

Hello,

I'm Theodore Michael, NEC Youth Rep candidate, membership number L1242602, and these are my responses to your questions.

1. Will you defend the principle and implementation of All Women Shortlists, and commit to a Labour manifesto pledge to change the law to extend these to mayoral, local government and police and crime commissioner elections, and to ensure their use is legal until parity is sustainable without them?
  - Absolutely, and I'm very much disappointed this isn't already enforced in our mayoral, local government, and police and crime commissioner elections.
2. Will you ensure Labour publishes data about the diversity of its candidates in all elections, in accordance with section 106 of the Equality Act?
  - Of course.
3. Will you support the urgent introduction of an independent complaints system for sexual harassment, from first contact to final outcome?
  - Yes I believe this is urgently needed, and will work my utmost to implement this.
4. What actions will you take to ensure Labour tackles a culture of sexism and misogyny from the grassroots up?
  - First of all, I'll reach out and consult female members and groups to find out how they have been suffering and what is the best course of action on personal cases. I'll also ask members and groups affected what have you seen the party do to try to stop sexism and misogyny in the party, and what you think it should be doing more of. I'll hold meetings with all the political groups in the Labour Party on fighting bullying as well towards women as well. I will contact existing members or previous members of the NEC, and the party leadership to ask what they are currently doing to tackle this sad problem.
5. Will you sign LWN's campaign to #KeepTheGoodStuff from the Covid-19 crisis and reduce barriers to women's political participation by introducing a degree of long-term virtual access to Labour Party meetings and events?
  - I'm proud to say I already have.

6. Will you support the annual continuation of the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Scheme, which has successfully empowered women to stand for office and act as agents of positive change in their local parties, communities and workplaces?

- Absolutely, it is definitely something we should keep and continue to grow. I'm very happy to have recommended people that admire to take part in the scheme.

7. What steps will you take to improve the diversity of Labour Party staff in senior and strategic roles?

- Of course, I will actively encourage people to put themselves forward, and I will fight for shortlists.

8. Will you ensure that Labour women have a formal voice at every level of the party, and that a meaningful and engaging Women's Conference takes place every year?

- Definitely, and I will make sure that the annual Women's Conference gets the funds and support it deserves and needs.

9. Will you take action to ensure no Labour Party event advertises an all male panel or uses gendered language?

- Yes, this is something I think sadly the party as a whole and the party across the UK needs a lot of work on.

10. Will you ask Labour Groups to introduce formal parental leave arrangements for councillors, so baby leave is not a barrier to public life, and commit to a Labour manifesto pledge giving a legal right to baby leave for all forms of elected office?

- Of course. In this day and age we shouldn't have to still be discussing this.

Kind regards and solidarity

Theo Michael