

Huda Elmi

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Dear Comrades,

I am writing to you and your CLP to ask that you consider nominating me for Labour's National Executive Committee.

Growing up as the daughter of refugees, I learnt from a young age that nothing is given and everything is fought for. My father's favourite saying is "If people come together, they can even mend a crack in the sky". Collectivism is at the very heart of our labour movement, and this maxim has shaped my understanding of what real power is.

I first became political as a community activist aged 16, holding breakfast revision sessions for underprivileged primary school children in my local community centre, and joined the Labour Party shortly after and got active at grassroots level. Since then, being active at a regional and national level has given me insight into the labyrinthine and overly bureaucratic mechanisms of our Party. So many important internal processes rely on the machinations of remote, unaccountable committees and officials, and I have seen how members are disillusioned and disenfranchised as a result.

The need for a systemic overhaul is what propels me to stand, and my biggest priority will be democratising and reforming the Labour Party both within the ongoing party review and, where the reforms do not go far enough, beyond it. Policy making both local and national, selection of candidates, regional organisation, how conferences and meetings are run, equalities sections, socialist societies; democracy must be extended at all levels. We also need to see the total implementation of the Chakrabarty recommendations, and an overall modernisation of our internal practices.

I am a dedicated and tireless anti-racism campaigner. As an EU citizen and an African woman standing up to racism and xenophobia is not a choice, it's about survival. We need to transform how we interact with marginalised ethnic minority communities across Britain, and soon. I want to use my platform to challenge how we organise: empowering BAME members to push for representation that genuinely engages with oppressed communities. It is not enough to simply ask for seats around the table; they mean nothing if they aren't used to dismantle regressive economic and social forces.

The NEC needs to gain the trust and respect of our members in order to make credible decisions. This can only come by consolidating a culture of respect for due process and rules; I stand for the creation of a fair system, built by and for members, with the burden of their trust truly felt by all NEC members. I would like to make the role of "representative" less distant to the average Labour Party member, emphasising the need for greater systematic engagement and communication with the grassroots by utilising digital tools like social media, in order to educate members about the way the NEC works and stimulate wider debate about the decisions that are made.

It is important that the NEC begins to reflect the political changes apparent since the of summer 2015, and I am convinced that a more cohesive and effective governing body can build a modern, democratic and socialist Party focused on changing the country and the world. The days of complacency and inertia are over. We need to consolidate our successes and learn from our failures to get into government. If you share these ideals, I ask you entrust me with your nomination.

Hantiwadaay iyo Walaalnimo (Socialism and Unity)

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