Labour Campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights

Annual Report 2013
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Introduction
The past year has been very busy for the Campaign. We focussed on the ensuring successful Labour support for the Same Sex Marriage Bill as it passed through Parliament. We worked very closely with the Shadow Equalities Team, to ensure that Labour MPs and Peers supported the Bill. We are delighted that so many Labour MPs and Peers supported the Bill and were crucial in passing the Act.

We have held in-depth policy events about Trans representation in the media (to influence the post-Leveson reforms) and on decriminalisation of homosexuality around the world. Both events were well attended and included a series of high profile speakers.

We attended and supported nearly thirty Prides, including in Northern Ireland. This remains a very important role for the Campaign. The 2014 Pride season will be the last before the General Election and will be crucial to remain visible. Going forward we look to better resource CLPs to attend more Prides and improve systems for sending our famous Never Kissed a Tory merchandise.

Financially the campaign remains healthy and has been able to afford to keep up a strong level of work; we should also thank the trade union movement, in particular UNISON, for their support in this which has been invaluable.

Relations with the Labour Party are strong and have continued to grow. LGBT Labour continues to have a seat on the NEC’s equalities sub-committee which allows us direct access to senior party officials and members of the NEC and shadow cabinet and on the National Policy Forum.

We have had regular contact with Yvette Cooper and Kate Green as the lead shadow ministers on equalities, both of whom have been very supportive. We look forward to working with Gloria De Piero and Sharon Hodgson as they take on this brief.

We maintain a seat on the Socialist Societies executive and we are developing links with the other groups to look at ways to do more joint work.

LGBT Labour National Committee
October 2012

Drafted by Tom Burke, James Asser & Hannah Blythyn with input from National Committee members
Campaigns

Equal Marriage
LGBT Labour engaged very strongly in the equal marriage campaigning this year both in terms of behind the scenes lobbying and behind the scenes campaigning. This piece of legislation has at times been all consuming and required almost all the campaigning focus to deal with the level of debate and scrutiny it was receiving. This was to be expected and as the last major piece of legislation on LGBT rights we expect to see combined with the corresponding high level press coverage.

The campaign has engaged very strongly with both MPs and the public and used a number of different media to ensure the maximum possible vote amongst Labour parliamentarians.

Over the last year we have written to all MPs twice, all Peers twice, we have sent valentines cards to all MPs who voted no in the 2nd reading. We worked with the leader’s office and the front bench to provide support in internal PLP lobbying. As a result both Ed Miliband and Yvette Cooper both wrote to Peers and MPs urging them to supporting the equal marriage bill.

We had long conversation with the front bench over the whipping arrangements and made very clear the campaign’s disappointment in not whipping the vote. We were pleased however that this lobbying did result in an effective 3-line whip for members of the shadow cabinet and a three-line whip on attendance for MPs.

The campaign also made use of the press and our twitter account to publicise our lobbying, we engaged with the lobby-A-Lord website set-up by one of our members and with the MP lobbying site (which was very effective) set-up by independent campaigners.

The support from councillors, members, party members, Labour Students and Young Labour was huge and very valuable. As a result several MPs planning to vote no stayed away; Lindsay Roy (Glenrothes) who had announced he was voting no changed his mind after an overwhelming response from party members on twitter and Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby), another confirmed no, changed his mind and supported during the debate. We also saw several MPs that had voted no at 2nd reading change to a yes at 3rd reading.

It is very difficult to find the space to thank all of the people in Parliament that we need to thank but mentions must go to Yvette Cooper MP, Kate Green MP, Baroness Thornton, Baroness Royall and Lord Alli who lead so strongly in both houses; to Stephen Doughty MP, David Lammy MP and Lord Smith for some superb speeches supporting the bill; to Susan Elan Jones MP and Chris Bryant MP for all their behind the scenes lobbying operation; also to Lord Bassam and Lord Collins for their robust ‘guidance’ during Lords votes.

We also took part in the three rallies around Parliament and worked closely with Lord Alli, LGBT+ Lib Dems and Stonewall to get these arranged. The result was hugely high profile, got lots of media coverage and had a big impact on parliament, particularly the Lords where it was hard to miss the crowds and the singing. We also had the joy of completely drowning out the homophobic prayer vigil the Campaign for Marriage had organised.
Prides
The campaign has had a busy year attending prides around the country and supporting CLPS in their efforts to engage with local Prides events. This year was a slightly quieter year in terms of the attendance at Prides even though more were included but we were able to continue to have a strong presence around the UK supporting 31 Pride events in 2013 (up from 31 in 2012).

At the vast majority of Prides we were the only political campaign present (alongside the Unions). Where we had other political parties present we were able to outnumber them and have a stronger show in almost all cases.

Materials
A range of materials have been produced again and have been successful. We have been selling mugs and T-shirts, raising valuable funds for the campaign. The Never Kissed a Tory slogan remains a popular asset for materials to sell especially with party members. It has started appearing regular in the media and being adapted at varying demos and events. We again were able to produce a vuvuzelas for prides and have distributed over 50,000 stickers.

Notable Pride events
For the second year in a row we were able to support the Northern Ireland CLP in their support for Belfast pride. We also were at two Scottish prides for the first time including being part of the LGBT Better Together campaign at Edinburgh pride.

For the first time in several years we had representation at EuroPride, this year in Marseilles. We were party of a group organised by Rainbow Rose, with reps from across Europe on a very successful float organised by HES (the LGBT wing for the French Socialist party).

The committee will be looking at next year’s Prides to ensure a higher level of engagement across all prides from CLPs. The majority of the 2014 prides will be the last before the general election; this has been raised with the Party with regards to the importance of high profile support next year.

Prides attended and supported this year:
1. Belfast
2. Birmingham
3. Black Pride (London)
4. Blackpool
5. Bradford
6. Brighton
7. Bristol
8. Cardiff
9. Edinburgh
10. EuroPride (Marseilles)
11. Exeter
12. Glasgow
13. Hertfordshire (Watford)
14. London
15. Leeds
16. Liverpool
17. Manchester
18. Norwich
19. Oldham
20. Oxford
21. Plymouth
22. Preston
23. Reading
24. Salford
25. Sparkle – Trans Pride (Manchester)
26. Student Pride
27. Swindon
28. Truro
29. Wakefield
30. Wolverhampton
31. York
**Events and Fundraising**

Events listing 2012-13 (excluding regional campaigning days and attendance at Pride)

- Eurovision Party with Labour Movement for Europe
- Pressing for change: how do we transform the media's treatment of the trans community?
- Living a Life of Crime – Decriminalisation of homosexuality in the majority world
- Co-organised three protests outside Parliament surrounding Same Sex Marriage Bill
- LGBT Labour and Stonewall Fringe – Where next for LGBT Rights?
- Start of Conference Party
- Chris Smith List Fundraising Dinner 2013

**Labour Party Conference**

Conference was as busy and successful time for LGBT Labour. We kicked off conference in Brighton with our regular feature on the conference timetable the Saturday night party in Charles Street Bar. The party was a celebration of equal marriage and the venue was packed to capacity raising over £1200 in donations.

On the Monday night of conference we held our regular joint fringe with Stonewall, this year on the topic of ‘Where next for LGBT rights?’ There was a great turnout for the fringe, chaired by LGBT Labour co-chair Hannah Blythyn and featured a panel of: Ben Summerskill (Chief Executive of Stonewall); Sadiq Khan MP (Shadow Justice Secretary); Stephen Doughty MP (Cardiff South & Penarth); and Natacha Kennedy (LGBT Labour Committee, teacher and trans rights campaigner).

We also had a space on the Socialist Societies stand where we were selling the ever popular Never Kissed a Tory t-shirts and mugs, although we may need to review space on the stand for next year as the number of societies participating increased.

Bev Craig stepped in to be nominated as our delegate to this year’s annual conference after the delegate originally nominated to attend Philippa Robertson unfortunately was not able to attend.

**Secretaries report**

A key role of the Secretary is ‘behind’ the scenes are relates to the on-going business of agendas and producing meeting minutes. I also lead the organisation of the AGM and all nominations, notices, etc.

In addition to my core responsibilities I have been involved in delivering the new Nationbuilder website, the survey of MEP candidates and helping to organise various events, including at Party Conference and the Chris Smith List Dinner. I have often drafted all member emails.

In the previous year I had drafted a Committee Handbook to aide the induction of new committee members. At over 45 pages long it acts as an A-Z for new members with details on the history of LGBT Labour, practical details on logistics and our relationships with other committees and groups. The Handbook has continued to be revised to lock in institutional knowledge.

Tom Burke
National Secretary

**Communications**

**Twitter**

LGBT Labour now has nearly 18,000 twitter followers (50% increase in the past year) and continues to receive much support for our use. Members of the committee support the account, so that coverage of almost all of our activities can be as comprehensive as possible. Credit to James Asser, as the author of most of our tweets.
Emails
Members should now be receiving far more emails from LGBT Labour than was the case before the last AGM. We have now successfully moved to the ‘MailChimp’ system with regular updating of the list from our new NationBuilder website. This is in addition to regional event promotion - please ensure that you have the correct address on our database.

Facebook
The LGBT Labour group on Facebook has over 2,000 members, and all members in this group are invited to events, although not all events are created in this way to avoid spamming members with events not in their area. Since the last AGM there is now an LGBT Labour Facebook page, which allows users to ‘like’ LGBT Labour and see update from committee members in their newsfeed (1000 members). This utility is still growing, and will become more prominent when we are able to fully integrate our social media platforms through a new website. The regional groups also have pages and there is a trans page and a youth page.

Website
Over the year we launched a new website on NationBuilder - the world's first Community Organizing System. The platform allows us to update our website, our members database and linked with communication tools like email, text messaging and social media - all in one system. Many thanks to Richard Angell, Graeme Smith, Tom Burke and Ant McCaul who led the move to the system.

The website is continually updated with news releases from LGBT Labour and our events and campaigns. It also allows members to pay membership online and register to attend events. We are also growing a list of supporters who we will be able to then contact in the run up to elections.

Press Officer Reports

In the last year, we have featured several times in the LGBT press. In this role, I have produced press releases and comments from committee members for press consumption.

During the year we had the great success of getting the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Bill passed thanks to the hard work of Yvette Cooper, Kate Green and the rest of the team and the hard work of LGBT Labour itself. For my part, I produced briefings for the press and the Parliamentary Labour Party on the Second Reading of the bill and for the bill in the Lords. I worked with various members of the committee to raise issues and concerns with the PLP on the SSM bill, including pensions and Trans issues.

Rhys Goode
Press Officer

Membership
We currently have 865 members on the database, a decrease since the last AGM. This was anticipated by the National Committee following a bumper increase in members around the 2010 elections. Many of these members have fallen into arrears. This was exacerbated as many paid in cash and until the middle of this year it was difficult to process payments online.

Over the last year, the following has been completed:
- Moved over to a new membership system that allows us to keep much better track of payments etc. This is now part of the Nationbuilder platform, meaning that we can connect to members through email as well as social media
- Members can now complete membership payments through the website, whereas the old system was reliant on trust (i.e. they could join without payment).
- Worked with regional groups to establish up to date lists upon request.
- Removed from the membership list people that were more than two years in arrears. This was after organising a phone-bank with the National Secretary and repeated emails.
- Redesigned the membership form to remove the option for invoice payments, better enable Trans members to register in details other than those of their Bank Account and collected information on self-defining identity
- Continued to ensure that new members receive a welcome email within 28 days of joining.

Next steps
- Setting up the Nationbuilder account so that regional groups can work with the relevant people on the central database rather than maintaining their own databases around the country. I will need to organise training for this.
- Continue working to ensure that the whole membership is paid up to date, by working effectively with the new treasurer. I am currently working on getting payments and updated membership details for those who are more than one year in arrears (approximately 150 of the current membership).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<th>Membership October 2013</th>
<th>Number removed in the year for being in arrears</th>
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<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire and Humberside</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1135</strong></td>
<td><strong>865</strong></td>
<td><strong>270</strong></td>
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Graeme Smith
Membership Officer

Regional & National Groups

LGBT Labour has continued to grow in different regions during 2012-13. We have well established groups in both London and the North West who organise campaigning and other events for members in these areas. In this year the Yorkshire and Humberside and Scotland group have grown significantly in terms of activities. Activity in Wales has seen membership grow and opportunities for greater contact with members.

Groups in the West Midlands, East Midlands and South West have been more difficult to get off the groups. Currently these groups are on a nascent basis with members of the National Committee often trying to keep them going in addition to other responsibilities. We will be looking to revive these groups in the year ahead. We already have interest from members in the south west where two Parliamentary candidates have been selected. Additionally there is interest in establishing a northern group, a Welsh group and a
group in Northern Ireland. If you are interested in getting more involved with a regional group or want further information please email lgbtlabour@ymail.com

The National Committee have agreed that the London group should take on the South East as feedback from members was that the geography of the region and travel time across it makes meetings in London more convenient. However, we will be looking for campaigning events across the whole region.

**North West Regional Group**

The current structure of the committee includes two Co-Chairs, secretary, a Greater Manchester Organiser, Cumbria and Lancashire Organiser and a Merseyside and Cheshire Organiser. Our last AGM was in March 2013 when we had Kate Green MP speak, elected the committee and discussed the year ahead.

There is currently some thought as to whether the current structure is the most appropriate one and hopefully there will be discussion prior to the next AGM.

The Committee would like to express our thanks to Kevin Peel who is stepping down after four years. Kevin set up the North West Group and has been instrumental in building it up and keeping it going over the years. We wish Kevin well in all that he does in the future.

**Prides**

We organised and attended a number of prides across the region this year. Generally the relevant organiser with support from the rest of the committee organises the prides in their area. Many thanks, to all of those who joined us.

In Greater Manchester there was Manchester, Sparkle, Oldham, Peel Park (Salford). Manchester is one of the largest prides we attend, lasting over three days, and often takes more time and resource to organise. Sparkle has gone from strength to strength and is now a national highlight of the trans* calendar. In Merseyside there was Liverpool, a great community event that has grown significantly in the last few years and well supported by the Liverpool Labour Group and local CLPs. In Lancashire we went to Blackpool and Preston. Next year we hope to build on Blackpool in particular particularly with its close proximity to marginal seats!

**Campaigning**

In May 2013 we had the County Elections, and saw two more out Councillors get elected to Lancashire County Council, adding to our growing tally. Kevin recently organized a campaign session in October for a local by-election in Wirral West CLP (Tory MP Ester McVey).

**Toward 2014/ 2015:**

We will be building for the European and General Election. Sadly no LGBT candidates feature on the North West European list, but key campaigning seats will be identified through local government LGBT candidates and marginal seats in the region where Tories voted against Equal Marriage.

To date there is to our knowledge one candidate in a marginal seat: Cat Smith, Lancaster and Fleetwood. This adds to Stephen Twigg, Angela Eagle and Gordon Marsden in the region. As Stephen and Angela’s seats are safe (with Gordon’s more marginal), we will tie this up with local government seats and neighbouring anti-marriage Tories.

We aim to have one campaign session per month and will be asking for out candidates to get in touch, having already began to make contact with our adopted seats. It has been suggested that we work with the Trade Unions and Hope not Hate for the forthcoming European election, and are currently discussing this with Unison NW.
Recruitment and activity:
Pride events often encourage new recruits, however the membership remains fairly static, and a down side of getting more LGBT candidates elected becomes competing commitments. There has been discussion around planning a number of events to encourage new members to get involved. There has been discussion with some newer members about a women specific event working closely with local community groups.

Committee members often speak at LGBT, Labour Party or Trade Union events raising our profile. For example in the last year this includes; Young Labour Events, Community LGBT Groups, Pride events, Transgender Day of Remembrance etc.

Bev Craig,
LGBT Labour North West Co-Chair

Yorkshire & Humber Regional Group
We had a campaign day for the Doncaster mayoral campaign, and our activists involved themselves on a number of other occasions (including polling day). The result was close, we can credibly argue that we made a difference.

A talk from Kate Green, which was well attended and attracted some people we haven’t had out before, some of whom then attended the next day’s campaign day.

Hebden Bridge Campaign Day - this was the first of our campaign days in seats held by anti-equality Tory MPs (the others are overdue, but are on the horizon). Despite poor weather, those who attended found it worthwhile. It was also the first time I’ve seen a greyhound out door-knocking!

Council candidates - Jonty Pryor in Headingley (in the key seat of Leeds North West - no. 106 out of 106, but Headingley is a bit easier); and Ben Miskell in Stannington (in Sheffield Hallam, which will at least attract activists). There are a couple of LGBT candidates currently going for selection in a Wakefield by-election.

We attended Bradford, York, Leeds and Wakefield Prides. We’ll look to get a Pride grid in place early in 2014 so everything can be planned in advance this time.

Future plans
- Christmas Social event
- AGM due in early 2014
- Continuing with our anti-Tory bigot campaign days, plus days for LGBT candidates.
- More talks with MPs and other figures, perhaps issue-led as they tend to attract people.
- We also need some way of engaging potential candidates, and encouraging involvement from under-represented groups. We have few women involved, and no trans activists at the moment.

James Hepplestone
LGBT Labour Yorkshire & Humber Chair

LGBT Labour Scotland
LGBT Labour Scotland was restarted this year and has come on leaps and bounds since its inaugural AGM in January. I am proud to be its Chair and to provide the National AGM with a report of our activities so far for 2013 and our Scottish agenda for the next year.

In April, LGBT Labour Scotland ran a joint stall with the Equality Network for the duration of conference and we also hosted a breakfast fringe meeting with William Bain MP. At the stall various MP’s and MSP’s dropped by to sign up to the new supporter’s mailing list that we have created and have photos with the
LGBT Labour banner. LGBT Labour Scotland was also mentioned twice by the Chair of the Party; Victoria Jamieson during her keynote speech to conference and also at a fringe meeting.

We have been present at both Scottish prides in Edinburgh and Glasgow this year; at both events Labour can proudly say that we were the only political party to have a stall and a presence. In Scotland whilst every answer put forward by the SNP ends with “independence”; it is the Labour party that are once again showing that we are truly the only party fighting for equality for the people of Scotland.

We also plan to meet with the new General Secretary of the party in Scotland; Ian Price in due course and have ideas for a membership event to further develop our increasing presence in the party in Scotland and how we can achieve more for our members.

Shortly before the summer the Scottish Government finally published the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Bill and asked for written evidence to be submitted before the end of the summer recess. LGBT Labour Scotland submitted our response and have since met with Jackie Baillie MSP; Shadow Minister for Social Justice, Equalities and Welfare to discuss the soon to be launched Scottish Labour for Equal Marriage campaign, which LGBT Labour Scotland will be coordinating.

Equal Marriage won’t be the only campaign that LGBT Labour Scotland will be participating in for the next year as with less than a year to go until the Scottish Independence Referendum; I’m sure you will agree that LGBT Labour Scotland will need to play it’s part to ensure that the LGBT community in Scotland know that the only way we can continue to argue for better LGBT rights is to stay in the UK.

The Better Together campaign is bringing people together across Scotland who are putting aside their political differences to do the right thing for Scotland. In the last year it has been LGBT Labour Scotland members leading the LGBT Together group of the Better Together campaign by going out and speaking at LGBT events to make the case for Scotland staying in the United Kingdom.

Of course we also plan to engage with the Scottish Labour Party’s own referendum campaign; United with Labour as this referendum will be the biggest decision the people of Scotland will face for 300 years and it is important that we have strong Labour voices speaking for the majority of Scots who believe we are better working together with our neighbours in the United Kingdom.

With just under a year of being LGBT Labour Scotland’s Chair under my belt, I’m proud of the progress that we have achieved in such a short space of time and I look forward to coming back to next year’s AGM with even more accomplished.

Ailsa Tweedie  
Chair, LGBT Labour Scotland

LGBT Labour in Wales
At this year’s Welsh Labour Conference in Llandudno, Stonewall Cymru opted not to have a fringe but to host a table at the conference dinner, which we joined them at alongside various politicians and key left LGBT representatives in Wales.

During the conference we also went round signing up members of the Welsh Assembly to the Labour for Equal Marriage campaign, getting a great response.

At this year’s Cardiff Mardi Gras we had a our biggest turnout of support ever and signed up a number of new members, giving us a good platform to go forward in establishing LGBT Labour Wales/Cymru.

There are number of events planned for the new year which will hopefully serve to establish a LGBT Labour Wales/Cymru group. We have continued to build links with Stonewall Cymru and other LGBT groups in
Wales to build this, recently supporting the Stonewall Cymru 10th birthday event and the Iris Prize awards LGBT film festival in Cardiff.

Hannah Blythyn
LGBT Labour Co-Chair

London Regional Group
- Organised and attended campaigning activities with LGBT Parliamentary candidates across South East and local campaigning in London initially
- Organised campaigning in Parliamentary by elections including for Steve Reed MP
- Attended all prides in London, Brighton, Reading and supported local parties in other areas
- Plans for the future include events and socials for London members earlier in the year. More plans in place before London and South East AGM early in the new year

Ant McCaul,
LGBT Labour London Co-Chair

Trades Unions
We have retained good links with the trades unions and worked with them over the year. This has been particularly valuable over the summer months with mutual support and campaigning at prides. The campaign again had a presence at TUC LGBT conference and it was good to see lots of LGBT Labour members attending as delegates from a range of unions.

Youth & Students
We have worked closely once again with Labour Students who have provided strong support at prides but also particularly on the equal marriage campaign. Their campaigning on the issue and lobbying of MPs with wavering or negative views was invaluable.

We were pleased to see Young Labour launching their first equality conferences and we were able to support the first Young Labour LGBT conference, something we hope to be involved in in future.

Given the new rights for Young Labour to self-organise within the party, their first LGBT conference and the ongoing commitment of Labour Students to have an LGBT Officer, we will in the future ask their respective LGBT Officers to attend the LGBT Labour National Committee. This will allow greater co-working and avoid overlap and potential replication of work.

Trans Officers Report
I have promoted LGBT Labour within the LGBT community in particular the trans community over the last year, as a result a number of people have joined LGBT Labour.

I have attended all but one committee meetings as Trans Officer 2012/13 raising many equality issues at each meeting, making my colleagues more aware of the types of issues faced within the trans community daily, in particular:

1. The Leveson Report and how the press and media intrusion affects and impacts on the day to day lives of the wider trans community, this resulted in LGBT Labour hosting a parliamentary event, of which I was instrumental in setting the agenda and shaping the event. This was a huge success.
2. The trans aspect of Equal Marriage and the need for LGBT Labour to continue its campaign on Equal Marriage focusing on outstanding trans issues.
3. I have put forward the idea of revitalising a Labour Parliamentary Forum which would initially engage with Labour MP’s and then open it up to others, this is in the process of being set up.
4. Over the year I have attended many trans and equality events including Sparkle, where I gave a talk on advancing transgender equality through the political system.
I have attended a D of H workshop on the New National Commissioning Criteria for Trans Health Services, with another planned on the 7th November and I am on the local panel of candidates in Wolverhampton.

Ms Anwen Muston
Trans Officer

International Report
The International Officer has been engaged in the following activities this year:

- Extensive involvement in the re-establishment of Rainbow Rose (the pan-European socialist LGBT society), including attending inaugural committee meetings/calls, attending to committee business, and contributing to the PES manifesto consultation. James Asser represented LGBT Labour at the inaugural meeting with representatives from the Irish Labour Party, the Dutch Labour Party, the Austrian Social Democrats, the German Social Democrats, the Spanish Socialist Party, the Portuguese Socialist Party, the two Belgian Socialist Parties and the PES group for the European Parliament.

- Attending international LGBT events.

- Building relationships with sister organisations, such as the LGBT Democrats Abroad group (including arranging a post-London Pride social event).

- Organising our recent event: "Living a Life of Crime? Decriminalising Homosexuality in the Majority World", at Doughty Street Chambers, featuring speakers Lord Collins (Labour Spokesperson for International Development in the Lords); Purna Sen (PPC for Brighton Pavilion and Chair of the Kaleidoscope Trust); and Jonathan Cooper OBE (Human Rights Barrister and CEO of the Human Dignity Trust).

- Contributing to the general activities of the LGBT Labour Committee.

Charlie Smith
International Officer

Labour Party NEC Equalities Committee
LGBT Labour has a place on the Labour Party NEC Equalities Committee, which meets at Labour Party Headquarters a number of times a year and also features representatives from the Labour Party NEC, BAME Labour, Young Labour, Labour Students and the Labour Party Disabled Members Group. One of the co-chairs usually attends the meetings, which take place on average every few months, on behalf of LGBT Labour.

LGBT Labour was represented at every meeting of the NEC Equalities Committee meeting since last year’s AGM ensuring that LGBT members can raise issues and input into the work of the Labour Party NEC. As you would expect, much of our work on this committee this year focused on the campaign for equal marriage and latterly ensuring Labour support to get the Bill through the Houses of Parliament. The committee also gives us an opportunity to raise matters with not just NEC members but the shadow equalities minister who is usually in attendance and, in addition, promote support for the work of LGBT Labour such as pride and conference events. As a member of this committee we have now for the past two years had a representative on the shortlisting sub-group for the future candidates programme in order to ensure that future LGBT candidates are being brought though for the Labour Party.

Socialist Societies Executive
James Asser is our rep on the executive and has also been elected as the Chair of the group over the past year. The group has proven to be a very valuable way of maintaining links with our fellow socialist societies, a group that is growing in number.
Through this group we have been able to have greater input into Labour Party policy processes and have had joint meetings with Iain McNicol after his appointment as general secretary and other senior party staff.

**National Policy Forum**

The National Policy Forum, or NPF, is made up of representatives of Labour Party members from the English regions, Scotland and Wales, as well as Labour’s affiliates and key stakeholder groups. It is a key part of the Party’s policy making forum. The Forum is currently Chaired by our Patron Angela Eagle MP.

2013 was the first year there was an official LGBT Labour representative on the National Policy Forum. Sadly, whilst we were allocated a space in the Refounding Labour process it took a while for the machinery of the Forum to allocate the relevant Commission space.

I was allocated to Better Politics which focussed on young people. Following input from myself and others, it is due to focus on equalities this autumn/winter.

At the annual meeting of the Forum I participated in policy discussions with Shadow Ministerial teams, political advisors, NPF reps and other affiliates. I focussed on raising awareness of issues in the Same Sex Marriage Bill; issues relating to international development policy; Trans issues around access to health care and press reform and SRE in education. I have kept the National Cmmt informed of this; tweet ed comments from the NPF event and ensured the Your Britain website is shared in our communications.

It was widely seen as the best organised NPF meeting to date and there was much more active engagement than in previous years. However, there was widespread frustration on the narrow focus of debates on key ‘challenge papers’ and little space for broader discussion. This has been noted by the Party.

Much of the policy making by the NPF is being done in tandem with a shadow cabinet led review (now bring led by John Cruddas MP. Following informal discussions with the Party, in particular with Kate Green, they have agreed to have a form of equality impact assessment as part of this process. We will be looking to help shape how this evolves.

The next NPF meeting (scheduled for June 2014) will be key in influencing the 2015 General Election manifesto. Further work will be needed to ensure that the Shadow Equalities team continue to be well briefed on issues relevant to the LGBT community. We will look to ensure that policy ideas from our recent events, from ideas collected at Prides are filtered through and represented in the process.

**Patrons**

We continue to work closely with our patrons and get wide support from them. We were pleased during the last year to gain 2 new patrons last November. Olly Martins when he became the police and crime commissioner for Bedfordshire, the only openly gay PCC in the country. We also gained Steve reed when he won the Croydon North by-election becoming the first out Labour MP to be newly elected since 2001.

We also saw two of our patrons awarded with honours, with Steve Reed gaining and OBE and Michael Cashman a CBE. We were also delighted to see Lord Alli win hero of the Year at the Stonewall Awards for all his work on equal marriage.

Five of our patrons currently hold shadow ministerial roles, including Angela Eagle as a shadow cabinet minister. In the European parliament, Michael Cashman is co-president of the important LGBT Intergroup, leading the EU’s work on LGBT rights.

**Tom Burke**

National Secretary
Trigger ballots have started for sitting MPs and already re-selected for 2015 is Ben Bradshaw. We will, however, see Michael Cashman retire from Brussels after 15 fantastic years of representing the UK, the West Midlands and the LGBT community.

Our current patrons are:
1. Lord Alli 8. Tom Copley AM
2. Clive Betts MP 9. Angela Eagle MP
3. Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP 10. Gordon Marsden MP
5. Chris Bryant MP 12. Steve Reed OBE MP

Elections & The Chris Smith List

Chris Smith List
LGBT Labour has continued to expand and develop The Chris Smith List that started out as Dorothy’s List. The List has gone from strength to strength with the fund expected to rise to around £10,000 by the end of 2013. With 18 months to go to the general election we are optimistic we can see that at least double again to provide the biggest ever fund for LGBT candidates.

LGBT Candidates
The campaign has been strong in continually raising the need for increased LGBT representation at all levels.

It has been disappointing on the European front, which is reflective of the wider concern over this year’s European candidates selections and we have made this clear to the party. We do have 4 out candidates selected for the European lists but it is disappointing that in only one case (London) are they high enough on the list to stand a chance of being elected. It is also of concern that there are no out women selected.

Our European candidates:
1. Seb Dance – London
2. Michael Hassell – South East
3. Darren Hughes – Yorkshire & Humber
4. Sandy Martin – Eastern

More broadly, we invited all MEPs to complete a survey of their views on marriage equality and how the European Parliament can progress LGBT equality. We received over 40 replies all of which have been posted on the LGBT Labour website (http://www.lgbtlabour.org.uk/mepselection2013).

We have made a big breakthrough for selections for Westminster with nine candidates selected in seats in Labour’s target 106. This is a huge step forward on 2010 in which we only had one candidate in a safe seat and three in winnable marginals. Additionally we have two women selected both in ultra-marginal seats.

Candidates selected so far:
1. Cllr Louise Baldock – Stockton South
2. Cllr Todd Foreman – North East Somerset
3. Dr Pete Kyle – Hove
4. Cllr Tristan Osborne – Chatham & Aylesford
5. Cllr Chris Oxlade – Crawley
6. Andrew Pakes – Milton Keynes South
Additionally we know of at least four more members going for selection, with others expressing interest and there have been at least seven members who have applied and contest seats who weren’t successful. This shows that there is interest out there and a growing pool of talent and people willing to go for seats, which bodes well for the future.

**Future candidates programme**
The campaign has been involved once again with the Future Candidates Programme. We were presented on the selection and shortlisting panels by the co-chairs. A good selection of people came forward for this year’s programme and we have ensured that LGBT members were included in the range of candidates. We had strong support from the Labour Women’s Network who have been supporting out women through their training programme.

One concern from the programme was the number of people who were unwilling to confirm the sexuality on the monitoring form (in all but one case these were women). This indicates (and LWN agree on this) that being selected as an out woman is seen as a bigger barrier than being a gay man. This is something the campaign will need to look at and find ways to tackle.
### National Committee

#### Attendance at LGBT Labour National Committee meetings 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>As elected AGM 2012</th>
<th>25.11.12</th>
<th>19.01.13</th>
<th>23.03.13</th>
<th>18.05.13</th>
<th>29.06.13</th>
<th>25.08.13</th>
<th>12.10.13</th>
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<td>Hannah Blythyn</td>
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<td>Graeme Smith</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Events Officer</td>
<td>Richard Angell</td>
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A = Apologies recorded.