

# Grace Blakeley

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Dear Colleagues

## Seeking nomination for the National Policy Forum (London)

This summer we will be voting to decide who represents members in our region on the National Policy Forum (NPF). Ahead of the election I am writing to seek your constituency's nomination. The closing date for nominations to be received is in June 2018, nomination forms and details of the process were sent to CLP secretaries with the annual conference pack.

## Democracy and accountability

Labour's half a million members are the party's lifeblood. We rely on local activists to fund us, mobilise our supporters, and spread our message. But too often we fail to engage members in the policy making process. Party policy is often determined from the top-down, based on advice from technocrats and experts rather than the views of members themselves. Developing policy in this way is not just anti-democratic, it also limits members' engagement and stifles radical debate. The NPF should be a body that seeks out members' views and works to transform those ideas into workable, radical policy proposals. It should be hosting public events on Labour party policy, helping to foster a culture of learning and debate. The forum should also function as a platform through which members can hold policymakers in the party to account. I am elected I will work to ensure that the NPF does all these things, in order to reinvigorate policymaking in the Labour party from the grassroots.

## Policy

Since the 1980s successive governments have contributed to the creation of a financialised, debt-laden economy that works to enrich the 1% at the expense of everyone else. This economic model has not only created acute suffering, it has also wrought deep and lasting damage to our economy. On a whole series of measures – from productivity, to trade, to investment – the UK's economy is failing to work for the people in this country. The new Labour leadership has successfully transformed the narrative on the economy and drawn attention to the extractive, exploitative nature of modern British capitalism. But we have yet to develop a complete, radical policy platform that is supported by the membership and builds popular trust in Labour's economic management. The central task of the NPF should be to work with members to develop a policy platform that actively rebalances power away from capital and towards labour. I will campaign to expand the size of our real economy relative to our finance sector and promote public ownership and investment, transform our labour market, and rebuild our public services – the social infrastructure upon which all economic activity depends.

## About me

For the last year and a half, I have worked at the Institute for Public Policy Research researching and advocating for radical policies to transform our economy. I have written extensively about UK macroeconomic policy, regional and sectoral imbalances, and our position in the global economy. I have discussed my research in publications like the New Statesman and the Independent, and broadcasters such as the Today Programme and BBC News. I am also an active campaigner – I hold elected positions in my ward, my CLP, London Young Labour, and my workplace union.

## What you can expect from me

As a member of the NPF, I will advocate democratic reform of the policy making process and will campaign for radical policies to transform our economy. As an experienced activist, campaigner, and policy maker, I know that a policy platform *for* the many must be built *by* the many, not the few.

Yours, Grace

