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Seeking nomination for the National Policy Forum (South West) elections 2018

Dear Colleagues,

In the summer we will be voting to decide who represents members in our region on the National Policy Forum, I am writing to ask for your constituency's nomination as a representative for the South West. **The closing date for CLP nominations is Friday 22nd June 2018**, details of the process and nomination forms have been sent to your CLP secretary with the annual conference pack. The nominations period will then be followed by a one-member-one-vote ballot.

About me

I work at the University of Bristol and am a member and Young officer of the UoB UNISON branch. I became politically aware due to the tripling of tuition fees, and was involved in the feedback process as chair of the course rep system at Portsmouth University. As a branch secretary in my ward, and recent regional delegate for my CLP, I have a good working understanding of Labour party structures. I am involved in the organising group of Momentum Bristol and Bristol Momentum youth.

Process & Accountability

Party processes must be transparent, fair, accessible, and engaging, particularly when it comes to policy making. As your representative I would look to achieve a proper hearing for member contributions. I have experience in canvassing across several CLPs, organising informal meetings discussing local policy and am proficient in running social media accounts. I will reach out to CLPs and provide updates from meetings. If elected, I aim to work with regional and various LCFs to convene local policy forums alongside the other elected representatives, to empower members to create policy- not just education policy but also on all those issues. I will raise policy proposals from the membership at NPF meetings for shadow ministers to consider. Also, raising awareness of the online NPF website for submissions is a priority.

Policy

The recent UCU dispute has highlighted that staff/students are united against a race to the bottom on pay and benefits, and re-opened the conversation on the commodification of HE; a conversation which I am eager to facilitate through implementing policy forums. I am committed to Labour's manifesto pledge of free university tuition.

Teachers deserve dignity; a right to improved working conditions and pay so they can concentrate on teaching future generations. Bringing schools back into local authority control allows for local community scrutiny and democratic involvement, over hierarchical business structures which focus on narrow targets and exam results. To provide quality education we need well trained educators, and reinstating local authority budgets should lead to increased funding, for teaching and other vital services.

My policy priorities on the NPF would also include housing, health and the environment, all of which are vital components to a sustainable education system.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Yours in solidarity,
Thomas Pearce