

The Labour Party's 73rd Conference

Preliminary Agenda

Climate

Motion 1

That conference supports the transfer of the Aircraft Noise Competent Authority from Fingal County Council to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dublin Fingal

Work

Motion 2

The UCC Labour Society calls on the Labour Party to draft of a bill, designating abuse and threats against retail, healthcare and all public facing staff as a specific public order criminal offence.

UCC Labour Branch

Motion 3

Government agencies like the IDA are tasked with bringing Foreign Direct Investment into Ireland to secure better paying jobs. It is clear that the IDA has been successful in bringing many of these jobs into Irish cities with the Dublin region taking the lions share.

Conference asks why communities that are grappling with an aging population, largely attributed to the scarcity of employment opportunities beyond the seasonal hospitality and tourism sector are being neglected.

Conference mandates the Party Leadership, Executive Board and Parliamentary Party to develop a new strategy focused on ensuring the equitable and fair distribution of better paying jobs across Ireland and then seek to introduce this strategy as policy with government agencies like the IDA.

Tralee- Rock Street Branch

Motion 4

Conference calls on the party to campaign for essential workers rights to be introduced to ensure that workers in this country can have an effective right to organise and to collectively bargain.

Conference notes that

- by November 2024, the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum wages has to be transposed into Irish law.
- That this directive offers enormous potential to turn the tide for workers and trade unionists in Ireland in trying to expand collective bargaining coverage and to improve wages for many of the lowest paid,

- That it imposes obligations on Ireland to put in place a framework to promote collective bargaining and that by virtue of this, that it offers a long awaited opportunity to force the improvement in workers rights in this country.

Conference calls on the party to campaign for

- Much needed changes to the unfair dismissals legislation so that workers and union activists do not face the threat of dismissal or victimisation
- That the 12-month service period before being able to access the protections of the unfair dismissals legislation is deleted and that it is brought into line with Health and Safety legislation and protected disclosures legislation
- Legislation to ensure an implicit right to organise thereby allowing access of union activists to workplaces and to workers
- Legislation to end the veto of employers to collectively bargained sectoral employment agreements.

Navan Road and District Branch

Motion 5

Conference notes the many challenges facing workers in modern Ireland, the continued prevalence of low pay, and the rise of new forms of workplace insecurity.

Conference further notes the vital role of trade unions in securing better pay and conditions for working people, as well as in creating a more just economy and society for all.

Conference commends the Irish Congress of Trade Unions for their ambitious all-Ireland campaign 'Better In A Trade Union', running between February and April 2024, which aims to ensure that all working people are aware of the benefits of being part of a trade union.

Conference further commends ICTU's campaign for seeking to profile the diverse nature of trade union members in Ireland.

Conference calls on all members and public representatives of the Labour Party to give active support for the 'Better In A Trade Union' campaign.

North Dock / East Wall Branch

Motion 6

Conference notes that the Trade Unions in Ireland cannot engage in collective bargaining on behalf of its retired members owing to legal constraints. As retired workers require strong organisers to advocate on their behalf, Labour will seek the necessary legal changes to allow Unions to engage in collective bargaining on behalf of their retired members.

Ross Connolly Branch, Greystones

Motion 7

Conference recognises that inequality erodes social cohesion, leads to political polarisation and ultimately slow and lower economic growth.

Conference believes the current cost of living crisis has been accelerated by an economy that prioritises extreme profit at the expense of the living standards and wages of workers leading to the widening of the gap in income and wealth inequality.

Conference believes that the root of this crisis is a structural imbalance of power and the distribution of wealth, which permeates the world of work, how the economy operates and drives institutionalised inequalities of class.

Conference believes that the cost-of-living crisis is a low pay crisis.

Conference therefore resolves that the Labour Party will prioritise policies that are committed to taking urgent steps to improve pay and build a fairer economy underpinned by transparent and progressive taxation system that guarantees the better off pay more. A real Labour economy.

Furthermore, conference is gravely concerned and equally aware of the critical challenges workers face in the development and introduction of new digital technologies.

Workers will need new skills to adapt to the changing world of work, and to respond to the potential challenges that new technologies pose such as driving discrimination and inequality.

The increased use of automation and AI in the workplace is occurring rapidly across all sectors.

The solution to this crisis and all major challenges converging on society, from the climate emergency to the health and housing crisis, is rooted in the expansion of the state and the democratic control of our utilities and essential industries.

Conference believes that we can only CLOSE THE GAP ON INCOME INEQUALITY if we strengthen trade union rights, including workers having the right to be represented by a trade union for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Conference resolves that Labour, as the political wing of the Labour and trade union movement, will act to;

- Support trade unions as the most effective vehicles to organise workers and deliver better jobs, pay and conditions that creates the race to the top for working people including higher wages, wider collective bargaining coverage and stronger employment rights.
- Ensure companies that receive Government financial support, investment or procurement contracts have enforced guarantees to recognise trade unions for the purpose of collective bargaining.
- Call for a new political consensus, a Common Left Platform that will include the need for: Taking back control of essential services and utilities through new models of democratic and efficient public ownership, democratising the governance systems within big business, introducing fair pay ratios between CEO's and their employees and ensuring that shareholder dividends are no longer prioritised over workers' wages

- A requirement for employers to consult with workers and their unions on new workplace technologies, as well as usage of existing technology including the use of Equality Impact Assessments which employers must act upon. This should include the requirement to carry out algorithmic impact assessments where data driven systems are used, to understand the impact of such technologies on workers. This to be coupled with a right to retrain for workers, including a legal right to paid time off for retraining and Union activities.

Labour Trade Unionists

Motion 8

Labour is committed to the vigorous management of Ireland’s Labour market in order to rectify the shortages of skill sets that are so evident in so many sectors. Labour will ensure that Technological Universities are focused on vocational education differentiating themselves clearly from traditional Universities and produce graduates that are employment focused. Labour will evolve the role of SOLAS and expand and widen the apprentice programmes significantly and ensure they are flexible and capable of changing and evolving with a view to meeting the needs of Ireland’s labour force into the future.

Whitehall Santry Branch

Housing

Motion 9 – Composite Motion 1

Conference recognises that the housing crisis will require an ambitious combination of practical and innovative solutions to improve the supply of quality, affordable housing in the centre of our cities.

Conference notes that more people living in city centres would support vibrant, sustainable neighbourhoods that future generations can live and work in, with increased density in line with the sustainable development goals and contributes to good place-making and supports the development of the “15 minute city”.

Conference notes that there is potential to increase the housing supply within the existing built environment of our urban centres due to reduced demand for older commercial and office premises, which had been declining prior to the pandemic.

Conference notes that the ‘Living above the shop’ and other initiatives rolled out in local authority areas should be backed by Government in terms of financial, regulatory, and necessary legislative support to improve the delivery of affordable, quality, and attractive housing units in sufficient quantity.

Conference notes that Georgian buildings and other similar buildings in Dublin City, either in their entirety or substantial part thereof, are increasingly becoming vacant, resulting in reduced footfall, a lack of activity and a reduction of passive surveillance, which impacts public safety and crime within city centre areas.

Conference notes that, because of Ireland's climate obligations, these premises will have to be retrofitted so this should be done as part of an overall programme to convert them into residential use.

Conference notes that Limerick has made its Georgian Quarter the centre of its approach to urban regeneration and that lessons should be learned from international cities on transforming such older buildings to provide affordable and the right mix of homes catering for young people, individuals, students, families, and older people. The strategy should introduce:

1. A special co-operative approach could be put together to repurpose entire buildings and/or vacant upper floors into a range of quality and affordable accommodation types.
2. A specific laneway policy to repurpose mews buildings, vacant commercial premises, derelict or underdeveloped buildings into providing own-door family homes in the city.
3. Provision of the necessary funding and resources to Dublin City Council to develop this housing co-operative model and to roll-out pilot initiatives.
4. Conference therefore calls for a significant increase in staffing and funding to allow local authorities more effectively realise the regeneration of vacant and derelict buildings in our local communities for housing and community use.

Pembroke/Tom Johnson Branch, Dublin Bay South

Dublin Bay North

Motion 10

Conference calls on Government to initiate a large scale local authority house building programme on council land, acknowledging the overdependence of this current Government on the private market to provide any housing solutions in this housing crisis.

Athy Branch

Motion 11

Conference notes the ongoing housing crisis is having a detrimental effect on many families

Conference calls for more state investment particularly in affordable housing

Conference calls on councils in Ireland to CPO land for housing

Conference additionally calls for all housing measures to have priorities for disabled people

Wicklow Constituency

Motion 12

Conference recognises the important role of place-making in community development and community cohesion. Neighbourhoods having dedicated spaces to meet, play sports and generally recreate is an important part of building a community. Presently the Department of Housing does not fund the inclusion of indoor dedicated community spaces in social housing developments. Therefore, Conference calls for funding to be made available by the Department of Housing for

indoor community spaces all social housing developments so we can increase local community facilities as we build and regenerate our social housing across the country.

Donaghmede Branch

Motion 13

Conference confirms its support for the homeowners in Donegal, Mayo, Limerick and Clare affected by the defective concrete crisis.

Conference underlines the need for 100% redress for those affected homeowners and the need to recognise that this is a national issue.

Conference expresses its deep criticism at the lack of urgency in finding an effective solution to this crisis and calls on government to expedite this process as a matter of absolute priority.

Conference mandates the Labour party to continue to advocate for and on behalf of all homeowners impacted by this defective concrete crisis in pursuit of a fair, timely and workable solution equal to the end to end schemes already offered in other defective concrete redress schemes.

Donegal Branch

Motion 14

Conference recognises that Housing cannot be treated both as a commodity and a human right.

Conference reaffirms that Labour policy in housing is to ensure that the State takes a central role in the provision of secure, affordable, and energy efficient housing, and to prioritise the building of public housing on public land.

Conference calls for the adoption of a radical Labour housing programme, to ensure the delivery of one million homes over 10 years through an integrated programme providing for 500,000 New Builds and for the bringing back into use of 500,000 existing dwellings through Deep RetroFit and Refurbishment. This programme must include:

- The establishment of a state construction company to be brought under the aegis of the Land Development Agency.
- The mounting of a proactive national recruitment campaign to bring in skilled building workers from abroad.
- An increase in pay rates for those on apprenticeship programmes and a scheme to address bogus self-employment, and to attract more school leavers into construction training.
- A programme to promote modern off-site construction methods to deliver a high volume of housing in a short space of time.
- A massive programme to tackle vacancy and dereliction across the country.
- Radical reform of planning law, to include the adoption of a “use it or lose it” policy to incentivise developers to commence construction, rather than tolerating speculators who continue to sit on inactive permissions.
- The implementation of the recommendations of the Kenny report.

Motion 15

Conference notes that in the twenty years since the end of the Celtic Tiger, levels of homeownership have dropped steadily standing at just 67%.

Those under 35 are having a harder time than ever accessing their own home causing enormous distress. Some older people are trapped renting for the rest of their lives, which is hugely costly for the State in having to subsidise pensions.

Rents are rising and small landlords are leaving the market. Tax disincentives have not deterred institutional investors buying higher-end properties. There is little or nothing to rent in the middle and lower end.

Conference demands that the Minister for Housing should introduce measures to:

- Rapidly expand the cost rental sector which is aimed at those above the social housing limits.
- Re-impose a ban on evictions (without good reason) in the private rented sector.
- Enable Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies embark on a Social House Building Programme including Co-operative Housing.
- Engage with small construction companies who would have a social, community, ethos in building social housing.
- Scale up affordable purchase options and shared equity schemes.

Labour calls for the setting up of an apprenticeship programme to address shortfalls in the construction workforce, especially skilled labour.

Dun Laoghaire Constituency

Motion 16

Conference recognises the key role our local authorities play in the planning, design and delivery of social, cost rental and affordable purchase housing on our public lands. However, conference also recognises the bureaucratic hurdles (4 stage process) they encounter when progressing housing developments with the Department of Housing, often slowing down progress and adding cost. Conference therefore calls for a reduction in this bureaucracy and an increase in local authority autonomy, capacity and flexibility to more efficiently and effectively deliver social, cost rental and affordable purchase housing across our local communities.

Santry Kilmore Branch

Motion 17

The conference calls on the government to deliver on the social and affordable housing commitments on the Irish Glass Bottle site in Ringsend.

Shelbourne Branch

Motion 18

Conference calls upon the Labour Party to commit to a programme of Home and Community building based upon the twin values of affordability and sustainability in line with other European models.

Immigration and Integration

Motion 19 – Composite Motion 2

Conference recognises that Labour has always championed the values of equality, solidarity and fairness in Irish society.

Conference notes the increasing level of fake news and false narratives around the immigration issue in Ireland.

Conference notes that Labour has consistently stood for the rights of migrants, and greater recognition for the positive benefits of inward migration to Ireland. Labour representatives have long advocated for strong integration efforts to create a more inclusive, diverse and pluralist society.

Conference notes further the work being carried out by Labour to strengthen integration efforts in local communities where accommodation is being provided for refugees or those seeking refugee status, for example through welcome group initiatives like the D6 and D4 For All welcome groups established in the Dublin Bay South constituency by Labour representatives.

Conference commends Labour representatives for campaigning to see the rollout of a comprehensive and robust information programme from Government to challenge disinformation about migration similar to what is done around referendums or the more recent Covid Information leaflets, and calls for the inclusion in Labour's election manifesto of a strong commitment to support and develop integration efforts in communities nationwide.

Fitzgerald Kearney Branch, Portobello, Dublin Bay South

New Ross Branch

Motion 20

This conference acknowledges that the Labour Party holds steadfast in our determination to combat prejudice, racism, and hate crimes in our society. The persistent reality of racism, prejudice, and hate crimes taints our society. In addition to undermining the ideals of justice and equality, these problems cause severe social, psychological, and financial harm to both individuals and communities.

The Labour Party recognises the critical need to address these issues thoroughly and will always work to create a strong framework that addresses the underlying causes and repercussions of such systemic concerns.

This conference recognises the need for appropriate policies and actions is urgent due to the recent incidents of arson, riots, protests and hate speech. The Labour Party recognises that these incidents are not isolated; they persistently undermine our values of equality, justice, and inclusivity.

Therefore the Labour Party will continue to address these issues head-on, acknowledging the gravity of the situation and our responsibility to act and lead the way in overcoming these systemic failings.

Conference mandates the party to promote, educate and raise awareness, internally and externally

of cultural competency, empathy, and understanding the historical and contemporary effects of racism and to advocate for legislation ensuring fair practices and diversity in representation in leadership roles.

Labour Intercultural

Motion 21

That Conference affirms Labour's commitment to fair and effective immigration policies, rooted in our principles of justice, equity, solidarity and equality. Specifically, that Conference resolves to:

- 1) Comprehensively reform immigration and asylum policies by engaging with all stakeholders to develop evidence-based and human-centred policies
- 2) Work toward building public discourse emphasising the positive contributions of immigrants and asylum seekers to our society

To achieve these aims, we need

- a) a fair transparent and timely asylum process, including legal representation for asylum seekers
- b) to end indefinite detention in Direct Provision centres, instead prioritising community-based support/monitoring
- c) to support policies facilitating family reunification
- d) to improve asylum seekers' access to education and employment
- e) to review Hostile Environment policies and their impact on vulnerable communities/individuals

Galway City West Branch/Galway West

Motion 22

Previous referendum campaigns – led by the Labour Party - have shown us that, when provided with the facts on even the most contentious questions, the Irish electorate comes down on the side of kindness by a margin of approximately two to one.

Immigration is likely to be among the most hotly debated issues of this year's local elections, but we must be clear that a responsible politician does not attempt to curry favour with the minority of the electorate who oppose the rights of international protection applicants to seek shelter in this country, and especially not the tiny minority who support acts of intimidation, or vandalism and destruction against premises designated to house these people.

Principled leadership is vital at a time when some of our communities are under pressure from those who seek to fracture and divide, for their own nefarious purposes.

Conference asserts that we are best served by public representatives who address the fears and concerns of their communities, rather than magnifying them. We are calling on Labour representatives to inform their electorate of the facts around immigration, rather than repeating the misinformation and indeed, disinformation, spread by the bad actors of the far-right.

We can do better. We must do better.

Motion 23

This conference reiterates Labour's commitment to ending direct provision and states the Labour Party's fundamental and principled opposition to profiteering from vulnerable persons fleeing war, persecution and extreme poverty.

Conference notes that the growing excessive commercialisation of private IPAS accommodation is aided by planning exemptions such as those which were introduced by the Government under the Planning and Development Regulations under Class 20F of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2023.

Furthermore, existing provisions under Class 14 (h) inserted by article 4 of the SI No. 582/2015 Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations 2015 which allow for change of use of existing structures to use as accommodation for protected persons may be misused in order to circumvent basic accommodation standards and is therefore no longer fit for purpose and unable to facilitate oversight of planning compliance for the provision of truly suitable accommodation.

Conference mandates the party to develop robust policies to bring about community-based accommodation of applicants for international protection, refugees, and other vulnerable persons by the state and without commercial profit.

Conference further mandates the party to work towards changing planning legislation such that standards for accommodation of protected persons is a matter for the state, that standards are met, that private provision of such accommodation is not facilitated as a commercial for-profit enterprise, and that enforcement of standards for accommodation is possible and accessible at all stages.

Louth Constituency

Motion 24

That Conference respects the rights of communities to seek official information on, or peacefully protest against, initiatives in their areas, but vehemently condemns those who would block, burn or boycott accommodation set aside for people seeking safety and shelter – regardless of age, sex, religion or nationality.

Oughterard-Moycullen Branch/Galway West

Justice

Motion 25

Conference condemns the rioting which took place in Dublin city in November 2023 and recognises that the scenes do not reflect the people or the communities of Dublin's north inner city.

Conference calls for the Party to campaign for

- a significant increase in recruitment of overall garda numbers for Dublin and an overhaul of the working conditions and progression path for community gardaí
- the re-establishment of small policing areas and focusing of garda responsibility accordingly,
- a significant increase in the number of juvenile liaison officers,
- The establishment of a second Garda training college at Garda HQ in the Phoenix Park
- The resourcing of community safety partnerships to ensure that the potential and intent behind these new partnerships can be realised, by recognizing no community can policy its way to being a safer area over any sustainable period.

Conference mandates that the Labour Party, our members and elected representatives continue to defend the diversity of our communities and to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

Dublin Central Constituency Council

Motion 26

We call on the government to increase the amount of days currently provided through domestic violence legislation from 5 days to 10 days leave as a minimum.

We also call on the government to ensure a review to the current domestic violence leave circular within the public sector acting as a barrier to those who need it the most accessing the leave.

We call on Labour to implement legislation ensuring automatic access to legal aid for divorce proceedings when there has been safety, protection orders or coercive control in the marriage/separation and to reduce legal timeframes for separation and divorce from two years.

Dublin North West

Motion 27

Conference calls on the government to review The Family Law (Divorce) Act, 1996, as soon as possible with particular emphasis on the overall cost for the divorcing couples, in order to ensure that it will not be prohibitive for those who wish to end their marriage. A couple in an irreparable relationship should not have to remain together because of the financial burden.

Mayfield Dillons Cross Branch

Motion 28

Conference notes Labour's vow to ban hate crime, maintain a zero-tolerance stance on racism and xenophobia in the 'Labour Election Manifesto 2020'.

Conference regrets the growth of co-ordinated and decentralised extremist far-right and fascist movements and ideology and racism in Ireland over the past 4 years.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to include a strong and clear election promise to counter rising far-right extremism in Ireland in the next 'Labour General Election Manifesto'.

Conference is confident the Labour Party can stunt far-right violence, misinformation, and community radicalisation. Conference also calls on the Labour Party to bring forward legislation to apply suppression orders making far-right terrorist organisations unlawful in Ireland.

Ballymun-Meakstown

Motion 29

Conference notes the rise of far-right populism in Ireland and internationally.

Conference notes that this far right populism manifests itself in hate against various different marginalised groups including LGBTQI+ community, national, ethnic and religious minorities, disabled people.

Conference notes violence and hatred can at times manifest in intersectional ways.

Conference reaffirms support for the Criminal Justice (Incitement to Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill 2022.

Conference recognises that legislation is but one part of addressing these issues. Conference believes a broader approach beyond legislation is needed.

Conference calls on the Government to draw up a National action plan on addressing hate in Irish society.

Labour LGBTQ+

Local Government

Motion 30

Conference notes that Local Government in Ireland is already among the weakest in Europe due to over-centralisation of power by National Government.

Conference believes that the current coalition Government and its Fine Gael led predecessor have further undermined essential powers of local government in planning and housing, not least through such failed initiatives as strategic housing development and co-living.

Conference condemns the Planning and Development Bill which envisages a further centralisation of power and undermines the legitimate rights of local communities to participate in the planning process.

Clonsilla Branch

Motion 31

That this conference call upon the government or any incoming government to commit to a review of the National Planning Framework to allow for the sustainable development of rural towns and villages in terms of health, education, enterprise and housing infrastructure and keep rural Ireland viable with local essential services kept local.

Kinnegad Branch

Motion 32

Conference calls on Government to immediately establish a task force within each local authority to drive infrastructural development with the immediate support of Government in large towns such as Newbridge and other similar large towns, including the provision of roads and bridges to include cycle lanes where needed, the urgent provision of public town buses to tackle the growing problems of gridlock within such towns.

Newbridge Branch

Motion 33

This conference notes that the increase of outsourcing of labour from local authorities is having a detrimental impact on council services and workers. Its prevalence reduces access to decent unionised employment.

We call on each local authority to establish a working group, comprising of Trade Unions, elected Representatives, Directors of Services, community groups and local education providers, to pursue the recruitment of fully qualified trades people that will enable new apprentices to gain employment and join their local authorities.

Dundrum/Sean Fitzpatrick Branch

Motion 34

Conference notes that there has been increasing concern about the incidence of threatening and violent protests at the homes of public representatives. In particular, many prospective candidates are fearful about having their home addresses made public, and this has also been raised as an issue in other jurisdictions.

Conference acknowledges that this can have a "silencing effect" on prospective candidates and prevent them from running for election. This is particularly true for women candidates. These legitimate safety concerns erode the diversity of representation and therefore of our democracy. While candidates may use the addresses of business premises or party political premises on ballot papers this can place candidates at an electoral disadvantage as the norm is still to use home addresses.

Conference calls for a general prohibition on the publication of specific addresses beside candidates' names on ballot papers, and for this practice to be replaced by simple inclusion of the name of the local electoral division in which each candidate resides.

Conference mandates the PLP to campaign for this vital measure to protect public representatives and give confidence to future candidates.

Labour Women

Education

Motion 35

Conference notes that there is a need to provide a framework for community and voluntary sector access to school facilities outside of school hours.

Conference further notes that, in 2020, the Department of Education and Skills produced Guidelines on the Use of School Buildings outside of School Hours, and that a survey of primary schools carried out in early 2016 by the Department of Education showed the variety of uses of school buildings in a significant proportion of schools in Ireland. The range of activities includes after-school activities, homework clubs, breakfast clubs, summer camps, sporting and other activities for children as well as the facilitation of community groups in the evening. Such use of school buildings for recreational and community purposes is encouraged by the Department.

Conference agrees that an implementation framework needs to be established within which School Boards of Management work with School Trustees and local voluntary and community services to facilitate after hours and extracurricular use of buildings as reasonably required.

Conference further agrees that existing community amenities in the form of community centres and Parish Halls hosting vital community services e.g. community childcare, meals on wheels, active ageing etc be safeguarded for use by communities. Such facilities are more than ever needed to facilitate social inclusion of marginalised groups, for example volunteer-led activities that support the integration of new communities.

Conference further calls for resources to be allocated for refurbishment and repairs to these buildings where issues arise in relation to the cost of their upkeep.

Drumcondra / Glasnevin Branch

Motion 36

Conference repeats it's call for a universal, publicly funded childcare scheme, that would ensure equality for children, affordability for families and fairness for professionals.

Conference recognises the urgent need to introduce more measures through the National Childcare Scheme subsidies to reduce the costs of fees for parents down to more affordable levels, including the consideration of tax relief on eligible fees up until such a public scheme is introduced, to ease the huge financial burden on families.

Conference further reiterates the need for every child to be guaranteed a childcare place with an obligation on the State to ensure a space is there, and that the provision of childcare facilities must be a condition of the granting of planning permission for new housing developments, and that these spaces should be used to establish public childcare options through ETBs.

Motion 37

West Clare Labour Party , support the introduction of crèche facilities associated with local primary school to facilitate young working parents. Dept. of Education to carry out pilot scheme.

Motion 38

That Conference

- Acknowledges work by Ministers Quinn and O’Sullivan (2011 to 2016), to support diversity and equality in education.
- Notes the 2018 legislation on school admissions has ameliorated many previously existing inequities, including a ban on fees for admission to schools; a requirement that schools publish a transparent admissions policy; a requirement for schools to publish info on admissions in the previous year, along with plans for the next term.
- Nonetheless notes that many schools are in breach of the letter and spirit of these regulations.

Therefore Conference:

- Calls for the Department of Education to actively monitor and enforce compliance with admissions regulations, including if necessary the introduction of legislation to bolster its powers.
- Calls for shared admissions processes to be immediately implemented in all areas served by more than a single school, including if necessary the amendment of the existing legislation to ensure compliance.
- Calls for an immediate change of policy and practice to ensure all students, including those with additional educational needs, are offered a place at a suitable school, within the school catchment area within which they reside, no later than January of the school year prior to their planned enrolment in primary or second level, as the case may be.
- Recognises that this will require a nimble and proactive approach to funding and staffing on the part of the Department of Education, to ensure the rights of children are vindicated.
- Recognising that the current tripartite management model for Irish schools is outdated and fosters corruption and inequality, calls for the replacement of the current system with a fully public model of school provision, which would safeguard public resources, protect workers, and better serve children and families in our increasingly diverse society.

Motion 39

Conference notes it has long been the policy of the Labour Party to reduce state funding to fee-charging secondary schools. However, fees charged in Irish fee-charging secondary schools are largely less than half of those charged in the U.K. and in countries of the EU. This is principally because the state continues to pay the salaries and pension entitlements of the majority of the teachers in those schools at an estimated cost of €120m per year.

Conference believes that by diverting state subsidy from these exclusive and elitist schools into public education would mean more jobs for teachers in an overall better and inclusive educational

system. Ultimately it will mean children's education will not be determined by the wealth of their parents.

Conference calls on the Government to commit to phasing out of subsidies to fee paying private schools and to indicate a definitive date in the future when no further state approved secondary school teacher appointments will be made in fee-charging schools.

Finglas Branch

Motion 40

Labour Youth notes with disappointment that the cost-of-living crisis is having a severe impact on the accessibility of further & higher education to many people. We believe it is vital that no person is denied their right to education and that government takes immediate action to ensure that the supports in place are adequate to meet the needs of students, publicly owned student accommodation is fast tracked and built at scale and unemployment benefit is made available to students who lose their jobs.

Labour Youth

Motion 41

Labour Youth believes basic first aid training and CPR is a critical life skill for all. Labour Youth believes this training should be learned at an early age through mandatory school curriculum with a reoccurring training each year for students and teachers. Labour Youth acknowledges the impacts of increased vaping and smoking among young generations and the result leading to increased cardiac and respiratory related illnesses in young people. Labour Youth simultaneously believes that educational institutions should be required to have an AED on site and the necessary training also given to students and person of authority within the institution.

Labour Youth

Motion 42

Conference notes that Ireland is continuing to become more diverse with respect to religion and belief as evidenced by the most recent census.

This is a trend that will clearly continue.

Almost nine out of ten national schools in Ireland are under the patronage of the Catholic Church, this is out of step with the growing diversification of Irish Society.

Repeated governments have failed to deliver on commitments to increase the provision of multi-denominational education through school divestment.

Conference calls for the Minister for Education to:

- Establish a Citizens' Assembly on the Future of Education, including children's voices in the process, to examine existing school ownership, patronage and governance.

- Require schools to provide written details of their arrangements in respect of students seeking to attend the school without attending religious instruction. (As required by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act).
- Immediately introduce guidance to all publicly funded schools under religious patronage, to ensure that children can effectively opt out of sacramental preparation and religious instruction and engage in appropriate, alternate activities.

Killiney Shankill

Health

Motion 43

The Labour Party calls for a clear Government strategy on housing for healthcare workers in Cork and across Ireland. This strategy must include incentives for hospital land banks to be used for purpose-built, affordable accommodation for healthcare workers.

Wilton, Cork South Central

Motion 44

Conference recognises the prevalence of loneliness in our society.

Conference further notes that local authorities, as the custodians of many of our indoor and outdoor community spaces, should be central to a national plan to address loneliness.

Conference calls on the Department of Health to develop a national plan aimed at addressing loneliness, across all ages and backgrounds.

Blackrock Branch, Dun Laoghaire

Motion 45

Conference notes and welcomes the recent Government decision to ban the sale of so-called ‘vapes’ or e-cigarettes to all young people under 18.

Conference also notes the recent ban on vapes, imposed by the Australian Government, including a ban on their importation, as a result of the serious concerns about their impact on young people’s health and the danger of their reversing the progress made in relation to dramatically cutting smoking rates.

Conference calls for an immediate scientific and independent study to be carried out on vaping products for adults with a view to following the Australian example and banning all vape products, except those sold under prescription for genuine and provable smoking cessation strategies. This strategy is supported by important NGO’s and individual consultants, including the Irish Heart Foundation, The Faculty of Paediatrics at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and the Institute of Public Health. A ban is also supported by 65% of Irish people over 15 years of age in a major opinion poll last year.

Conference also notes the huge concern about the environmental impact of vape-related litter, being commented on widely by our local authorities and voluntary Tidy Towns committees.

Motion 46

According to the Irish constitution “the state recognises and affirms the natural and imprescriptible rights of all children and shall, as far as practicable, by its laws protect and vindicate those rights. And under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, “the best interests of the child must be of paramount consideration in all actions concerning children”.

Conference notes there are less than two-thirds of the required number of child and adolescent consultant psychiatrists in Ireland across all specialist mental health services for children, which includes CAMHS. Decades of poor resourcing, insufficient funding, and no meaningful implementation of official plans to either recruit or retain doctors in psychiatry have led to the situation we are facing today. Primary care services, disability services, and other services or interventions for children are completely inadequate. We are failing children who need care at all levels.

Conference calls for emergency-level planning, supports and resourcing with clear immediate actions and accountability to rectify the serious deficits. Our children and adolescents deserve so much more. This is a crisis. This is an emergency. They are the children of Ireland and they are suffering. We did it in the Covid emergency. We are still doing it with the Ukrainian response. We can do it again.

Cork South West Constituency

Motion 47

Conference calls for a commitment from Government for additional funding for University Hospital Limerick (UHL) as detailed below.

Conference notes that there is independent investigation underway by the former Chief Justice, Frank Clarke, to investigate the death of Aoife Johnston at UHL.

Conference notes that UHL is consistently the most overcrowded Emergency Department within the healthcare system.

Conference calls for:

- The allocation of €91m in extra funding for staffing and services to bring UHL up to the national average for a Model 4 Hospital.
- Commission an independent review of the situation in the hospital to be led by a health expert from outside Ireland to make recommendations for improvements.
- The creation of a Taskforce, led by the Taoiseach that includes the HSE, Dept of Health and local hospital management to address the deficits in care and services.

Limerick City Constituency

Agriculture & Rural Affairs

Motion 48

Conference calls for:

- the reconstitution of Teagasc to be a food security and sustainability agency.
- the voice of consumers, health experts, horticulture and plant-based farming experts as well as current agri-business interests must be included.
- a ban on below cost selling of fruit & veg is needed to ensure farm incomes, sustainability of farming as a decent livelihood.
- horticulture advisors should be employed at local authority level to develop perennial food planting schemes in accessible locations.
- horticulture advisors should provide advice, seeds & seedlings to people with access to gardens, roofs, patios, balconies for food growing.
- Conference acknowledges long time campaigning by community groups for allotments and growing groups.

Dublin South Central Constituency

Motion 49

The Labour Party recognises that access to the countryside is increasingly important for walkers and other responsible recreational users. It further recognises the value of such activities to local economies. It also recognises that, despite some improvements (greenways mainly), there are great obstacles to progress including a lack of relevant legislation. For these reasons it proposes that new legislation be enacted to allow for the following:

- 1) The transfer of current permissive routes into rights of way whether on public or private land or commonage.
- 2) To empower local authorities or, in the event of them failing to act, to empower government, to establish rights of way to and along rivers, lakeshores, the coast and to open mountain/hill countryside.
- 3) To establish a system through local authorities whereby frequently used routes are maintained and upgraded.
- 4) That any financial recompense be made to landowners, through farm payment schemes or through other appropriate schemes if the landowner is not a farmer.
- 5) To accept that any insurance claims from users be made on the state rather than the landowner except in cases of deliberate obstruction to access on the latter's part.
- 6) That those seeking access to the countryside are primarily responsible for their own safety.

Clondalkin/Rathcoole Branch

International Affairs

Motion 50

Conference:

- (i) deplores

- a) the killing and injuring of innocent civilians including thousands of Palestinian children and thousands of working people in Gaza, the West Bank & Israel, both before and since 7 October 2023
 - b) the deliberate destruction by the IDF of public infrastructure, including public utilities, schools & universities, hospitals, water & sanitation facilities both in Gaza and the West Bank.

- (ii) Commends the actions of the Irish public, the IPSC and Labour Party & Trade Union representatives & members who have repeatedly demonstrated their solidarity with the Palestinian people in seeking an immediate ceasefire, immediate opening of borders to deliver humanitarian aid into Gaza and the release of the remaining Israeli hostages.

- (iii) calls on the Irish Government to
 - Show public support for the will of the Irish public in demanding an immediate & permanent ceasefire. The rapid delivery of humanitarian aid throughout Gaza. The release of Israeli hostages and Palestinians prisoners, especially child prisoners and those held under arbitrary detention.

 - Signal public support for South Africa, in taking the case to the ICJ to prosecute the current Israeli Government for leading and engaging in an act of genocide against the Palestinian people, at the earliest opportunity.

 - To publicly ensure that immediate and adequate EU funding is made available to support the widespread re-building of homes, public infrastructure and essential services needed to save Palestinian people from a further humanitarian disaster at the end of hostilities.

 - To publicly condemn the actions of the apartheid Israeli Government in continuing their support for illegal Israeli settlers and the eviction of Palestinians from their homes and villages in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

 - To lead a campaign with other EU member states to demonstrate to the world that the EU is opposed to the current Israeli Government's refusal to engage in a process to deliver a two-state solution.

- (iv) further calls on Labour Party to work with ICTU along with recognised civil society groups and other Irish political parties in organising a major Conference on the Rights of Palestinian Children by the end of 2024.

Sean O'Casey Branch

Motion 51

That Conference:

- Affirms the importance of journalism and media work in promoting transparency, the free exchange of information and ideas, and an informed citizenry.
- Applauds the dedication of those journalists who have covered events in Gaza and the West Bank at serious risk to their own safety, and often at significant personal cost.
- Notes that Israeli attacks on media workers form part of a broader strategy of destroying civil and cultural infrastructure, such as universities, schools, and heritage sites, which constitutes an attack on Palestinian civil society, and seems destined to shut down non-violent paths for the expression of Palestinian identity and political goals.
- Condemns attacks on media workers, and other branches of civil society, by all parties to the conflict in Palestine, in particular Israel, which has particular responsibilities as the Occupying Power, and has been responsible for the vast majority of deaths.
- Calls on the Irish government to intervene in support of the case taken by South Africa at the International Court of Justice.
- Calls on the Irish government to use its influence through all available channels to ensure media workers are protected in their ability to continue their work within Gaza and the Occupied Territories.

Connemara Branch

Finance & Enterprise

Motion 52

That this conference call upon the government or any incoming government to commit to extending the Dormant Accounts legislation to dormant transactions held by payment institutions authorised to operate in Ireland, for disbursement by the Dormant Account Fund Disbursement Board.

Longford Westmeath Constituency

Motion 53

Conference notes that:

Social enterprises are crucial in tackling Ireland's social, economic environmental, and sustainability challenges. The provision of community childcare facilities, community sports, housing co-operatives, enterprise centres, and recycling facilities exemplify the diverse range of social enterprises in Ireland.

Conference also notes that:

Despite their importance, social enterprises face considerable obstacles, including limited access to business supports, high business costs and under-staffing in delivering their broad range of critically important services.

Conference calls on:

The party to include proposals in our local, European and general election manifestos to build and support the social enterprise sector and for a party spokesman on Social Enterprise to engage with social enterprise representative bodies in the development of these proposals, including Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI)

Jack Fitzgerald Branch, Dun Laoghaire Constituency

Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Motion 54

We in the Celbridge Branch call upon the Labour Party to vigorously champion the swift and decisive utilisation of state powers, empowering agencies such as the OPW, to acquire, safeguard, and consolidate Ireland's natural landscapes and cultural treasures. This includes iconic landmarks like the historic Castletown Estate and demesne in Celbridge.

Celbridge Branch

Motion 55

That the Labour party seeks Cork County Council extend their full time lifeguard provision to include the entire month of September, after the tragic loss of a young life in September 2023.

Carrigaline/ Crosshaven Branch, Cork

Motion 56

Conference recognises the vital role played by artists in our country. It also recognises that there is a growing shortage of cultural spaces and arts studios across the country which are necessary to facilitate the creation and dissemination of art and arts experiences.

Conference further notes the closure of many artist spaces in urban areas due to unsustainably high rents, punitive rates, and a lax planning system, which renders it almost impossible for artists who are already struggling with an increased cost of living and a precarious industry, to secure affordable creative and performance space in the main urban areas in this country. This has led to forced emigration of some of Ireland's most prolific artists.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to develop policies and campaign for the State to play an active role in funding the development of small-scale, artist-led, and community creative and performance space.

Oxmantown Branch

Motion 57

Conference calls on the Labour Party to:

- support the empowerment of local authorities to be given the right to introduce, a hotel bedroom tax levied on visitors and tourists;
- that revenue raised from such a tax to be explicitly ring-fenced for a specific purpose to be determined by that local authority; and
- to write to the relevant Government Departments urgently calling on them to devolve this power to local authority level.

Crumlin-Kimmage/Frank Cluskey Branch

Motion 58

That Conference demands government to impose consultation clauses in grants it assigns to major buildings such as sports stadia and universities, so that if public monies is used to rebuild or renovate these community resources, the public has a say in corporate sponsorship deals which may involve renaming them.

Galway West Constituency Council /Galway West

Motion 59

Conference calls on local authorities to provide additional funding to develop, refurbish and maintain community spaces and buildings. These developments should be developed through meaningful consultation and collaboration with residents, community groups and businesses to create vibrant and inclusive hubs for social engagement, tourism, and social enterprise.

Gorey Branch

Motion 60

Conference recognises the right of people to access recreational outdoor spaces in their local communities and that these spaces should be accessible to all.

Conference calls for a national program to establish new parks and playgrounds around the country.

Portlaoise Branch

Motion 61

Conference commends all local and national Labour representatives who have been working to develop and strengthen community amenities in their own area, to enhance public realm and ensure high quality civic spaces like public parks, playgrounds, citizens' information centres, cycling and active travel infrastructure, arts centres, sports facilities and playing fields.

Conference calls for the inclusion of a strong commitment to strengthen and develop community amenities in the Labour manifesto for the upcoming local, European and general elections.

Conference calls on the Government to encourage cooperation between Government Departments and Local Authorities. This is particularly relevant in urban inner city suburbs where Government Department owned land exists and where the Local Authority has no land to provide public playing fields. This issue is particularly acute in areas such as Rathmines where there are no public playing fields available.

Conference calls on the Department of Defence to facilitate use of the sports pitches in Cathal Brugha Barracks for use by the wider public. Given the scarcity of such pitches in the local area, this would be a strategic re-purposing of existing facilities already in civic ownership that would benefit the wider public.

Rathmines Rathgar Harold's Cross Branch

Motion 62

Conference Recognises:

- The vital role municipal swimming pools play in fostering community health and well-being.
- The increasing demand for accessible recreational facilities that promote physical activity and social interaction.
- The positive impact of municipal swimming pools on mental health, particularly in reducing stress and enhancing overall community happiness.

Conference Believes:

- Investing in municipal swimming pools aligns with our commitment to public health and community development.
- Accessible recreational spaces contribute to building stronger and more connected communities.
- Municipal swimming pools serve as inclusive spaces that cater to people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.

Conference Calls On The Government to:

- Recognise the importance of municipal swimming pools in promoting physical and mental well-being within communities.
- Allocate dedicated funds to support the construction, renovation, and maintenance of municipal swimming pools nationwide.
- Empower local authorities to ensure that municipal swimming pools are easily accessible to all residents, regardless of socio-economic factors.
- Work towards creating a comprehensive strategy to encourage community engagement and participation in aquatic activities.

Swords Branch

Equality

Motion 63 – Composite Motion 3

Conference notes the ongoing failure of society to support disabled people's fundamental rights.

Conference condemns the government's discredited green paper on disability employment as a failed attempt to blame disabled people for being unemployed instead of blaming employers for being ableist and failing to provide the appropriate supports and flexibility needed to support disabled people in accessing employment.

Conference agrees that the only way to increase the number of disabled people in employment is to provide a legal right to a Personal Assistant Service, as well as free medical card and appropriate income supports to properly recognise the cost of disability.

Conference agrees that Labour's approach to disabled people will be to consult with Disabled Person's Organizations and specifically Labour will not categorise people into levels of disability.

Conference agrees that it is the aim of the Labour Party to reduce the amount of unnecessary medical assessment carried out on disabled people and will minimise the amount of times the state asks for this. Furthermore we believe that the main source of information should be disabled people themselves and we should commit to move towards a self-declaration model to access services.

Conference condemns the coercive approach of forcing people to engage in services and will always provide appropriate services and supports for disabled people to voluntarily take part in.

Noting Labour's proud record of progressing ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Conference commits to ratification of the optional protocol, allowing disabled people to challenge the government directly for failures in this treaty.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities need to be fully implemented.

Cabra and District Branch

Ennis Branch

Motion 64

Whereas the Irish Labour Party has always championed social justice, equality, and the well-being of all citizens, especially those with disabilities, the less fortunate, and the marginalized in our society;

Conference recognises that the period from 2011 to 2016 marked a time when our Party was in government and certain regrettable mistakes were made that had an adverse impact on the welfare of people with disabilities in Ireland;

Acknowledging the imperative for the Irish Labour Party to take responsibility for those past mistakes and to earnestly commit to a different approach in any future government participation;

Therefore, Conference apologises to the disability community for the mistakes made and the

adverse impacts caused to people with disabilities during our time in government from 2011 to 2016;

Conference assures the disability community that valuable lessons have been learned from the past, and a comprehensive and inclusive approach will be adopted in the event of our participation in any future government policies and actions related to people with disabilities;

Conference reaffirms its unwavering dedication to collaborating with the disability community, actively listening to their concerns, and proactively seeking their input in the development and implementation of policies that profoundly affect their lives.

Labour Disability

Transport

Motion 65

That this conference calls on the government to introduce a €9 monthly climate transport ticket which will help to shift people away from using cars as Ireland seeks to meet climate targets.

Waterford City South Branch

Motion 66

Conference notes that Ireland's climate change targets necessitate more and better public transport

Conference notes the Bus Connects route change proposals include new routes and improved route changes for North Wicklow including positive changes in Bray and Greystones

Conference notes the proposals are 6 years old and notes the increases in population in that time.

Conference calls for an expedition of investment in public transport to roll out the North Wicklow route changes immediately.

Bray James Connolly Branch

Motion 67

Public transport in rural Ireland is not fit for purpose for commuting and local workers, for students, for shoppers, for those seeking medical treatment, or socialising etc. There is practically no public transport between towns and villages in Meath. And the system badly serves commuters to Dublin.

This Conference calls for a massive programme of investment in public rail and bus transport that will bring these systems into the 21st Century. It is not practical to ask people in rural Ireland to use public transport if it does not exist.

Meath East Constituency

Motion 68

That the Labour Party believes that all elements of Bus Connects Cork aside from the Sustainable Transport Corridors should be frontloaded and funded under Public Service Obligation funding as a matter of urgency to reduce the congestion crisis impacting Cork city and suburbs.

Blackrock/Mahon Branch Cork South Central

Defence Forces

Motion 69

Conference calls on Government to urgently recognise the crisis with recruitment and retention in our Defence Forces with numbers now falling to around 7,500, well below the establishment strength of 9,500, and central to this they must address the working time directive as outlined in the report from the Commission on the Future of the Defence Forces.

Kildare South Constituency

Social Protection

Motion 70

That this conference call upon the government or any incoming government to commit to abolish the means test for carers allowance applicants.

Mullingar Branch

Motion 71

That Conference, aware that fuel poverty is a growing crisis for many poorer families and individuals, particularly the elderly, forcing some to chose between heating and eating ; calls for a National Strategy to reduce fuel poverty and to ensure that all people have access to adequate heating.

Wexford Town Branch

Motion 72

Conference calls on the Labour Party to engage in a campaign to define and highlight the detrimental effects of poverty upon individuals, families, communities and the State. Conference further calls upon the Labour Party to publish a "Poverty Eradication Manifesto", outlining, in one single document, how Labour in Government will address, combat and eradicate poverty and its causes.

Sligo-Leitrim Constituency

Motion 73

Conference notes with dismay increasing levels of deprivation and inequality in Ireland, as reported in the recent Pobal Deprivation Index 2022.

Conference believes that despite a growing economy, significant tax intake, and budget surpluses, the Government has failed to address inter-generational poverty and support deprived communities, leading to two hundred thousand people living in serious disadvantage.

Conference calls for and re-affirms our commitment to:

- A substantial increase in support for single parents to enter the jobs market with decent, high quality, well paying jobs;
- A social welfare system that is not punitive on part-time work and supports those in part-time work;
- Targeted, well funded, multi-annual, area based anti-poverty strategies and task forces;
- Increased investment in young people, including in youth work, quality childcare, and the First Five strategy;
- The introduction of a DEIS+ scheme, with implementation of trauma informed care in schools;
- DEIS+ schools to keep and reallocate salary allocations that are unspent due to vacancy;
- More funding for School Completion Programmes and Education Welfare Officers, and;
- The reintroduction of the Combat Poverty Agency to be an independent watchdog on Government actions to address inter-generation deprivation.

Ballyfermot-Drimnagh/Joe Deasy Branch

Internal Party Affairs

Motion 74

Labour Disability wishes to bring forth its concerns regarding the inaccessibility of Head Office. We are deeply troubled by the challenges this poses for our members with disability.

Conference calls on the Executive Board to develop a programme, including dates and timelines in relation to improving the accessibility of Head Office by the end of the year.

Labour Disability

Motion 75

Conference reaffirms its position that non-binary people deserve proper legal recognition and the Labour Party's intention to amend our own legislation, the Gender Recognition Act 2015, to rectify this.

Conference calls on the Executive Board to set up a group to conduct a review of how non-binary members and candidates are accounted for and recognised in the Labour Party's Constitution, internal processes, and policy.

Conference calls on the group tasked with the review to report to the EB in time for any necessary constitutional amendments to be brought by the Executive Board to the next Conference.

Labour LGBTQI+