House of Lords will be removed or replaced/reworded to reflect Left Unity's new aim of a second elected house.

## **Social Justice and Equality**

### **F1. For a Prostitution Policy Based upon the Nordic 'Sex Purchase Act'**

*Stockport branch (referred from 2016 National Conference)*

Left Unity notes that:

- Prostitution is incompatible with the human rights and dignity of the individual because it commodifies sexuality which is a core aspect of the human personality. The practice of prostitution creates a market place where sexual services are bought by mainly male end-users and supplied by mainly female providers whose bodies are thereby rendered a commodity. The sex-trade also comprises many third party exploiters such as pimps or brothels. The sex trade is founded on the inequality of the sexes, on the premise of male entitlement of, and female submission to, sexual gratification on demand. The vast majority of people in prostitution entered it as children or very young adults, or due to financial distress, homelessness, low skills, a history of childhood abuse, or were coerced by traffickers.
- Once in prostitution, many obstacles prevent people exiting the sex trade.

- The prostitution market is competitive and like any market generates a need for Unique Selling Points; this encourages third party exploiters to supply children to satisfy demands for young bodies.

Evidence suggests that countries adopting a policy of liberalisation of the sex trade experience an increase in trafficking, pimping and unsafe or violent practices of end-users; also in market innovations such as brothel multiplexes, sex drive-ins or brothel camps. Countries that have adopted a policy of curbing demand have seen a decrease in pimping, trafficking and violence against prostituted people.

Left Unity therefore resolves to campaign for and adopt as a manifesto commitment a 'Nordic Model' approach to prostitution, including:

- The removal of all criminal and civil sanctions against individuals selling sexual services, provided in person by themselves.
- The introduction of a new criminal offence of buying or procuring sexual services.
- Provision of quality services for prostituted people wishing to exit the sex trade, i.e. housing, legal or benefit advice, counselling training or childcare.
- Funding of training in this new approach for police, the criminal justice systems, and attendant services.
- Funding of a comprehensive public information campaign to raise awareness of the new law.
- Cancellation of all previous convictions and orders of prostituted people for offences related to past activities in the sex trade.
- Prioritisation of the policing and prosecution of pimping, trafficking, sex buying and the sexual exploitation of children.
- Banning of any advertising of sex trade related jobs such as lap dancing, or sex phone lines on government funded web

sites and job boards or promotion of these to job seekers.

- Prioritisation of all Left Unity policies that address factors known to “push” people into prostitution, such as student tuition fees, benefit cuts or immigration rules that leave migrants without the right to work or benefits.
- Revoking the identification of trafficking victims as illegal immigrants.
- Registering Left Unity as a supporter of the End Demand campaign (<http://enddemand.uk/>)

### ***Amendment F1a.***

*Susan Pashkoff, Kate Hudson, Left Unity Women's Caucus*

Delete: Left Unity notes that:

and insert: Conference notes the following arguments made about prostitution:

Delete: Left Unity therefore resolves to campaign for and adopt as a manifesto commitment a ‘Nordic Model’ approach to prostitution, including:

and insert: However, Left Unity recognises that this is one perspective in a highly contested debate and notes that there are divisions on this issue in the party's Women's Caucus, as well as in the wider women's movement. Therefore Left Unity resolves to continue the discussion on this issue within the party rather than adopting a position at this conference. Further discussion will include the following points:

## **F2. Disablement and Left Unity**

*Birmingham branch, Bob Williams-Findlay and Susan Pashkoff (Members of LUDMC)*

1. Conference reaffirms its position regarding the importance of caucuses. Caucuses are self-organised groups of party members organising against oppressions. Since the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party the majority of the caucuses have ceased to function and this has had a negative impact upon our educating and campaigning.

2. To assist us to invigorate caucuses the membership needs to be canvassed with regards to: their interests, knowledge, experience, and their access needs.

3. Knowledge about and experience of disablement is uneven within our membership, therefore, there remains a steep learning curve within our ranks. Establishing a caucus of disabled members and respecting the right to self-determination indicated a commitment to equality and social justice, however, the issue of disablement needs to be addressed by the entire organisation.

4. In order to facilitate this process, key policy areas identified by the disabled members’ caucus should be open to discussion and debate within the organisation as a whole prior to a policy conference. All policies adopted by Left Unity at a national or local level should be subject to scrutiny to avoid discriminatory practice.

5. The national organisation should offer support to the caucus of disabled members to ensure it functions effectively and democratically in its work by:

- a. Recommitting itself to challenging the social oppression faced by disabled people, both internally and externally, through the development and implementation of all its policies, the organisation’s practice and within the campaigns and bodies Left Unity is involved in.

- b. Acknowledging the social approach towards disability focuses on the disabling social restrictions within the systems, structures and cultures that maintain capitalism. It recognises that *political struggle* can lead to certain types of disabling restrictions at both macro and micro levels of society being removed or reduced, however, the *nature* of capitalist social relations will always oppress disabled people and therefore an ‘inclusive’ society is only possible with a complete transformation of capitalist society. Disability is imposed to top of impairment reality through the ways in which disabled people are both seen and treated, including those with invisible impairments.
- c. Assist the caucus of disabled members to update the national website – <http://leftunity.org/left-unity-disabled-people/>
- d. Consider as part of its practice, ways in which it can best attract and support disabled people and their organisations who want to be involved with the party’s campaigns.
- d. Access, Inclusion and Full Participation for Disabled People:
- e. Employment and Socially Meaningful Activities:
- f. The Development of a Comprehensive Benefit System – including discussion on a Disabled Person Citizen’s Income

### **F3.Trans Rights**

*South London branch*

This conference notes that trans people still face a myriad of institutional discrimination and prejudice, including:

1. Some anti-discrimination legislation does not cover those awaiting reassignment or those to seek to live intersex, gender queer lives
  2. Schools are woefully unprepared for trans students and so work done around this issue is usually reactive and rushed
  3. Cut in the NHS disproportionately hit trans people with some Trans patients could waiting up to 12 years and some are denied treatment due to prejudices of GPs.
  4. Employment rates for trans people low due to transphobia, trans people are especially at risk of homelessness.
  5. Currently prisoners are placed according to their gender “as recognised by UK law” often leading trans women being placed in male prisons resulting in assaults and suicides.
  6. Going to the loo in public places being a problematic with most public toilets only having a binary choice.
  7. Young intersex children being genitally operated on to be assigned as male or female without their agreement.
  8. Even some people on the left are Trans-exclusionary.
6. Given the fact Left Unity has yet to develop policy around disablement, it is proposed that the six priority areas identified by the disabled members’ caucus at its Leicester meeting 2015 form the basis of future discussions within both a re-established caucus and eventually Left as a whole. The key priority areas were:
- a. Towards A Fully Inclusive Education System
  - b. Independent Living and Self-Determination:
  - c. Welfare Support and Housing:

This conference believes

1. That gender is a social construct, and the transsexuality is not a mental disorder.
2. We have the right to your own bodies: the right to freely decide whether if we want or not to modify our bodies without no bureaucratic, political or economic impediments, nor any other type of medical coercion.
3. That our elected gender identity should be respect and should not be grounds for prejudice or discrimination
4. That trans exclusive behaviour is contrary to aim and interests to the party and will not be tolerated

This conference resolves:

1. To oppose the operations on the genital of intersex children without their agreement
2. To support the right for transgendered people to have gender reassignment on the NHS without a diagnosis of “gender dysphoria”, and adequate funding of the NHS
3. That the prison service to be managed more flexibly ensuring that trans prisoners are sent to appropriate establishments
4. That loopholes in anti-discriminatory legislation are tackled to ensure that intersex, and gender queer people are covered.
5. To support initiatives among the education unions to call for greater training for schools around trans issues and for trans equality to be included in schools' inspection criteria.

This conference calls on:

1. The National Council to ensure that trans issues are more covered in our literature, including general campaigns such as defence of the NHS.
2. That the LGBT+ Caucus together with the Women’s Caucus should, along with external Trans groups, come up with a

public toilet policy that meet the needs Trans, intersex, non-binary and gender queer people, together with the security concerns of women. This will be considered at the next party conference.

3. Local branches to discuss and raise awareness of Trans issues among members.

#### **F4.MSM Lives matter**

*South London branch*

This conference notes:

1. In 2014, 6,151 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in the UK, of that number 3,360 were men who have sex with men (MSM), the highest level of new diagnoses yet. MSM represent almost 55% of people diagnosed with HIV in 2014.
2. That 35% of people living with HIV had accessed support services in the past 12 months. Despite a clear need for these services, disinvestment in HIV support services is a proven trend in England and, to a lesser extent, Wales where expenditure exclusively on HIV support services was cut from £153,352 in 2015/16 to £0 in 2016/17.
3. That the transfer from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payments has resulted in many HIV+ people being denied benefits, many of whom are forty and over and have been outside the Labour market for years.
4. In 2016, the 56 Dean Street clinic in Soho, the UK’s largest sexual health clinic and accounts for 1 in 9 HIV diagnoses in the UK, announced a 40% drop in HIV diagnoses in 2016. Doctors at the clinic attribute decrease in HIV diagnoses down to a combination of PrEP and early treatment initiation.
5. Evidences suggest that daily PrEP reduced the number of HIV infections by 86%. Studies in other countries have shown upwards of 99.99% protection.

6. PrEP is not yet available on the NHS, and until successfully challenged by the National Aids Trust, NHS England planned to drop a national roll-out of PrEP.

This conference believes:

1. That these scandals endanger the lives and livelihoods of many gay, bisexual men and men who have sex with men.
2. That HIV+ is a fluctuating condition and HIV+ people should maintain their benefit entitlements
3. That social policy around sexual health is still largely driven by social and sex prejudices rather than science or even economic evidence. For example, it has been argued that while PrEP may stop HIV in its tracks, it may encourage promiscuity! Even though the use of condoms is great in the gay/bi/MSM communities that among heterosexuals.
4. That PrEP undermines the argument of Ann Widemore and other Conservatives that new medical technologies lead to an unbearable burden on the NHS. PrEP by confining the spread of HIV will save billions on the cost of combination therapy.
5. Moreover, that the effective confinement requires a socialised health system.

This conference resolves:

1. To send a letter to the National Aids Trust about the great work they have done
2. To produce literature around these scandals and why they raise the central need for a socialised health system.
3. For the National Council to organise some sort of event or activity around the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 – World Aids Day
4. To encourage local branches to discuss the issue and if possible involve themselves in activities around World Aids Day (1/12/2017)

## **F5. Blood Transfusions - Discrimination Against Gay Men**

*Ashley Walker, Anna Bluston, Richard Farnos*

Conference notes:

- Currently in our country men who have sex with men e.g. gay and bisexual men, are required to abstain from sexual intercourse for a period of one year before they are permitted to donate blood.
- This rule does not exist for heterosexual men or women or bisexual women and lesbians, this is nothing short of archaic prejudice towards men who have sex with men.

Conference resolves:

- To reject the government's weak and unjust argument that the law is based on scientific evidence, especially since it is within living memory for some when being a gay man was scientifically considered a mental illness.
- To make it official Left Unity policy our rejection and opposition of this law, and to add to any relevant party documentation e.g. any future manifestos and/or flyers, banners and placards relating to this issue our opposition to this law.



## **Motions not timetabled for discussion**

### **A1. Left Unity after Brexit**

Haringey branch

In its short history Left Unity has much to be proud of. We have created a small but significant political organisation with good democratic practice and serious political policies. We have helped launch some important campaigning organisations such as Another Europe is Possible, the Alliance for Free Movement and the Stop Trump campaign, and we have worked as part of the wider anti-austerity and anti-war movements. We have been particularly active in the NHS campaigns, against attacks on disabled people, in anti-fracking and housing campaigns and against racism and xenophobia. Our campaigning materials have been highly visible and well-received across the country.

We have been accepted into observer membership of the European Left Party and we are now working as an integral part of the ELP.

Left Unity has sought to support the positive developments in the Labour Party around Jeremy Corbyn and Left Unity comrades were part of helping set up the People's Campaign for Corbyn whilst recognising the necessity of maintaining an independent political voice. Those developments resulted in the loss of many members to the Labour Party, although we have maintained a positive relationship with many former members and have continued joint campaigning work with them. Some have continued as 'Friends of Left Unity'. In the light of our strong work around Brexit and Trump we are aware that new people are interested in Left Unity and the political work that we do. In some cases this is resulting in new members and in others an increased level of political dialogue and cooperation.

Politics in the year ahead will be dominated by the Brexit negotiations. We will fight

over every stage of the legislation as the government seeks to destroy not only the rights won through EU membership but those won by the struggles of the British working class over generations. We will oppose the descent into little Englandism and the racism and xenophobia which accompany it. We recognise that none of the problems that we face can be resolved on a national basis. There is no socialist or People's Brexit. We must fight for a new, united, socialist Europe.

Our membership of the European Left Party and our ongoing work across Europe means that we are well-placed to advance a vision of the type of Europe that we want to build: a democratic, united and socialist Europe, of free movement, equality and extended rights for all. This must be central to our campaigning and we welcome the decision to produce a manifesto for Europe to explain what such a Europe would look like. We must take this politics outwards across society.

It is crucial now that we reach out to others who share our analysis of recent political events.

We propose:

1. To produce an Appeal to all those who oppose Brexit on a socialist basis to work together in closer cooperation to coordinate campaigning and political initiatives.
2. That recognising our membership of the European Left Party, we change the name of our party from Left Unity to the Left Party.
3. That the party works with others in Britain towards a Conference for Europe in the Spring of 2018 that helps develop the fightback against Brexit, inviting participants from across Europe.

That we support and build for the European Forum that will take place in Marseilles in November of this year, initiated by the European Left Party, drawing together left movements, parties and campaigns from

throughout Europe to address the crisis we face.

### **Amendment A1a.**

*Stockport, Fred Leplat, Dave Landau, and Central & East London*

Delete clause(2) under the heading, “We propose:” that reads:

That recognising our membership of the European Left Party, we change the name of our party from Left Unity to the Left Party.

### **Amendment A1b.**

*Central & East London*

4th Paragraph, penultimate sentence. Add after ‘There is no socialist or People’s Brexit’:

nor can the institution of the European Union be readily reformed into a socialist body

Proposal 1, after ‘oppose’ add: ”red, white and blue”

Then after ‘socialist basis’ add:

, and oppose austerity, support internationalism and human rights, defend migrants and extending Freedom of Movement,

## **A2. Party Name**

*South London*

This conference notes that the current party name ‘Left Unity’ could be seen as a hostage to fortune and not very exciting. However this conference recognises that changing the party name would be costly in outdated leaflets etc. and in rebranding.

This conference resolves that the party name should be reviewed within six months. This conference instructs:

1. The Constitutional Commission to undertake research of branches, party

members and friends of the party about our name and proposing alternatives names.

2. The Constitutional

Commission to submit a report in three months to a National Council with a list of potential names

3. That the National Council will have the authority to veto names and suggest others

4. That the NC should organise a binding e-vote of all party members by exhaustive ballot. Keeping ‘Left Unity’ as a name must be an option.

### **Amendment A2a.**

*Stockport*

Delete:

1. The Constitutional Commission to undertake research of branches, party members and friends of the party about our name and proposing alternatives names.

2. The Constitutional

Commission to submit a report in three months to a National Council with a list of potential names

3. That the National Council will have the authority to veto names and suggest others

4. That the NC should organise a binding e-vote of all party members by exhaustive ballot. Keeping ‘Left Unity’ as a name must be an option.

Insert:

5. The National Council to undertake research of branches, party members and friends of the party about our name and proposing alternative names.

6. The National Council to create a report in three months of a list of potential names

7. That the National Council should organise a binding e-vote of all party members by exhaustive ballot (on the understanding of course that a Party Conference may overturn any decision). Keeping ‘Left Unity’ as a name must be an option.

### A3. Future of Left Unity

*South London*

1. Left Unity was set up to build a broad democratic party of the anti-austerity and anti-capitalist Left as an alternative to the Labour Party.
2. This perspective had germinated over a longer period as a response to the sustained neo liberal offensive against the 'welfare state' and the politics of New Labour.
3. This perspective has been overtaken by events - in particular the Corbyn victory in the Labour Party in 2015 and again in 2016, and the massive increase in Labour Party membership since his election.
4. The election of Jeremy Corbyn and the rapid growth of the Labour Party has reinvigorated the Left in the Labour Party and has undermined Left Unity and TUSC as independent projects outside of the Labour Party.
5. In parallel with the post 2008 economic crisis there has been a growing "crisis of democracy" because millions have come to recognise that the Westminster parliamentary system is failing to represent the people. The failure of Westminster 'democracy' has shown itself in a variety of ways – non- voting in elections, the division between Westminster MPs and Labour members, the rise of small parties such as the SNP, Plaid Sinn Fein, the Green Party and UKIP, the Scottish and EU referenda
6. The future of LU is called in question by the rise of Corbyn. LU has no sustainable long term future without a change of direction, strategy and programme; without distinguishing itself clearly from the politics of Corbyn, at the same time as supporting him against attacks from the party's right, the Tories and the media, etc., and in assisting in the immediate period ahead; with the building of a mass movement to secure Labour's election at the

next general election with Jeremy Corbyn as leader. LU must begin to rebuild itself as an independent working class republican and socialist party which supports common ownership and popular democratic control of the banks and commanding heights of the economy, and a European and domestic 'democratic revolution'.

7. Over the next year Left Unity will therefore:
  - a. Re-brand itself accordingly.
  - b. Review LU's democratic programme, including its support for Proportional Representation, a constitutional convention and new written constitution/agreement of the people, abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords, etc.
  - c. Build support in England for Scotland's right to self-determination, including the right to remain in the EU should they wish to.
8. To promote and hold discussions with all interested parties in the development of the above objectives.

#### **Amendment A3a.**

*Richard Farnos, Joseph Healey, Steve Freeman, Matthew Hurry*

Delete (from clause 6):

secure Labour's election at the next general election with Jeremy Corbyn as leader

and insert:

continue the fight against the Tories and the Labour Right

Delete all in clause 7 after:

Over the next year Left Unity will therefore:

and insert:

7.1. Promote the idea that the UK needs a popular democratic revolution.

7.2. Promote the idea that the working class must lead this democratic revolution by setting its own aims which include:

- a) The abolition of the present ‘unwritten’ constitution based on the sovereignty of the Crown-in-Parliament.
- b) The abolition of all undemocratic institutions and laws - such as the monarchy, House of Lords, the Privy Council, the union of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the first past the post system of elections and all restrictions on the democratic rights and liberties of working people.
- c) The establishment of a social republic with an assembly or parliament based on the sovereignty of the people, the right to elect and recall all representatives and the right of Ireland, Scotland and Wales to self-determination.

7.3 Promote the demand for a new written constitution, or “Agreement of the People”. Left Unity will popularise the idea of a citizen’s constitutional convention and work with interested parties and organisations to build support for such a convention.

published to Party branches and members, as has occurred in previous years.

## **G1. Internal Election Results**

*Stockport*

This Conference is dissatisfied with the non-publication of the details of votes cast for each candidate in the recent Party internal elections.

It instructs the National Council to arrange for the full details of each round of STV voting for all of the elections to be