

Katie Curtis
Castle Point CLP

Selections for the next general election are well under way and it's testament to the work of the Labour Women's Network that so many women have been chosen by constituencies up and down the country. But this is only the start, we need to get more women selected where there are open shortlists and we need to widen the diversity of the women selected to include more lesbian, bisexual and trans women, BAME women, disabled women and working class women. This will be achieved by working with the wider Labour Movement including BAME Labour, LGBT Labour and the trade unions.

Ensuring that we get more Labour women into Parliament is crucial but it is also important that we train and support women to become MEPs, Welsh Assembly Members, MSPs, council leaders, school governors, charity trustees and CLP chairs. LWN should be at the forefront of helping Labour women become an integral part of a Labour Party that is at the heart of our communities.

I believe my experience as a candidate and campaigner in local, European and general elections make me ideal for a position on the LWN management board and as a former executive member of LGBT Labour I believe I can assist LWN in cementing its place as one of the Labour Party's most important Socialist Societies.

Bex Bailey
Rushcliffe CLP

I'm 21, I'm a proud feminist and I represent young members, students and Aug 16, 2013 3:43 PM young trade unionists on the Labour Party's NEC. I sit on the NEC Equalities Committee, and every day I get frustrated by the barriers still faced by women even in our own party.

I want to get more young women involved in LWN and, in doing so, boost the involvement and confidence of women across our party.

If elected, I will:

- Increase our membership among young women and students;
- Organise training and events for young women in conjunction with Young Labour;
- Visit Young Labour groups and university and college clubs on behalf of LWN;
- Implement a mentoring scheme for young women in the party;
- Be a strong voice for LWN members in the wider party.

I think it's important to have strong representation for young women in LWN and I hope to provide that.

Bex

Katherine Dunne
Brentford & Isleworth CLP

If elected to the LWN management committee I will contribute to building up the network, especially in areas of the country where we are not as strong as we could be. Primarily through Women's Officers I will set up a two way dialogue with CLPs to find out what LWN can do to support women members and to foster serious discussion in the party about how to tackle gender inequality in society and in politics.

Ed Miliband has asked the party for ideas about better ways to do politics and this is an opportunity for us to demand that concrete change is initiated. With only 22.5% female MPs in the UK this is an issue that affects all of us through the democratic deficiency in our decision making bodies.

I bring experience of campaigning for gender parity in politics as Chair of the women's section of the Irish Labour Party from 2009 to 2012. Labour Women was at the forefront of the campaign to introduce gender quotas for election candidates and pushed it to become a mainstream issue, to be taken forward by women's groups, the Labour Party and, eventually, other political parties. Labour brought the policy into government and it was legislated for last summer and will take effect at the next general election.

Since returning to work in the UK, I have started volunteering as a trainer for LWN courses and I am an active Labour Party member, having been selected to be a local candidate in 2014.

Karen Wilkie
Cardiff West CLP

I have attended LWN's training weekend and have stood for selection on an open shortlist, so I know first-hand how vital the work of LWN is. I want to do what I can to ensure that more women have the best chance of selection and election. This year, I have been working with others to build LWN's membership in Wales. I joined the management committee as a co-opted member, but I would love to be a properly elected member.

I have been committed to supporting and promoting women, in the Labour Party and trade unions, for over 30 years; starting out as the first equal opportunities officer for my trade union branch. I re-launched the Co-operative Party's women's

network in 2010 to encourage women to share their skills and experience to get more women selected and elected. I am currently Deputy General Secretary of the Co-operative Party and, until recently, Chair of Welsh Labour. I live in Cardiff with my partner and two children.

Kirsty McNeill
Camberwell & Peckham CLP

I want to keep helping Labour women win. As an LWN trainer since 2010, I've delivered our flagship parliamentary training in Scotland, Wales and across the English regions and enabled diverse women from all over the country to realise their ambitions to become PPCs, councillors, party staff and CLP officers. I'm incredibly proud of our graduates (you can see more at www.lwn.org.uk/graduates) and want to stay on the committee to help finish the job of changing the face of British politics.

As a former No 10 adviser, ex councillor and PPC in 2005 (when I secured the biggest swing to Labour in the country) I know our movement inside out. Those experiences – from the doorstep to Downing Street – have taught me that equality is neither impossible nor inevitable in our party. If we want it we need to fight for it.

By day I run a business advising the leadership of charities and campaign groups. I also sit on the boards of the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Alongside training, fundraising and recruiting for LWN, I co-founded Labour Women in Business and sit on the Labour Party's Women's Development Board.

I'm proud of Labour's feminist track record in office but know there is even more Labour can do to change life for British women for the better and forever. I'd love your support to continue playing my part in ensuring we deliver.

You can find out a bit more about me at @kirstyjmcneill and www.kirstymcneill.com.

Josie Channer
Barking CLP

I would like to be considered as committee member for the LWN as I believe can use my skills to encourage and inspire women from a wider range of different backgrounds to enter into public life. After joining the Prison Service to work as a Prison Officer, I become Senior Officer of the Mental Health and Drug Wing. I'm now a Board member of the largest Probation Trust in England and I'm passionate about keeping our communities safe and reduce crime across London.

In Barking in stood against racism and the BNP to win my ward doubling the Labour majority. As a Councillor and chair of the Housing committee I have introducing mandatory licensing to protected residents against Rogue Landlords. I have also

played a leading role in putting forward a local scheme to replace Education Maintenance Allowance, a payment for the poorest young people in her borough. In 2012 in the London Elections I stood as a GLA Candidate and achieved a 10% swing to Labour in Bromley & Bexley and in July 2013 was selected as PPC for Kingswood, Bristol.

Emma Kinloch
West Dunbartonshire CLP

Labour Women's Network (LWN) plays a vital role in raising the profile of women in our party and supporting them to election in public office. I would be delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the Management Committee. Being a Labour member and activist for over ten years I see the importance of having female representatives in our Parliaments, Assemblies and Councils.

In order for the political system in the UK to have any legitimacy it needs to reflect society. Parity of representation is also paramount within the Party and our internal structures must reflect our values. Women's voices are only heard if we have women at the table and LWN has already done excellent work in promoting reform of Party structures.

LWN has been instrumental in increasing female representation, but there is still more to be done. In particular, I feel I could bring experience from my day job as the Events and Stakeholder Manager at the thinktank, Policy Network, to the committee. I really enjoy putting on events and I think this would certainly come in useful when assisting in the organisation of campaigning events and training days! Through my work I also expand our high level network of politicians, academics, campaigners and commentators and assist with fundraising, two other skills which I would hope to bring to the committee.

We know all the value of women working with women, for women; I would love the opportunity to be part of the Committee to continue this fight.

Emma Burnell
Dulwich and West Norwood CLP

I have been a member of LWN for many years and am a committed campaigner for better representation of women in the Labour Party. I have been instrumental in moves to end all male panels both at Labour Party Conference and elsewhere in supportive organisations such as pressure groups, think tanks and campaigning organisations.

As a social media expert with my own award winning blog I would hope to help LWN continue the excellent work that has been done over the last few years to improve our online presence and campaigning – including building up our rebuttal

and campaigning machinery when we feel women's representation issues are under attack within the movement.

But I also want to balance this with a positive celebration of the incredible achievements of Labour women at every level of the Party. Women are the backbone of the Labour Party and this deserves to be shouted from the rooftops at all times and in every conceivable way. I'm really proud of the way LWN positively champions the difference women make to the Labour Party.

I went on the LWN candidate training a few years ago and have been an evangelist for it ever since. The incredible hard work of the volunteers in creating and keeping updated this enormously valuable work cannot be overstated and I would hope to be able to support this as a member of the executive, bringing my professional campaigning and communications to help women who want to represent our party.

Jacqui Smith
West Worcestershire CLP

I was honoured to be elected to serve as a member of the LWN Management committee in 2010 and am proud of my contribution to the great progress that we have made over the last three years. In particular, I drafted the case for All Women Shortlists and have used my experience and contacts to support our growth, training and fundraising.

I am proud to have been the first woman Home Secretary, to have been a Labour MP for 13 years and a Labour Minister for 10.

Labour Women's Network and Emily's List helped to make this happen for me and I want to continue my work on the Management Committee to ensure that other women are able to play their part and have their voices heard at all levels of the Party and as elected representatives.

Since joining the Party at 16, I have served as a constituency officer, National Secretary of Labour Students, a local councillor, on the regional and national executives. I have known the best of times as a politician – and some of the worst! I want to use my experience to ensure that women throughout the Party are supported, encouraged and celebrated.

Please vote for me to continue this work on the management committee and to contribute to building more training opportunities; more events around the country and an even stronger voice for women.

Ann Leedham
North Herefordshire CLP

I have been a member of LWN since 1988. I have served on the board of LWN for the last 20 years.

During that time I have been involved in the training of women who are seeking political office. Over the last few years LWN has gone from strength to strength, providing excellent training, and as a campaigning pressure group regarding women's rights to be treated as equals not only in parliament but in all walks of life.

I would be proud to serve another term on the board of LWN, I have the enthusiasm and the energy to continue the fight to ensure that more women are able to seek high office.