

LABOUR WOMEN'S NETWORK | STRATEGY 2020

OUR VISION

We believe Labour women are an enormous asset for progressive politics, but that they are not always given the opportunities to make the full contribution of which they are capable. Our strategic starting point is that the primary problem facing women in politics is not their lack of skills or confidence, it is, as elsewhere, their lack of power. Labour Women's Network exists to empower Labour women through training, campaigning and networking. We won't stop until women exercising power, at all levels of the Party, is a permanent, unremarkable fact of Labour life.

OUR MISSION

Labour Women's Network exists to secure the election of more Labour women to public office at every level and to support Labour women to play a full part in the Party.

OUR VALUES

Labour Women's Network believes that women are equal to men, and that all women are equal. We recognise the particular barriers to political participation faced by LBT, disabled, BAME and working class women and work to celebrate the diversity and strength of Labour women in all we do. We are a democratic membership organisation, run by a Management Committee who are elected by and accountable to our members.

OUR APPROACH

We recognise that all redistributions of power can be painful for those who have to give up or share their power and we recognise the need to both celebrate progress and name the problem when progress is slowed or derailed. That is why over the next 5 years, in line with the results of our membership survey, Labour Women's Network will be placing a greater emphasis on campaigning, alongside our flagship programme of training. We want to give our members the tools to influence the policy, practice and culture of the Party, as well as the opportunities to secure elected office if they choose.



OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS WE WILL WORK TO...

1. Ensure the increase of Labour women at all levels of elected office by:

- continuing our flagship aspiring parliamentary candidates training to train a minimum of 200 women over the next 5 years
- defending All Women Shortlists as a mechanism for gender justice in parliamentary selections
- ensuring the full application of Party rules on women in local government selections and working to improve women's access to and experience of local government positions of power

2. Ensure continual improvement in the grassroots culture of the Labour Party by:

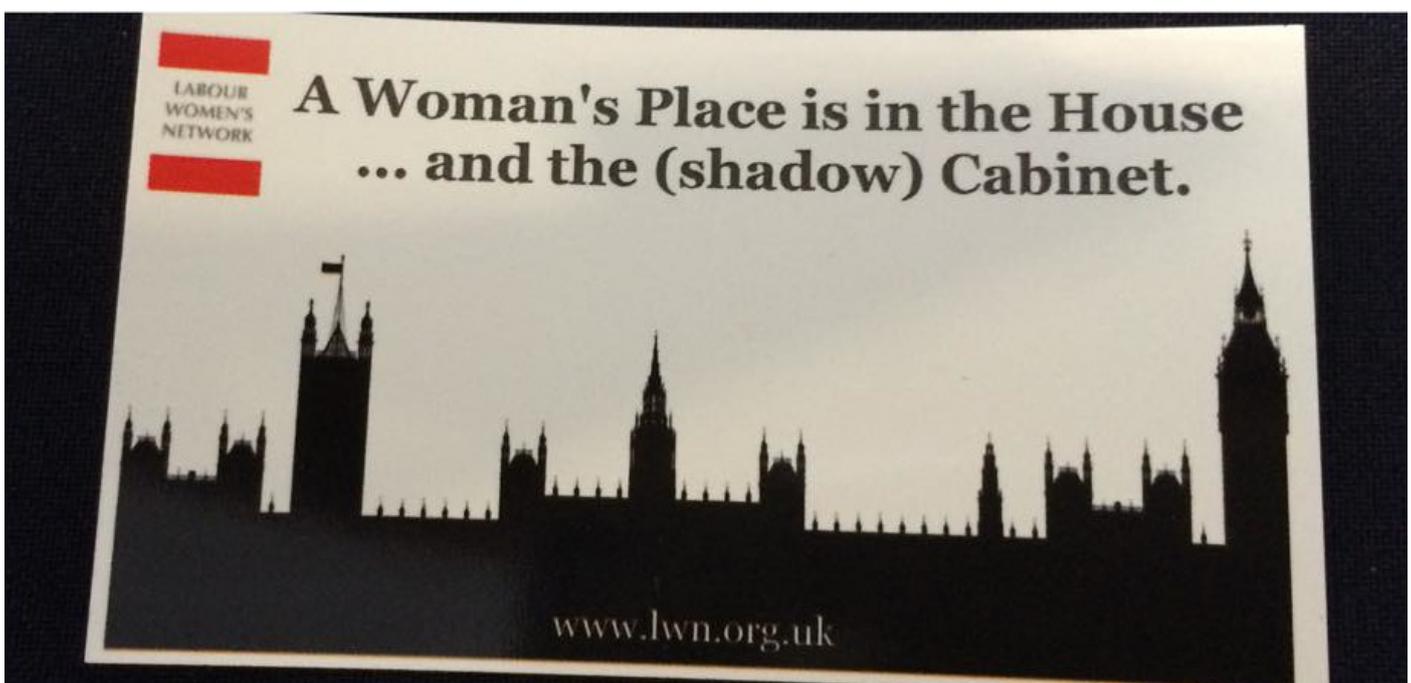
- securing the implementation of a comprehensive policy on sexual harassment
- providing training and networking for Labour women in local government
- resourcing CLP Women's Officers

3. Ensure that women have equal access to all the public and private levers of political power in the Labour Party and wider progressive politics by:

- supporting women who are Labour Party staff, or aspire to having a staff position
- working with progressive organisations to improve their performance on empowering and profiling Labour women
- campaigning to ensure women are present and visible at all levels of Labour life, including HQ, the elections team, the NEC, the NPF, the PAd/ SpAd pool, the organisers' team and in the Future Candidates' programme

4. Ensure that Labour is at the forefront of feminist policy and campaigning work by:

- working with partner organisations to develop feminist Labour policy and ensure that Labour women are a visible presence in the feminist movement



OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS WE WILL PRIORITISE...

1. Training

- We will put a minimum of 200 women through our Aspiring Parliamentary Candidates course and continue to develop and improve it
- We will develop a new Local Government Leadership course and put a minimum of 100 women through it
- We will develop a networked panel of trained trainers in each region/nation and develop grassroots training for them to deliver
- We will offer, at cost, to assist other parts of the movement to develop and/or feminise their training
- We will take appropriate steps to ensure at all times that our training is accessible to women from all backgrounds and all parts of the Party

2. Campaigning

- We will launch a big campaign for equality in the Party, covering all strands of our work
- We will ramp up our work as a 'where are the women?' watch dog, publicly calling out blogs, panels and appointment decisions which exclude or diminish women
- We will conduct and publish research on women's experience of selections, with a set of recommendations for reform we will pursue through the Party's structures, using our members as advocates for change
- We will conduct research on sexual harassment in politics and campaign to ensure Labour is a national pioneer in providing a safe space for women politicians, staff and activists

3. Networking

- We will increase the level of active membership amongst MPs and graduates, and further develop the offer for our graduates
- We will expand the Speakers' Panel and ensure Labour's women experts are known to the people who control progressive publishing platforms and conferences
- We will establish a Labour women in local government network
- We will update and redistribute the Political Education Guide
- We will build a network of Women's Officers provide them with resources and support
- We will establish a Labour Women's Staff Network
- We will run a yearly political day where women can come together and debate politics and policy

4. Building a better organisation

- We will raise enough money to sustain and grow the organisation
- We will double our membership by 2020 and double the number of LWN supporters
- We will ensure our membership and our committee is diverse and our materials and events inclusive and accessible
- We will maintain strong relationships with other feminist organisations

