

# Stephanie Peacock NEC Youth Rep



## NEC Report September 2008

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### Leader's Report

Gordon Brown spoke about a range of issues in his Leader's report, including the economic difficulties facing the country and the widespread effect that the trebling of oil prices has had with increasing heat and transport costs.

He also talked about the need to challenge the Tories highlighting the effect that some of their policies would have such as their inheritance tax cuts for millionaires. He said that while the Tories have changed their image, their policies and values are the same. He was asked a range of questions on issues such as Sri Lanka, Georgia and support for the Gurkhas.

### Deputy Leader's Report

Harriet Harman also focused on the global economic problems and how we need to protect and help those most at risk. She also spoke about the need for the Party to present its policy programme at Conference, have a united front and take the fight to the Tories.

## **Annual Conference**

The NEC received a security briefing ahead of Conference next week, along with details of the timings and themes for the week.

- It was agreed that Conference will now run straight through lunch on the Wednesday and end at 2pm.
- Late accreditation will be situated in the Premier Inn and the taxi rank will be situated at Mount Street.
- You can look up all Conference events and plan your week online at [http://www.labour.org.uk/conference\\_events/?tmtid=1480-430-2-73-3040](http://www.labour.org.uk/conference_events/?tmtid=1480-430-2-73-3040)

There are four official events taking place during this year's Party Conference for youth and students members:

- The Young Labour Reception will be held on the Saturday of Conference in the Unite Marquee from 8pm to 10.30pm. Speakers include: a Andy Burham MP, Ed Milliband MP, Dawn Butler MP (Vice Chair Youth)
- Young Labour's fringe on Sunday will be on the National Year of Reading, 12.30pm-1.30pm, in the Richter Suite, Radisson Hotel. Kindly sponsored by the Co-operative Party, speakers include: Schools Secretary Ed Balls MP.
- The Labour Students fringe meeting "The Student Offer: Winning for Students, Winning for Labour" will also be in the Sunday, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm in Alex A, Midland Hotel. Speakers include Universities Secretary John Denham MP and NUS National President Wes Streeting.
- The Labour Students Party will take place on Tuesday night, from 9pm until late at Brannigans.

## **General Secretary's Report**

- The General Secretary gave a statement surrounding recent media speculation and calls by some members of the PLP for

ballot papers to be issued to all members of the PLP. The NEC supported the General Secretary and independent legal advisors that a Leadership election when in Government can only be held if requested by a majority of Party Conference on a card vote, and only Labour MPs can trigger the process.

- A Partnership in Power report was given following July's National Policy Forum meeting in Warwick. The six amended documents will go forward to Conference and a short summary of what was agreed will be available for CLPs shortly.
- The NEC were given a report on the Glasgow East and upcoming Glenrothes by-elections. There is now a candidate in place in Glenrothes and volunteers to help in the campaign are very welcome.
- Congratulations were passed on to Iain Gray and Joanna Lamont who were last week elected Leader and Deputy Leader of the Scottish Labour Party. It was noted that the contest went very well, with good use of the internet and popular husting events.

### **Votes at 16!**

Labour's National Policy Forum recently endorsed votes at 16. Young members of the NPF argued that lowering the voting age to 16 will give young people more of a voice and a stake in their communities, and will help tackle disengagement in politics amongst young people.

Votes at 16 also gives young people a chance to cast a vote in support of Labour's proud record of investment in youth services, schools and in tackling youth unemployment – at a time when these services matter most to young people.

Labour is taking this bold step to empower young people, but the battle isn't won yet. YLNC has been working hard to publicise this victory, we have sent a campaign pack to all MPs and email to every

young member as Votes at 16 must still be ratified by annual conference – and you can help to make sure they do.

Please visit my website for links to a campaign pack with helpful articles, petitions and surveys to gather support for votes at 16.

**Events I have recently attended:**

- Plumstead by-election
- Women Chainmaker's Festival.
- 'Zimbabwe, new era, new challenges' – discussion with student leaders.

If you have any questions or issues you would like to raise with me please get in touch at [stephaniepeacock@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniepeacock@gmail.com) or visit [www.stephaniepeacock.com](http://www.stephaniepeacock.com)

Best wishes,

**Stephanie Peacock**