

# **LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2024**

**STANDING ORDERS  
REPORT NO 1**



The 73rd Labour Party National Conference  
**Saturday 23rd March – Sunday 24th March 2024**  
The Helix in Dublin.



# **STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

## **Report Number 1**

The Standing Orders Committee reports and recommends as follows.

### **1. Conference Sessions**

It is recommended that there be 6 sessions of the Conference as follows:

<b>Session No.</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Opens</b>	<b>Closes</b>
1.	Sat 23 March	10:00 am	11:30 am
2.	Sat 23 March	11:30 am	1:00 pm
3.	Sat 23 March	2:00 pm	3:30 pm
4.	Sun 24 March	10:00 am	11:30 am
5.	Sun 24 March	11:30 am	1:00 pm
6.	Sun 24 March	2:00 pm	3:30 pm

### **2. Arrangements for Business**

- (a) Appendix I sets out the order in which reports to Conference, motions and other business will be taken.
- (b) To ensure that all items on the agenda are dealt with, a time has been set for the conclusion of debate under each subject heading. These times are also set out in Appendix I. Any business not voted on when its time is reached will be taken at the end of the session for which it is scheduled, if time is available. Any motions not reached will be referred to the incoming Executive Board or Central Council, as appropriate.
- (c) In view of the volume of business to be transacted, we recommend that motions which can reasonably be regarded as non-controversial be formally proposed from the Chair and voted on without debate.
- (d) To ensure an equitable distribution of time to speakers we recommend the following time limits:

Proposers of motions	3 minutes
Other speakers	2 minutes
Spokespersons replying to debates	10 minutes

One minute before the end of the allotted time a signal will be given to the speaker, who must vacate the rostrum at the expiration of his or her time. The Chairperson is empowered to control all microphones.

Rules and times may be modified by the Chair to facilitate arrangements for panel debates.

- (e) For the purpose of voting on Conference business, we recommend that Dermot Lacey be Chief Teller and that six assistant tellers be appointed by this Committee. Whenever the Chairperson calls for Tellers to count the vote, entrance to and exit from the Conference Hall will not be allowed until that vote is concluded.

### **3. Composite Motions**

The Committee recommends the composite motion set out in Appendix II to the bodies involved. A body which queries a composite motion in which they have an interest should write to the Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee at the Labour Party Head Office in advance of the Conference or, in any event, attend at the Committee's office at Conference before 9:00 a.m. on 23 March. **No representations in respect of composite motions will be accepted after that time, no matter when the motion is scheduled to be taken.**

### **4. Qualification to speak and vote**

Every head office and constituency member who –

- has been a registered Party member for not less than 12 months prior to the date of Conference,
- is a paid-up member as of the date of Conference, and
- has registered for Conference on or before 1st March 2024,

is entitled to attend and vote at the Conference.

### **5. Elections**

Having examined the nominations listed in Appendix III, we report as follows.

- (a) All nominations appearing on the ballot papers are in order.
- (b) There being one valid nomination for Chairperson, a ballot is not necessary.
- (c) There being one valid nomination for Treasurer, a ballot is not necessary.
- (d) There being four valid nominations for the panel of women for the Executive Board, a ballot is not necessary.
- (e) There being four valid nominations for the panel of men for the Executive Board, a ballot is not necessary.
- (f) There being two valid nominations for the Policy Research Unit, a ballot is not necessary.
- (j) There being two valid nominations for the Standing Orders Committee, a ballot is not necessary.
- (k) There being one valid nomination for Party Auditors, a ballot is not necessary.

In order to ensure that a functioning Standing Orders Committee is in place for the next Party Conference, we recommended that the deadline for nominations for election to this Committee be extended to 2:00 pm on Saturday 23 March. If fewer than two additional nominations are made, the incoming Executive Board shall have power to make the additional nominations so as to bring the membership of the Committee up to five. If more than two additional nominations are made, a ballot will be necessary.

### **6. Conference precincts**

- (a) Only those holding valid delegate cards or those to whom credentials have been issued by the Standing Orders Committee will be admitted to the Conference Hall.
- (b) All mobile phones MUST be on silent in the Conference Hall.

(c) No literature may be distributed within the Conference Hall unless authorised by the Standing Orders Committee.

Signed:

Gerry Ashe

Anne Carter

Rose Donnelly

John O'Brien

**Standing Orders Committee**

## Appendix I: Timetable

## 73rd National Conference 23-24 March, The Helix

Saturday 23rd March		
9am	<b>Registration opens</b>	Foyer
9.30am	<b>Conference Opens</b>	Mahony Hall
9.35am	<b>Adoption of Standing Orders Report No 1</b>	Mahony Hall
9.40am	<b>Welcome to Dublin North West</b> Senator Annie Hoey	Mahony Hall
9.45am	<b>Welcome from Party Leader</b> Ivana Bacik TD	Mahony Hall
9.50am	<b>Speech from General Secretary</b> Billie Sparks	Mahony Hall
9.55am	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> Conor Power	Mahony Hall
10-11.30am	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> Climate Transport Work	Mahony Hall
11.30-1pm	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> Local Government Housing	Mahony Hall
1pm-2pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1-2pm	<b>Labour Women Lunch</b>	Gallery Room
2-3.30pm	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> Immigration & Integration Justice Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Mahony Hall
3.30-4.30	<b>Fringe Event – Labour Women and Women for Election</b> Managing Your Life (While Managing Your Campaign) <i>Managing Your Life (While Managing Your Campaign)</i> is a concise and practical training session designed for local candidates. This session focuses on equipping candidates with effective time management, stress reduction, and self-care strategies, allowing them to balance the demands of a political campaign with their personal lives. Participants will gain practical tips to optimise productivity, maintain well-being, and successfully navigate the challenges of simultaneously running a campaign and managing their personal responsibilities.	Blue Room
3.30-4.30	<b>Fringe Event: Labour Trade Unionists</b> Live recording of the Risen People Podcast Voices for Justice: <i>Why Palestine is a Trade Union cause with Labour Trade Unionists in collaboration with Labour International Affairs.</i> At the session we will discuss how the trade union movement can work locally, nationally, and internationally to stop the bloodshed	Gallery Room

	<i>and the appalling scenes we are witnessing in Gaza. There will be questions and answers following the discussion and members are encouraged to make a contribution.</i>	
4.30-5.30	<b>Canvassing Workshop</b> Finetune your canvassing skills in advance of the local and European elections.	Blue Room
4.30-5.30	<b>Councillors' Meeting and Reception</b>	Gallery Room
6pm	<b>Hall re-opens for Leader's Speech</b>	Mahony Hall
6.25pm	<b>Introduction to the Party Leader</b> Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD	Mahony Hall
6.30pm	<b>Leader's Speech - Live TV</b> Ivana Bacik TD	Mahony Hall
7pm	<b>Jim Larkin Thirst for Justice Award</b> Presented to the Palestinian Ambassador  <b>Cormac Ó Braonáin Award</b> Presented to Bulelani Mfaco  The above awards will be presented by our Ireland South candidate, Niamh Hourigan.	Mahony Hall
7.30pm	<b>Long Service Awards</b>	Mahony Hall
8pm	<b>Conference closes</b>	Mahony Hall
8-11pm	<b>The bar in The Helix will open for delegates to socialise.</b>	
8pm	<b>Karaoke</b>	Gallery Room

## Sunday 24th March

10am-11.30am	<b>Plenary Session 4</b> Education Health Finance & Enterprise	Mahony Hall
11.30- 1pm	<b>Plenary Session 5</b> International Affairs Defence Forces Northern Ireland Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	
1-2pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
2-3.20pm	<b>Plenary Session 6</b> Equality Social Protection Internal Party Affairs	Mahony Hall
3.20pm	<b>The Red Flag</b> Cllr Rob O'Donoghue	Mahony Hall

## **Appendix II: Proposed composite motions**

### **Motion 16 – 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 27 – 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 80 – Composite Motion 3**

Conference notes the ongoing failure of society to support disabled people's fundamental rights, the regrettable mistakes made in the past, and the adverse impacts caused to people with disabilities, the imperative for the Labour Party to take responsibility for past mistakes that were our responsibility and to earnestly commit to a different approach in any future government participation.

Conference condemns the government's discredited Green Paper on Disability Reform 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 implementing this treaty which needs to be done in full.

Conference further 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;

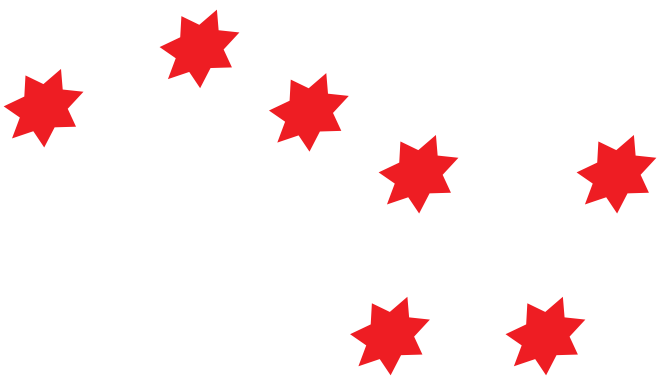
Conference reaffirms its unwavering dedication to collaborating with the disability community, actively listening to their concerns, and proactively seeking their input in the development and implementation of policies that profoundly affect their lives.

*Cabra and District Branch  
Ennis Branch  
Labour Disability*

## Appendix III: Nominations received

Name	Branch	Constituency
<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>		
Lisa Connell	Oxmantown	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
<b>TREASURER</b>		
Conor Power	Oxmantown	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>		
<i>Panel of Women</i>		
Lorna Fitzpatrick	Gorey	Wexford <i>Deemed elected</i>
Rebekah Fozzard	Sean Fitzpatrick/Dundrum	Dublin Rathdown <i>Deemed elected</i>
Laura Harmon	The Lough	Cork South Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
Valerie McDermott	Hugh Nevin/Killiney/Shankill	Dun Laoghaire <i>Deemed elected</i>
<i>Panel of Men</i>		
George Cummins	Glanmire	Cork North Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
David Kitching	Shelbourne	Dublin Bay South <i>Deemed elected</i>
Conal O'Boyle	Carlow	Carlow/Kilkenny <i>Deemed elected</i>
Odran Reid	Whitehall/Santry	Dublin North West <i>Deemed elected</i>
<b>POLICY RESEARCH UNIT</b>		
Vittorio Bufacchi	Lower Glanmire Road	Cork North Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
Lorraine Mulligan	Rathmines, Rathgar and Harolds Cross	Dublin Bay South <i>Deemed elected</i>
<b>STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE</b>		
Gerry Ashe	Pembroke/Tom Johnson	Dublin Bay South <i>Deemed elected</i>
John O'Brien	Drumcondra/Glasnevin	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
<b>AUDITORS:</b>	O'Connor & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2	





# Labour Party Conference 2024

**Saturday 23rd March – Sunday 24th March 2024**

The Helix in Dublin.

+353 1 678 4700  
info@labour.ie  
labour.ie

The Labour Party  
2 Whitefriars, Aungier Street,  
Dublin 2, D02 A008