

Cllr Rabi Martins

for party vice -president



Nominated by the Watford local party
and members across the country

A Personal note to Lib Dem Party Members

Dear Friends,

I joined the Party over 30 years ago because Liberal Democrats are committed to creating a Fair, Open and Equal Society. I remain a member of the Party because I believe that its ethos and commitment has not changed.

Why then do African, Asian and Caribbean voters opt to support the Conservative and Labour Party in preference to the Liberal Democrats? That is the question the Party needs to address in order to attract more support from voters of Black and other ethnic minority origins.

The good news is we know why we continue to lag behind Labour and Conservatives in attracting support from BAME communities. The answers have been found for us through the various reviews that have been undertaken on the subject over the years. The most recent study of the problem was done by my Watford colleague Baroness Dorothy Thornhill. Prior to that Lord John Alderdice also undertook a comprehensive review of the same issue and produced a report full of practical suggestions.

Sadly the recommendations in their reports appear to have been just left to gather dust. Similarly, findings from earlier reviews including the one Lord Dholakia and I undertook in 2002 suffered the same fate as the recommendations were never fully implemented by the Party although I was allowed to take forward my suggestion that an Ethnic Minority Election Task Force be set up. Sadly that body fell victim to another internal review and was killed off within a few years. As a result we continue to remain at ground zero.

Therefore if you elect me as your Vice President my first task will be to examine what prevents the recommendations from these reviews being implemented and what needs to be done to make our Party to be seen as a Party that understands and cares about issues that concern BAME communities in the UK. That is my mission and my goal, I will not rest until I achieve both.

Members have said they want this done and I know I can count on our Party President Mark Pack and Party Leader Ed Davey to help me implement proposals that will drive forward our Party Racial Inclusion Agenda.

With best wishes *Rabi*

PS. Increase BAME Engagement and End BME Deficit - Vote 1 for Rabi Martins

A Respected Campaigner for Racial Equity



✓ A founder Liberal Democrat member, recognised on race equity and community engagement. A proven record of standing up for all communities. Long standing Watford Borough councillor, twice serving as Civic Chairman and has been the **East of England Diversity Champion** and has served on the LGA Equalities Board. Established the **Ethnic Minority Election Task Force** that played a key role in election of the first BME MP since 1892 in the Leicester East By-election of 2004.

Established reputation & recognition with communities



✓ Established reputation and high recognition within Party and in the Indian, Pakistani, Kashmiri and Sri Lankan diaspora in the UK. Well known amongst all communities including the African and Caribbean as a campaigner for Racial Justice and Equality.

Was an aide to Party Present Lord Dholakia, served as a diversity adviser to party CEO Chris Fox. Has been a member of Federal Committees and has held the position of Vice- Chair on EMLD. **Rabi has the negotiation, communication and organisational skills needed for this role.**

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5 Pledges from Rabi as your prospective Vice-President

If you elect me as Vice President I will help enhance the appeal of Liberal Democrats to BME Communities by engaging on issues that concern them.

- 1** Our Party has a poor record of attracting support and participation from members of BAME Communities **I will** use my experience in Watford to work with Local Parties through councillors and activists plus HQ Staff to implement schemes to draw these hard to reach groups to our Party. This will boost our chances of winning Council and Parliamentary seats.
- 2** **I will** Work with LDCRE, BLAC; Chinese Lib Dems and develop a Framework for BAME Engagement as a tool to encourage and assist local Lib Dem Parties to enable people of African, Caribbean, Chinese, Indian, Pakistani and other non-white origins to discuss local, national and international issues that impact on their lives and livelihood in the UK.
- 3** **I will** Ensure that BME Engagement and Representation is a Standing Item on the Federal Board Agenda.
- 4** **I will** Drive forward the implementation of recommendations from the Thornhill & Alderdice Reports.
- 5** **I will** Consider if and how the Rooney Rule can be made to work within our Party and, if appropriate, ensure it is brought into use.

An endorsement from Peter Taylor, Lib Dem Elected Mayor of Watford



Dear members,

Given that a key responsibility of the Vice President is to help our Party increase support from individuals of Asian, Black and African/Caribbean and other ethnic backgrounds both within and outside the Party I have no hesitation in saying I believe Rabi is the right person for the job.

Rabi has a high profile and great deal of respect amongst leaders in these communities in Watford and around the country. I also think he has the character and skills that the role will demand. That is why I am

very happy to endorse him as a candidate to be our Party Vice President

I know how hard and for how long Rabi has campaigned to end the ethnic deficit at all levels within our Party. Many colleagues have told me of his work in this area over the years. And I have seen it for myself in Watford. Working together locally we have made a difference and have candidates and councillors with various ethnic origins. I am confident Rabi would similarly work with local Parties across the country achieve similar results because he will bring our Party and the Communities closer together.

With best wishes

Peter Taylor

**Rabi Martins has been
championing Racial Inclusive needs
within our party for over 20 years**