

Hi Claire,

Sorry for the delay, I have as you can guess been snowed under with brilliant questions and messages of support. I found the questions very interesting and wanted to give considered answers. I hope you will pass them on for me. I want to also pass on my thanks for being given this opportunity.

So here goes!

Question 1

I am very much in support of measures that ensure greater diversity in the Party and will promote fair representation. It must be recognised that the All Women Shortlist has been very effective in creating a more gender balanced Parliamentary Party, however I am concerned to seek reassurance that disabled women are encouraged to stand and that steps are taken to ensure disabled women are fairly represented in the women selected by these lists. I also think it is important to ensure Transgendered women, who are legally women, are not discriminated against. I welcome the idea and support the principle of AWS for a quota of seats in all election. Currently despite there being a massive under representation of disabled people e.g. At the last general election less than 1% of candidates declared a disability yet 20% of the population declares a disability. Unfortunately the option of ADL lists is not open to us due to legal reasons. I would hope that we can call on you to support a call for legislation change in the first Labour Parliament to allow ADL.

Question 2

It is very important to ensure that women do not lose out in the boundary changes. I will certainly if elected act to ensure there will be no erosion of fair representation.

Question 3.

As a disabled candidate it is important to me that we have fair representation for diversity groups and it is important that we have transparency on this. So I certainly support your call for the Party to publish data on the diversity of candidates. This must be for all elections and shortlists. If elected I will propose the data be released.

Question 4

I think we as a Party must address the issues of discrimination and abusive behaviour against all diversity groups including women. We must ensure that there is a greater dialogue between the NEC and diversity members. We must ensure there is education and training for all CLP Executives, officers and for others at all levels of the Party. We also need to ensure a transparent disciplinary

Question 5

I believe it is important that we have a transparent, fair, and supportive independent complaints system not just for sexual harassment but all forms of harassment , discrimination and abuse.

Question 6

I believe it is important for the Labour Party to publish transparent evidence to show how it is doing with equal pay for Labour employees. I will if elected be calling for the release of such evidence.

Question 7

I think it is important that we increase diversity and fair representation for all diversity groups at all level. I believe there should 50% women on all key and strategic committees at all levels. We must ensure also other diversity groups including disabled members, BAME and LGBT members have their voices heard too.

Question 8

I question the need for single sex panels at Labour events open to all members surely we must ensure fair representation at these events and we should be encouraging the use of gender neutral language when promoting events open to all members. The one exception should be if there are closed single sex events such as if LWN have a women only event.

Question 9

I actually go further on this. I believe 50% of any future leadership contest should be made up of women candidates and if elected I will be calling for the creation of a second deputy leader of the Labour Party and that in future there should be one female and one male deputy leader.

Question 10

Again I go further on this issue. Not only do I believe that the Party must provide parental leave for MPs and councillors. I believe it must be extended to all Labour employees and if elected I pledge to champion wherever possible job sharing and a buddy scheme to give temporary support when needed. I believe it is important that wherever possible we remove barriers to elected and public office. I believe such measures will encourage not just women but also disabled members too,

I am proud to support you

Jonathan Fletcher
#VoteJonathanFletcherForNEC