

NEC: Reinstate Chris Williamson!

The renewed suspension of Chris Williamson MP, two days after he was readmitted to the Labour Party, is deeply troubling. We are particularly concerned that Keith Vaz's U-turn seems to have been motivated purely by the pressure coming from the right inside and outside the party. Sadly but unsurprisingly, that now includes Jon Lansman.



We presume Vaz initially judged the case by its merit and found – correctly – that Chris had not said or done anything that could be described as anti-Semitic or bringing the party into disrepute.

But Vaz's U-turn and Chris's renewed suspension, following the deeply undemocratic and hysterical letter organised by Tom Watson, symbolise how unfair and one-sided the whole disciplinary process really is. The right

is calling all the shots – and Labour HQ seems to always do exactly what they demand.

But the right will never be appeased. They will never accept Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party, let alone prime minister. They will

continue their campaign of sabotage, because he remains unreliable from the ruling class's point of view, especially given his strong support for the rights of Palestinians.

It is high time that the Labour MPs better reflect the wishes of the local membership. We therefore urge Labour Party members to organise trigger ballots everywhere, particularly in order to deselect the 70 or so MPs who have signed Tom Watson's letter.

Model motion

1. We are opposed to the original suspension of Chris Williamson MP. Given that the opinion expressed was a reasonable one, we consider that there was insufficient evidence from the outset that his comments constituted conduct that justified withdrawal of the whip.
2. We are opposed to the second suspension of Chris Williamson on the grounds that it was arbitrary and unreasonable, as it failed to adhere to Labour Party rules and procedures governing disciplinary matters.
3. We are opposed to the disciplining of any member who publicly states that the Labour Party does not have a particular problem with anti-semitism.
4. We call on the Labour Party leadership and on all members to robustly challenge the false narrative that the Labour Party is a racist and bigoted party.

We therefore call on the NEC:

- to immediately reinstate Chris Williamson, as recommended by the NEC panel
- to immediately open trigger ballots so that Labour Party members can choose parliamentary candidates who actually reflects their wishes
- to stop the practice of automatic suspensions and expulsions: members should be regarded as innocent until proven guilty

Implement trigger ballots now!

No to a national government!

With the ongoing chaos over Brexit, there is a real possibility of another snap general election. While we welcome such an election, we believe there are some real dangers:

1.) Unless the makeup of the Parliamentary Labour Party dramatically changes to more accurately reflect the will and composition of the membership, Jeremy Corbyn could well be held prisoner by a majority of MPs who are deeply hostile to the Corbyn project. As soon as Jeremy Corbyn was elected Labour leader, a majority of Labour MPs plotted against him and attempted to sabotage every move. A witch-hunt was launched – backed by the Tory government and the media – which has seen thousands of members investigated, suspended and expelled.

2.) There is also a danger that anti-Corbyn Labour MPs will join some form of national government – to stop Jeremy Corbyn from becoming prime minister. The PLP must change to stop such an outcome.

We therefore call on the Labour Party NEC to urgently launch guidelines and a timetable to help branches and CLPs to get ready in case a snap election is called. Labour Party conference 2018 voted for trigger ballot reforms – although the overwhelming majority of members actually voted in favour of the much more democratic ‘open selection’ of all parliamentary candidates. It would be deeply undemocratic to deny members the chance to decide on who should represent them (as happened at the snap election in 2017, when CLPs were told the sitting MP would simply remain in place without any democratic input by the local members).

Join us!

Labour Against the Witchhunt (LAW) is a Labour Party campaign. We urge all those who oppose Labour’s witchhunt against Corbyn supporters and critics of Israel/Zionism to stay in the Party and fight. Labour Against the Witchhunt welcomes the participation of all people who support its three key aims:

- 1. an end to automatic suspensions and expulsions;**
- 2. rejection of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, which conflates anti-Semitism with anti-Zionism and support for the rights of the Palestinian people;**
- 3. abolition of Labour’s Legal and Governance Unit.**

**Individual membership: £10 per annum, £5 (unwaged).
Send a cheque or pay via Paypal on our website.**



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