

Black Asian Minority Ethnic Labour

Constitutional Rules

Adopted 30.07.11

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1. Name

- 1.1. The organisation shall be known as 'Black Asian Minority Ethnic Labour' (hereafter referred to as BAME Labour).

2. Objectives.

- 2.1. BAME Labour shall work to achieve the support of Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minorities for the Labour Party's (hereafter referred to as 'the party') principles and policies.
- 2.2. BAME Labour shall work to recruit Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minorities into membership of the party.
- 2.3. BAME Labour shall seek to influence and participate in policy-making at all levels of the party. Further it shall ensure that issues of concern to BAME Labour members are raised at the highest appropriate levels.
- 2.4. BAME Labour shall seek to ensure that increased numbers of Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority members are represented on party bodies and are elected to public office in local government, the Welsh Assembly, Scottish, Westminster and European Parliaments.
- 2.5. BAME Labour shall fight to eliminate racism and discrimination in all its forms and support Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority people in their struggle against racism both in the United Kingdom and worldwide.
- 2.6. BAME Labour shall develop and foster links with other organisations in the United Kingdom and the European Union whose aims and objectives are compatible with those of the party. In particular other socialist societies, the TUC and affiliated trade unions, the Cooperative Party, PES, and the Socialist International.
- 2.7. At all times BAME Labour shall seek to work with all other units of the party and its affiliated organisations, with the aim of electing BAME Labour members into office at all levels of the party.
- 2.8. At all times BAME Labour will support the rules and constitution of the party, and conform to the PPERA 2000, and other legislative requirements to enable it to operate as a socialist society in the UK. This includes keeping the General Secretary fully updated in any changes of officers, so that legal reporting requirements, required by the PPERA and other legislation is adhered to.

3. Membership

- 3.1. Membership of BAME Labour shall be open to Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority individuals.

- 3.2. Members of BAME Labour must be (or must be eligible to be) members of the Labour Party.
- 3.3. Members of BAME Labour must agree with the aims and objectives of BAME Labour.
- 3.4. The current membership subscription for individual members is set out in the appendix to these rules as amended from time to time and is determined by the biennial meeting of BAME Labour.
- 3.5. If a member does not renew their membership within six months following the last date for renewal their membership will lapse. Any subscription payment received from a lapsed member will be treated as a new application for membership.
- 3.6. Organisations that are affiliated to the party are eligible for affiliation to BAME Labour. The current subscription fee for organisations affiliating to BAME Labour is set out in the appendix to these rules as amended from time to time and is determined by the biennial meeting of BAME Labour.
- 3.7. Individuals representing affiliated organisations in BAME Labour in any capacity must be individual members of BAME Labour.
- 3.8. BAME Labour members are encouraged to work with Constituency Labour Parties (CLP), CLP Ethnic Minority Officers and/or CLP Ethnic Minority Forums to ensure that activity for BAME members is happening locally. BAME Labour should facilitate the development of Ethnic Minority Forums, along with exploring the creation of local BAME branches and/or merging existing ethnic minority forums.
- 3.9. BAME Labour will develop activities for BAME members, including regional meetings, campaign sessions and policy development throughout the UK.

4. Biennial meeting

- 4.1. There will be a biennial meeting of BAME Labour held at a venue, date and time as jointly determined by the executive of BAME Labour and National Executive Committee of the Labour Party. At least four weeks notice shall be given to eligible members and affiliates of the biennial meeting.
- 4.2. The meeting shall include representatives from eligible affiliates, and individual eligible members where the affiliated organisations shall have 30% of any vote, and individual members 70% of any vote.
- 4.3. The business of the biennial meeting shall comprise:
 - 4.3.1 receiving a report of the election of officers and other members of the BAME Labour executive in accordance with 7 below;
 - 4.3.2 the appointment of the two delegates to the annual party conference;
 - 4.3.3 the report of the BAME Labour Treasurer;
 - 4.3.4 receipt of other reports from the BAME Labour executive and representatives to the party's bodies;
 - 4.3.5 any other business of which notice has been given in the notice convening the meeting.

- 4.4 Between the biennial meetings the executive of BAME Labour shall have the power to act on all matters.

5. Officers and Executive

- 5.1. The officers of BAME Labour shall be chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.
- 5.2. Subject to 6 below, the Executive shall comprise the officers and 11 other voting members.
- 5.3. At least seven members of the executive shall be women including two of the four officer positions.
- 5.4. If a BAME Labour executive member or a BAME Labour member on a party body becomes a lapsed member (see 3.5 above) or, being a party member, fails to pay their party subscription in accordance with party rules, they shall automatically cease to hold office.

6. Labour Party Representatives

- 6.1. Under the party's rules there may be four members representing BAME Labour (at least two of whom shall be women) on the party's National Policy Forum (hereafter referred to as "the NPF") and one member representing BAME Labour on the party's National Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as "the NEC").
- 6.2. If not already elected members of the BAME Labour executive, the BAME NEC member and up to four BAME NPF members may attend meetings of the BAME Labour executive in a non-voting ex-officio capacity.
- 6.3. The BAME Officer of Young Labour shall be invited to attend meetings of the BAME Labour executive in a non-voting ex-officio capacity.
- 6.4. The BAME Labour executive shall also seek as appropriate to make nominations for other of the party's bodies and committees.

7. Elections

- 7.1. All elections for the BAME Labour Executive and representatives to the party's bodies shall be by an electoral college, in which individual eligible members have 70% of the vote and the eligible affiliated organisations have 30% of the vote. This election will be managed by the party on behalf of BAME Labour and the vote will be conducted by postal ballot. There will be no compulsory requirement for affiliated organisations to ballot their wider membership.
- 7.2. An election timetable and procedure will be drawn up by the party's officers, and approved by both the BAME Labour Executive and the NEC. The timetable will include a freeze date. Individuals joining, or organisations affiliating to, BAME Labour after the freeze date will not be eligible to participate in the election in question. The freeze date will be six months prior to the date of the meeting of BAME Labour executive which approves the timetable.
- 7.3. In order to vote in any election eligible individual members must up to date with their membership subscriptions at the close of nominations.

- 7.4. In order to vote in any election eligible affiliated organisations must up to date with their affiliation fees at the close of nominations.
- 7.5. Nomination papers for all elections will be sent out by the party, in accordance with the approved timetable. Individual members of BAME Labour and organisations affiliated to BAME Labour may make nominations for the whole executive up to the number of positions on the executive, including the officer positions and the representatives on the party's bodies in accordance with the approved procedure.
- 7.6. Only BAME Labour members who are up to date with their subscriptions at the close of nominations may be nominated for the election in question.
- 7.7. Eligible candidates for any election must be validly nominated. A nomination is valid if a candidate is nominated by either
 - a) 20 fully paid up members of BAME Labour, or
 - b) 14 fully paid up members of BAME Labour and one affiliated trade union, or
 - c) 18 fully paid up members of BAME Labour and one affiliated socialist society, or
 - d) two affiliated trade unions.
- 7.8. The election of officers and other executive committee members must be declared and reported for information to the biennial meeting. The newly elected executive will take office at the conclusion of the biennial meeting.

8. Positive Action

- 8.1. In ensuring that women members play a full and active role the best practice as operated by the party in respect of quotas shall be followed at all times. A 50 % quota will apply for representatives to party bodies.

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1. This constitution can only be amended at the biennial meeting or a special meeting convened in accordance with 9.2 below by a two thirds majority of the electoral college of those BAME Labour members and affiliated organisations present.
- 9.2. The executive of BAME Labour has the power to call a special conference with powers to amend the constitution if the need arises between biennial meetings. Voting rights will be given to those BAME Labour members and affiliated organisations who are fully paid with respect to their BAME Labour membership or affiliation fee at the date of despatch of notice of such conference.
- 9.3. If at any time in the future BAME Labour ceases to function in accordance with these rules, or ceases to work effectively, then the party will have the power to take appropriate action, including under the constitutional rules of the party.
- 9.4. If the biennial meeting has not been held within 28 months of the previous one, this will automatically trigger a referral to the party for consideration of further action.

- 9.5. Meetings should be conducted in a comradely fashion, in such a way as to maximize participation from persons entitled to attend. No one entitled to attend shall be precluded because they cannot gain access to the meeting room for any reason. Harassment or intimidation of members on the basis of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability or race is unacceptable.
- 9.6. BAME Labour and BAME Labour executive shall work closely with the NEC and in particular work closely with the party's staff to deliver its aims and objectives.

10. Appendix Membership Fees

10.1. The membership subscription for individual members is set out in this appendix to these rules as amended from time to time and is determined by the biennial meeting of BAME Labour.

The membership fee shall be a biennial fee payable on joining and every 24 months after the member's joining date.

Current members whose membership is up to date by 30 July 2011 shall have their membership extended until the end of the month in which the biennial meeting takes place in 2013.

For new members joining on or after 1 August 2011 the fee shall be £5.

10.2. Organisations that are affiliated to the Labour Party are eligible for affiliation to BAME Labour. The subscription fee for organisations affiliating to BAME Labour is set out in this appendix to these rules as amended from time to time and is determined by the biennial meeting of BAME Labour.

The affiliation fee shall be a biennial fee.

For the Cooperative Party and any socialist society the affiliation fee is £50.00.

For each affiliated trade union their affiliation fee shall be determined by the size of the membership of that union.

Up to 10,000 members	£50.00
Up to 50,000 members	£100.00
Up to 100,000 members	£300.00
Up to 200,000 members	£400.00
Up to 400,000 members	£500.00
400,001 members or more	£1,000.00