

# NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Re-elect Ann Black for 2018 / 2020**



When I last asked for your support it was before Brexit, before the shadow cabinet resignations, before the second leadership contest, and before the snap election which, against all the polls and pundits, deprived Theresa May of her majority. That was achieved by the collective efforts of more than half a million members, supporters and trade unionists, a manifesto which united all wings of the party, and a leader who inspired young people especially as never before. But the Tories will learn from their mistakes, and next time they will not have a lacklustre leader or pledges which attack their own core vote. Labour has to keep the new enthusiasm, reconnect with traditional working-class areas and continue the fightback in Scotland.

Brexit is tearing the Conservatives apart. Labour, with Keir Starmer, has been walking a fine line with some skill. Most of our MPs, like most members, would love to remain. So would I. Yet two-thirds of Labour seats voted to leave, and the LibDems attracted little support in June for their policy of outright opposition. Staying in the customs union and the single market during transition, insisting there is no hard border in the island of Ireland, are steps towards an outcome which protects jobs, workers' rights and the peace process.

## Have Your Say

Jeremy Corbyn's review of party democracy was launched in November, and thousands have already contributed. You can find out more at <https://labour.org.uk/about/democracy-review-2017/> or email [democracy@labour.org.uk](mailto:democracy@labour.org.uk) There are formal deadlines for submissions on different aspects, but all comments will be read. Whether the national policy forum will survive is an interesting question. Twenty years after its official launch, the forum is neither understood nor loved. However the policy commissions have just started meeting again, and fresh consultation documents will be published in March. Also members and others can comment on any policy, any time, at <https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/>

## Going Forward

The last two years have not been easy. I have continued to report from the NEC directly to any member who sends their email address, and at [www.annblack.co.uk](http://www.annblack.co.uk) which carries a record of all NEC and national policy forum meetings from 1999 onwards. As well as responding to thousands of individual messages, I steered the women's conference towards formal debate in 2017, with motions on the agenda for 2018 and a free-standing women's conference in spring 2019. I won agreement that local parties would receive £2.50 for every member, up from £1.50 in 2011, on top of central payment of £1,400 for fixed costs. I have advised many members in difficulty, and sometimes I've been able to help.

I support Jeremy Corbyn 100% in rejecting all personal abuse, online or offline. Some comments on social media have become unacceptable, whether aimed at MPs, party staff or other members. We must overcome divisions and bring together long-serving stalwarts, new recruits and those returning after Iraq and the New Labour years. Councillors in particular are in the front line, and we cannot let the government devolve the blame for Tory cuts. With MPs seeing real hunger in their constituencies, homeless people sleeping rough in every city, universal credit leaving many penniless for weeks, public service workers paid less than they were eight years ago. the NHS in crisis, disabled people denied the means for an independent life, older women caught by rapid rises in the state pension age, young people burdened with debt from university and unable even to dream of their own home, we owe it to those who need a Labour government most.

Please contact me at [annblack50@btinternet.com](mailto:annblack50@btinternet.com) or on 07956-637958 if there is anything you would like to ask me, or to tell me. I hope to continue representing you in the years ahead.

## Experience

**Labour Party:** Joined in 1982. Secretary of Oxford Labour, elected to the regional board from 1998, the national policy forum from 1998 and the NEC from 2000. Member of the organisation and equalities committees, the disputes panel and the work, pensions and equality policy commission, Served on the business board for ten years and chaired the disputes panel for nine years. Chair of the NEC 2009/10.

**Trade Union:** ASTMS from 1979, NALGO from 1982, UNISON from 1993. Member of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform and the Ramblers Association.