

Tolerance & Solidarity in the Labour Party

This was passed at London Young Labour AGM January 2016.

London Young Labour notes:

1. London Young Labour recognises our values of tolerance and solidarity are paramount to ensuring the success of the Labour Party.
2. London Young Labour endorses the message sent by the Leader and the Deputy Leader on 3 December to members calling for politics to be "conducted in a better way - more civil and more respectful"; that "abuse and intimidation have no place in politics"; and that "the party as a whole will not accept such behaviour, from whatever quarter it comes".
3. London Young Labour condemns bullying and intimidation, including online abuse, against any member of the party, including representatives such as Labour MPs, but also recognises that there is an important distinction between sexist remarks, threats, and physical intimidation which is quite distinct from politically hostile criticism, which is an important part of the democratic process.
4. London Young Labour also notes that calls to deselect MPs, whilst potentially unpleasant and divisive, are not in themselves forms of abuse or bullying against MPs, and that to equate calls from people for a change political representative to abuse is offensive and unhelpful to those who endure actual abuse such as physical threats or language of a discriminatory nature.
5. 4) London Young Labour notes that the existing trigger ballot process for reselection is an inherently aggressive mechanism for replacing Party representative, as it is a direct attack on an individual, rather than just a formal democratic process to find the most appropriate candidate. It is this trigger ballot mechanism which actually makes campaigns for deselection more likely, and if we had a system of mandatory reselection, as works very well for the selection of Labour councillor candidates, this would aid a more tolerant and democratic atmosphere in the Labour Party.
6. London Young Labour agrees with Momentum that "the selection of candidates is entirely a matter for local party members" and thus utterly rejects any attempt by members of other parties, such as Left Unity or the Socialist Party (formally Militant), to influence the internal selection processes of the Labour Party.
7. London Young Labour encourages respectful debate on a range of issues, both external and internal to the Labour Party, because we recognise that political debate is crucial to the development of our members and our ability as a youth organisation to influence the Party. We hope that that debates on internal issues within the Labour Party such as Mandatory Reselection are not silenced externally, and that in the near future these live issues can be debated democratically at Party Conference, whereby Labour Party delegates can democratically make the final decision on these matters of constitutional importance
8. London Young Labour resolves that the needs of those Labour has always sought to fight for - the poor and disadvantaged in society - are best served by a unified party, not distracted by internal dispute or concern about future rule changes, but with a clear focus

on attacking this Government for its terrible programme of cuts, austerity, trade union and welfare reform.

9. London Young Labour also notes that a unified Party is not one where everyone must think the same thing, and disagreement is silenced, but one where debate is alive, but carried out respectfully (for example in compliance with London Young Labour's Good Conduct policy 'CIDAR'), and differences can be resolved democratically by members rather than 'from above'.