

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2023

Standing Orders



The 72nd Labour Party National Conference
Friday 24th March – Sunday 26th March 2023
Clayton Silver Springs Hotel in Cork.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Report Number 1

The Standing Orders Committee reports and recommends as follows.

1. Conference Sessions

It is recommended that there be 5 sessions of the Conference as follows:

Session No.	Day	Opens	Closes
1.	Fri 24 March	7:00 pm	9:30 pm
2.	Sat 25 March	10:00 am	1:00 pm
3.	Sat 25 March	2:00 pm	4:00 pm
4.	Sat 25 March	6:00 pm	8:00 pm
5.	Sun 26 March	10:00 am	11:00am
6.	Sun 26 March	11:00 am	12.30pm

2. Arrangements for Business

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 motions 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 6:00 p.m. on 24 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. Motions to amend the Party Constitution

Motion No. 82 from LGBT proposes to amend the Party Constitution so as to establish LGBT as a full Section. Motion No. 79 from the Executive Board is to the same effect, but proposes in addition to re-purpose Labour Equality as Labour Intercultural. We recommend that the vote on Motion No. 79 be taken first and, if it is passed, then a vote on Motion No. 82 becomes unnecessary and will not be held.

5. 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 3rd March 2023,

is entitled to attend and vote at the Conference.

6. 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 five valid nominations for the panel of women for the Executive Board, a ballot is necessary.
- (e) There being five valid nominations for the panel of men for the Executive Board, a ballot is necessary.
- (f) There being four valid nominations for the Policy Research Unit, a ballot is necessary.
- (g) There being no valid nominations for the Campaigns Unit, a ballot is not necessary.
- (h) There being one valid nomination for the International Unit, a ballot is not necessary.
- (i) There being no valid nominations for the Trade Union Liaison Unit, a ballot is not necessary.
- (j) There being three 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 8:00 pm on Friday 24 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.

Voting in the elections for the Executive Board male and female panels and for the Policy Research Unit will take place on Saturday 25 March, between 2 pm and 4 pm. We recommend that there be no requirement as to attendance by delegates at a minimum number of Conference sessions in order to be entitled to vote at the elections.

We recommend that Finbarr O'Malley be returning officer, to be assisted by scrutineers appointed by this Committee. The conduct of the elections will be in the hands of this Committee and the returning officer.

7. 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:

Fionnuala Richardson
Gerry Ashe
Anne Carter
John O'Brien
Standing Orders Committee

Appendix I: Timetable

Friday 24th March

6pm	Registration opens
7pm	Conference Opens
7.05pm	Adoption of Standing Orders Report No 1
7.10pm	Welcome to Cork
7.15pm	Welcome from Party Leader
7.20pm	Speech from General Secretary
7.25pm	Treasurer's Report
7.30pm-9.30pm	Session 1 - Housing (Motions 26-51) Tivoli Suite <i>To deal with the following policy areas: Housing, Local Govt and Heritage, Agriculture and Rural Ireland</i>

Saturday 25th March

10am-11.30noon	Session 2 - Care (Motions 52-74) Tivoli Suite <i>To deal with the following policy areas: Education & Skills Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Health Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Justice</i>
11.30- 1pm	Session 3 - Work (Motions 13-25) Tivoli Suite <i>To deal with the following policy areas: Social Protection Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Finance, Public Expenditure</i>
1-2pm	Lunch
2-4pm	Session 4 - Climate (Motions 1-12) Harbour Suite <i>To deal with the following policy areas: Transport Environment, Climate and Communications Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.</i>
3pm	CIllrs AGM Harbour 6
6pm	Conference reconvenes Tivoli Suite
6.25pm	Introduction to Party Leader – Senator Marie Sherlock
6.30pm	Leader's Speech – Live TV – Ivana Bacik TD
7pm	Long Service Awards – Presented by Senator Mark Wall
7.30pm	Thirst for Justice Award – Ukrainian Civil Society Forum and Ukrainian Action in Ireland Cormac O'Braonain Award – Sean Binder <i>Presented by Senator Annie Hoey</i>
8pm	Conference Closes

Sunday 26th March

10am	Session 5 - Internal Party Affairs (Motions 78-86) Tivoli Suite
11am	Session 6 - International Affairs and Northern Ireland (Motions 75-77) Tivoli Suite
12noon	Election Results announced
12.10pm	Closing Speech
12.15pm	Red Flag - Cllr Rob O'Donoghoe
12.20pm	Conference Closes

Appendix II: Proposed composite motions

Motion 1 – Composite No. 1

Conference affirms its support for the 2021 Shared National Vision for Trees and Forests aimed at supporting a sustainable and thriving economy and society and a healthy environment.

Conference underlines the need for this vision to be delivered as a compatible element of wider farming and biodiversity objectives and policies aimed at sustainable decent work for rural communities and public, educational and recreational amenities for all citizens.

Conference expresses its deep criticism of the recent deal concluded by the semi-State forestry company, Coillte with the investment-fund company, Gresham House.

Conference calls on the government to legislate to prevent any further privatisation of state-owned woodlands and maintain Coillte in public ownership.

Conference mandates the Labour Party to promote legislation and Constitutional change to ensure that biodiversity and positive ecosystem services are core objectives for Coillte.

*Meath West Constituency,
Clare Constituency*

Motion 14 – Composite No. 2

Conference notes the significant disparity in pay and terms and conditions that exists between public sector workers and those employed through myriad non-state agencies who also provide vital care and community based public services.

This conference calls for the Party to develop a comprehensive policy and a campaign to raise the professional status of careworkers (including early years, elder care, homecare, and special needs). The campaign should aim at improving the resourcing of the care sector as well as fighting for better pay and conditions for all these essential workers.

Conference further fully supports the objectives of the ICTU campaign Valuing Care Valuing Community in re-aligning pay and terms and conditions of these workers with their public servant equivalents. Conference further commits the Party to the implementation of the objectives of this campaign when returned to office.

*Cork South Central Constituency,
Meath East Constituency*

Motion 47 – Composite No. 3

Conference believes that the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 has had an unintended and chilling effect on local government and democracy. The then programme for government promised reform and rationalisation of local authorities, both to enhance democratic accountability and local power, and as part of a broader range of spending cuts in response to the state's ongoing financial crisis. However, in reality it has led to a further widening of the gap between local enterprise, business and residents of the towns formally served with Town Councils of accessibility to elected citizens. It has added myriad levels of bureaucracy, to which there is no apparent accountability.

Conference reiterates its opposition to the abolition of Town and Borough Councils in 2014, leaving Ireland as the only country in the EU without functioning urban local Government.

Conference notes the commitment in the Programme for Government 2020 to examine the re-establishment of urban authorities but condemns the total lack of progress on the matter to date. Conference acknowledges that the fiscal landscape has changed and that it is time to reconsider the need for democratic and accountable local elected officials to have a say regarding issues effecting people in business, working, providing employment, and living in Irelands towns.

Conference commits to continuing to campaign for the re-establishment of urban local Government as a top priority for any Government in which Labour would participate.

*Longford Westmeath Constituency,
Carlow Town Branch, Carlow-Kilkenny Constituency*

Motion 68 – Composite No. 4

Conference notes the ongoing campaign by the Party to address the serious and significant issues autistic people and children face accessing appropriate education, healthcare and other supports.

Conference further notes the findings from the 'National Irish Study on the Economic Costs and Unmet Needs of Autistic Children' that the annual cost per child for families amounted to over €28,000 covering private healthcare costs, lost income and informal care, with a third of families incurring an average debt of €3,260 per year.

Conference therefore calls for the government to urgently adopt and resource a National Autism Strategy, with a person-centred approach and personalised care pathways, combined with sufficient funding allocated to address the needs of autistic people across their lifespan and across all sectors of society.

Such a strategy would be based on international best practice especially in Malta and would be delivered on a cross departmental basis with a named Minister responsible for its delivery.

The strategy would ensure that autistic and neurodivergent young people and children have equal access to education, transport, employment and housing and best meet their needs and as of right.

*Athy Branch Motion, Kildare South
Dublin Bay North*

Motion 76 – Composite No. 5

Conference notes and condemns the further hardening of apartheid conditions in Palestine since the recent general election outcome in Israel.

Conference seeks to draw attention again to the suffering of the Palestinian people, particularly families with the demolition of homes and children through the denial of access to an education due to the daily actions of the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), delaying children travelling to school at checkpoints, the detention of children in a military judicial system without representation or access to bail and forcibly demolishing their schools such as recent events in the Masafer Yatta area in the Southern West Bank. In this case more than 500 school-aged children are facing no access to education following plans to demolish their schools, both primary and secondary.

Conference recognises the plight of the Palestinian people, rejects all punitive actions against its leadership and civil society and calls for the cessation as per the UN Assembly's decision pertaining to these actions being in breach of the rights of Palestinian Civil Society.

Conference decries the ongoing senseless loss of life almost every day in Palestine, due to IDF incursions into refugee camps, raids on individual homes and harassment at checkpoints, all creating high tensions and driving young Palestinians to violent reactions. Conference does not condone violence any way but understands it may be seen by some Palestinians as the only recourse when non-violent means achieve no change.

Conference calls on the Irish Government and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Party to:

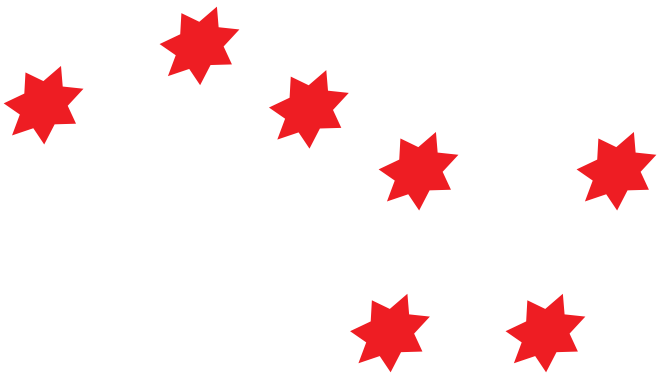
- (a) strongly condemn the many unprovoked violent actions of the IDF and recent statements from various Israeli Government Ministers claiming Israel's jurisdiction over Palestinian territory
- (b) recommence the work of passing the Occupied Territories Bill into legislation before the end of 2023.

Conference calls on the Irish Government and all Irish MEPs to campaign at European Union level to counter the narrative of denying the proven crime of Apartheid by the Israeli State, to condemn the clear plan by the Israeli State to annex Palestinian territory either by force or through the sponsorship of illegal settlement, and to counter the promotion, outlined by many, that to criticise Israeli Government actions is antisemitism.

*Drumcondra-Glasnevin Branch, Dublin Central
Rush Branch, Dublin Fingal*

Appendix III: Nominations received

Name	Branch	Constituency
CHAIRPERSON		
Lisa Connell	Oxmantown	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
TREASURER		
Conor Power	Oxmantown	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
EXECUTIVE BOARD		
Panel of Women		
Lorna Fitzpatrick	Gorey	Wexford
Rebekah Fozzard	Sean Fitzpatrick/Dundrum	Dublin Rathdown
Laura Harmon	The Lough	Cork South Central
Moira Leydon	Trim	Meath West
Valerie McDermott	Hugh Nevin/Killiney/Shankill	Dun Laoghaire
Panel of Men		
David Kitching	Shelbourne	Dublin Bay South
Conal O'Boyle	Carlow	Carlow/Kilkenny
Shane O'Meara	Blackrock/Mahon	Cork South Central
Odran Reid	Whitehall/Santry	Dublin North West
Ben Slimm	Tralee/Rock Street	Kerry
POLICY RESEARCH UNIT		
Vittorio Bufacchi	Lower Glanmire Road	Cork North Central
James Kearney	Hugh Nevin/Killiney/Shankill	Dun Laoghaire
Bairbre Kennedy	Jack Clarke	Fingal
Lorraine Mulligan	Rathmines, Rathgar and Harolds Cross	Dublin Bay South
INTERNATIONAL UNIT		
Robert O'Donnell	Michael Ferris/Cahir/Cashel	Tipperary <i>Deemed elected</i>
STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE		
Gerry Ashe	Pembroke/Tom Johnson	Dublin Bay South <i>Deemed elected</i>
Rosie Donnelly	Rush	Dublin Fingal <i>Deemed elected</i>
John O'Brien	Drumcondra/Glasnevin	Dublin Central <i>Deemed elected</i>
AUDITORS:		
O'Connor & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2		



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