

## **EU Referendum**

### **LYL Conference believes**

- 1) That within this Parliament the UK will have a referendum on its status as a European Union member state.
- 2) That young people are the most invested in the outcome of the referendum due to its long standing implications
- 3) That young people have been disproportionately affected by the government's recent change in voter registration.
- 4) That a substantial 'youth vote' in the referendum is necessary to ensure the democratic legitimacy of the result.
- 5) That the Tory Party and the political right will try to frame the debate in terms of the interests of big business and the richest in society.
- 6) That a key lesson from Scotland is that when Labour teams up with the Conservatives we are greatly punished at the ballot box.

### **LYL Conference further believes**

- 1) That it is of utmost importance that the UK remains a member state of the European Union
- 2) That the European Union is nonetheless not immune from serious criticism: it suffers from a severe democratic deficit, and it has played a shameful role in pushing austerity on the people of Europe, most notably in Greece.
- 3) That open borders are in the long-term best interest of the labour movement and of ordinary workers across the world.
- 4) That the labour movement should support free movement of labour and continuing membership of the EU.
- 5) That it is of utmost importance to mobilise, inform and empower young people about the referendum and to ensure that young people know the positive case for EU membership
- 6) That we can expect the EU equivalent to the Scottish 'Better Together' campaign to push a right-wing case for the EU that we cannot support.
- 7) That the labour movement must articulate its own campaign for EU membership,

### **LYL conference resolves**

- 1) To call for a labour movement campaign for continued EU membership that:
  - a. defends the rights of migrants
  - b. makes the case for cross-border collaboration and solidarity amongst workers
  - c. criticises the undemocratic and neoliberal elements of the organisation.
- 2) To inform our membership of the case for EU membership, and empower them to campaign on the issue
- 3) To use its links within the Young and Wider Labour movement such as Labour Party CLP's, Labour Students, Young Labour Regions, University Labour Groups and Student Unions, Trade Unions, affiliated Labour Organisations such as Progress, Fabians and the Co-Operative Party and other European Young Labour/Socialist networks to campaign for an 'in' outcome at the referendum.



## **It's movements that win elections, not managers**

### **LYL Conference believes**

- 1) That we lost the general election.
- 2) That nonetheless the proportion of the electorate who voted for us rose from 18.9% in 2010<sup>1</sup> to 20.1% in 2015<sup>2</sup>.
- 3) That this would have been greater had we not suffered a catastrophic defeat in Scotland where our support declined from 26.8% of the electorate in 2010<sup>3</sup> to 17.3% in 2015<sup>4</sup>.
- 4) That the twenty seats with the lowest turnout in the country were all Labour<sup>5</sup>.
- 5) That the number of potential voters who chose not to vote exceeded the number of Labour voters in many Labour-held constituencies.
- 6) That young people, working-class people and BAME voters are all disproportionately likely to vote Labour but these demographics are also disproportionately likely to not vote at all.
- 7) That many Labour safe seats have a low membership density and poor contact-rate.
- 8) That, by and large, Labour's support has fallen dramatically in traditionally working-class areas over the past 20 years.

### **LYL Conference further believes**

- 1) That the results in Scotland show that safe seats can be lost overnight when a viable alternative opposition to the Tories emerges.
- 2) That elections are not won or lost over a five year period, but largely determined by the relationship that voters feel with political parties.
- 3) That the Labour Party was born from the labour movement: the most powerful movement of ordinary people in history.
- 4) That Labour should be a social movement of the exploited and oppressed, not part of the political establishment.
- 5) That campaigning needs to go beyond asking people who they plan to vote for.
- 6) That the Labour Party needs to be more than an electoral machine which seeks only to change who manages the affairs of the state.
- 7) That the Labour Party needs to be embedded into the communities that it seeks to represent and that it needs to be clearly seen as being on the side of ordinary working people.
- 8) That this means articulating a positive vision for a better socialist society, with a programme of policies that will move us boldly in that direction by shifting wealth and power from the rich to the majority.
- 9) That this also means building credibility and strengthening our relationship with constituents through both providing a real opposition to the Tory Government, and serving as an alternative Government-in-waiting

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/election2010/results/default.stm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015/results>

<sup>3</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/election2010/results/region/7.stm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015/results/scotland>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/05/20-seats-lowest-turnout-show-labour-voters-drifting-ukip-or-not-voting-all>

### **LYL conference resolves**

- 1) To support grassroots campaigns against Tory austerity
- 2) To encourage a discussion in the Labour Party about how the Party can become a stronger movement.
- 3) To reject the idea that it is more important to fight for the votes of the 11million who voted Tory than it is to fight for the 16million who did not vote at all.