

*Labour* 

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**71st National Conference**  
12-13 November 2021  
The Mansion House, Dublin

**A NEW  
DEAL FOR  
IRELAND**





# **A NEW DEAL FOR HOUSING**

## **7.30-8.30PM FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**

### **TO DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING POLICY AREAS: HOUSING, LOCAL GOVT AND HERITAGE**

#### **Motion 1**

That this conference supports the proposal to hold a referendum to insert a basic right to housing in the Irish Constitution.

Furthermore, we support the inclusion in that referendum of a provision to clarify, once and for all, the primacy of the “exigencies of the common good”, over the right to private property.

**Dublin Fingal**

#### **Motion 2**

Conference congratulates the Parliamentary Labour Party on the publication of the policy document, “A New Deal for our Towns and Villages”.

Conference calls for this important policy to be advanced through our Local Authority and Parliamentary members across the country.

Conference call for it to be a central part of future Local Government and National Manifestos and recognised the importance of revitalising our urban centres and tackling the key issues that stunt the growth of our Towns and Villages.

**Wexford**

#### **Motion 3**

Labour will re-establish town councils for all towns with a population of 5,000 or more, and give them strong powers to bring decision-making to local level. Labour will encourage the roll out of more participatory budgeting by Town Councils. Labour will create a legal definition of town to underpin this approach and to promote better urban planning. Labour will recognise rural districts as part of the county council structure.

The Constituency calls on the Party to progress this matter as a priority.

**Kildare South**

#### ***Amendment to Motion 3:***

Delete the last sentence and substitute the following:

“Conference calls on the Parliamentary Party to seek to progress this matter as a priority, with a view to the necessary legislation being in place in good time for the next local elections.”.

**Central Council**

#### **Motion 4**

The Labour Party believes the Housing for All programme recently announced by the government to be deeply flawed and proposes the following.

A National Housing Authority be set up with direct control over, how, where and what type of housing be built.

1. The Housing Authority should have power to employ direct labour for projects and/or contract building projects to suitable tenders.
2. Public land should not be sold to private developers without restrictions and conditions.
3. All Fire, Safety, Energy and Quality of Materials Standards to be supervised by the Authority.

4. The Housing Authority to have real powers and finance and not end up as another Quango or bureaucratic level of administration and thus create more problems than it solves.
5. The primary objective of the Housing Authority will be to provide public housing and affordable housing for first time buyers.

**Dublin Mid-West**

#### **Motion 5**

Conference notes that the Government has responded with “Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland” to Labour’s Housing policy and recently proposed legislation (Acquisition of Development Land (Assessment of Compensation) Bill 2021).

Conference considers that the Government Plan neither addresses the urgency of the current situation and the severe social and economic consequences that have resulted for many of our fellow citizens, nor the underlying long-term issue of land profiteering that constitutes a major element of unacceptably high house prices.

Considering this, Conference urges that the proposed tax and planning legislation promised in the Plan stipulates that funds raised through the development of vacant sites, public lands, religious lands or private lands be ring fenced and used solely for the provision of public housing and the provision of affordable housing and that in each case tenants be guaranteed (i) security of tenure; (ii) a reasonable rent based on ability to pay; and (iii) a fair rent adjustment mechanism.

**Dublin Bay North**

#### **Motion 6**

The Irish planning system is in need of fundamental reform. It has evolved with significant influence from the UK planning system and developed its own unique structures, but always with a view to underscore a neo-liberal economic approach to development - a developer led approach. As we witness the failures to provide accommodation and infrastructural development in the correct locations at reasonable costs, this planning system is no longer capable of delivering for “the common good” in a social democratic society.

Labour proposes to initiate a fundamental reform process in the planning system, implement the key elements of the Kenny Report 1973 and link these reforms to a radically transformed system of local government, one which had real and substantive power.

**Dublin North West**

#### **Motion 7**

Conference condemns the continuing crisis in local government funding. The commitment made on the introduction of the Local Property Tax that it would lead to ring-fenced and increased funding for local councils has been abandoned by this and the last government.

Coupled with the abolition of town and borough councils, there is a clear challenge for local councils in meeting their commitments in crucial areas like social housing, adequate water and sewage facilities and in local social infrastructure, including supports for local theatres, arts facilities and libraries.

Conference demands a comprehensive review of local government funding which would lead to a major increase in the monies available to local councils and increased consultation with local communities on how public monies are spent in their communities.

**Carlow-Kilkenny**

#### ***Addendum to Motion 7***

This should be done in conjunction and collaboration with the union-ran campaign ‘More Power to You’ which seeks to achieve a similar outcome in respect to vest more power and democracy in local government to make it work better for citizens.

**Central Council**

## Motion 8

### Conferences notes:

- that **Housing for All** contains no concrete actions to protect renters in Ireland and no provision for the introduction of a vacant homes tax
- that although approximately 350,000 people are living in private rented accommodation, Ireland has one of the weakest security of tenure laws in the EU and the largest cohort of families entering homelessness comes from the private rented sector
- that Ireland has the 10th highest rate of vacancy in the world, with vacant and derelict homes lying empty in every city, town and village, while at the same time an increasing number of large-scale build-to-rent developments have been kept empty in order to inflate rent artificially
- the failure of the Government to strengthen tenants' rights or to implement a vacant homes tax continues to prioritise the financial interests of investment firms and vacant homeowners over the need for people across the country to have a home.

### Conference –

- endorses our Renters' Rights Bill which seeks to improve security of tenure, fair rent and quality of accommodation,
- supports the immediate introduction of a vacant homes tax on properties that are vacant for six months, so as to reactivate thousands of homes across the country,
- calls on the Government to conduct an immediate review of the current number of vacant houses and apartments in each local authority area and to fund local authorities accordingly, and
- supports a referendum on the Right to Housing, and also supports a Right to Buy for tenants in the private rented sector

**Central Council**

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

**8.30-9.30PM FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER**

### **Motion 9**

Labour Party reunification 2021 towards all Ireland enfranchisement.

The Good Friday Agreement conferred on each resident on the island of Ireland the right to exercise their inalienable national allegiance.

To give effect to the spirit and principle, British people have exercised the right to participate and vote in UK elections.

People in Northern Ireland have not been allowed to participate in the elections of the President of Ireland or present as a candidate or vote to the Oireachtas of Ireland.

That Labour will as part of all Ireland enfranchisement, permit TDs from Northern Ireland to be directly elected, via the development of a secure voting application (“app”) of representatives from Northern Ireland to a National All Ireland Parliament, in parity with the residents of Northern Ireland who choose to participate and vote in UK elections.

**Longford-Westmeath**

### **Motion 10**

Conference expresses its deep concern at proposed plans of the British Government to introduce legislation to address the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The July 2021 proposal entitled “Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland’s Past” provides for the introduction of a Statute of Limitations which would be applicable to all Conflict related incidents not yet adjudicated on. This measure would implement an effective banning of all prosecutions related to the Troubles. In addition, the active criminal investigations into conflict related offences would be brought to a close and further, the prospect of prosecutions would be removed. Regardless of who the perpetrators were, every victim and their families have the right to find out how, why & who committed conflict related abuses to them and/or their families. This is an unprecedented denial of access to justice. The proposals would place the perpetrators of violence beyond accountability and above the law.

Conference notes that the proposals have been condemned by many Victims & Survivors Organisations; rejected by all 5 Parties in the Northern Ireland Executive; challenged by the Council of Europe & criticised by the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice & reparation and the UN Special Rapporteur on extra judicial summary of arbitrary executions.

Conference affirms that no State or Government can be above the Law and there can be no impediment to Truth & Justice to address the conflict in Northern Ireland. The rights of Victims & Survivors to truth & to seek an effective remedy for the harm and violations of Human Rights so suffered cannot be denied.

Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to strongly campaign against the implementation of the provisions outlined in the British Government’s proposals. The Labour Party should reinforce its commitment to State Accountability and the Rule of Law and work to ensure the rights to Truth, Justice & effective remedy for the Victims & Survivors of the Conflict in Northern Ireland.

**Northern Ireland Branch**

**A NEW DEAL FOR CLIMATE  
10.00-11.00AM SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**

**TO DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING POLICY AREAS:  
TRANSPORT;  
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND COMMUNICATIONS;  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE.**

**Motion 11**

This conference calls for a Just Transition in the Agriculture and Food sector and calls for greater acceleration of afforestation targets to meet the challenge of climate change and calls on government to put in place ambitious annual targets for tree planting

**Cork East**

**Motion 12**

Conference notes the urgent need to take radical action to tackle the climate emergency, through measures to be taken both at international and national level.

The contents of the recently published IPCC report on climate change are alarming and confirm what we have known for some time about the worsening effects of human activity on our climate and ecosystems. The warnings from the IPCC that a target of 2050 is insufficient to reduce emissions and curb the worst effects of climate change are stark and clear.

While Conference welcomes the Government's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, it notes with disappointment that Labour amendments to strengthen it were not accepted, particularly on definitions of 'climate justice' and 'just transition'. While some recent legislative efforts from the Government on this topic have been welcome, clearly, they are not enough to tackle the scale of the crisis we face.

Conference therefore calls for more decisive and meaningful climate action and notes for example the recent publication by Labour of a carbon labelling bill to place a greater responsibility on companies to disclose the emissions impact of manufacturing their products.

Conference calls on all Party members to work to see that legislation is passed, alongside other vital measures to bring about a radical improvement in Ireland's contribution to the effort to tackle the climate crisis.

Conference expresses support for Labour Youth, students and other activists in campaigning for divestment from fossil fuels and greatly increased investment in renewables. Conference supports the need for democratic civic engagement on the development of climate policies, and the need to ensure the building of sustainable communities.

Conference calls for a greater commitment in national and local planning and transport policies to urban regeneration, compact urban growth and increased pedestrianisation in our cities and towns; travel and transport policies which favour active travel, walking and cycling; and which prioritise public transport over private car usage. Conference further calls for the adoption of further measures to promote biodiversity in our communities and to enhance public access to and usage of vital natural amenities like Dublin Bay.

Conference calls upon the PLP to advocate strongly for Ireland to make an effective and radical contribution to the fight for global climate action to tackle this international emergency.

**Dublin Bay South**

### ***Amendment to Motion 12:***

In paragraph 5, after the word “crisis”, add:  
“and to support the necessary just transition.”  
Insert the following before the last paragraph:

“As the party of work and labour, our support for legislation on meaningful climate action should also include a focus in respect to decent jobs and just transition in the event of workplace closures or downsizing due to climate, particularly in carbon-intensive sectors such as energy production, agriculture/forestry, manufacturing, and transport. Such a transition should be predicated around decent pay, decent work and a living wage. Any input from Labour should include reference to the right to organise and bargain collectively in green jobs which will be a core component of any response to climate change and climate justice.”

In the last paragraph, after the words “global climate action”, add:  
“and just transition”.

**Labour Trade Unionists**

### **Motion 13**

Conference regrets the failure to invest in public and active transport infrastructure considering the importance of decarbonisation. With the reduction of night bus services, as well as the lack of rail and other light public transport services past a nightly moratorium, Conference condemns the extortionate cost of private transport services that are the sole option for late-night revellers seeking to avail of transport in and out of city centres and wider suburban areas, to and from more isolated towns and villages.

In conjunction with this, Conference recognises the great precarity of weak road users with a lack of pedestrianised zones or dedicated road spaces in cities and towns, and notes that the lack thereof significantly compromises the welfare particularly of young persons and disabled persons.

While Conference supports the completion of existing public transport projects outlined in the National Development Plan and the commitment to equitably fund active transport projects at a consistent level, Conference believes that Ireland should conform with a variety of countries in Europe and the Americas, inclusive of the UK, Germany and the US, with both central and local government supporting transport decisions in favour of active and public transport such as well-designed segregated cycle lanes, full pedestrianisation of the centres of all major cities and towns and a universal 30km/h speed limit introduced as a default to all urban roads.

**Labour Youth**

### **Motion 14**

Conference notes with concern the recent Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that highlights how communities are suffering record shattering temperatures and deadly extreme weather events, from catastrophic wildfires, deadly droughts, and devastating flooding. Measure taken to date have proved insufficient to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius as agreed in the Paris Accord, thereby allowing uncontrolled climate change.

Conference agrees that in order to address the challenge of the climate emergency, and to facilitate a just transition, it is necessary to adopt a whole of community approach to climate action, that is driven by local people, businesses and organisations.

Communities need to be empowered to take climate action and they need to be supported in developing positive solutions such as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy infrastructure and the diversification of agriculture.

As such, Conference calls for committed support, financial and political, of a range of community-based initiatives aimed at combating climate change, including:



- Campaigns to promote awareness of climate change and behaviour change in urban and rural communities
- Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) for improving energy efficiency and integrating renewable energy in homes and businesses in the community
- Community-owned energy generation projects, solar, wind and biomass, to allow communities to develop locally based energy generation with profits retained by the community
- Local centres for climate action in the community to support such initiatives, such as the Centre for Excellence in Climate Action (CECAS) set up in Leap, West Cork by the community-based environmental organisation, Green Skibbereen

We ask Conference, Deputies and Constituencies to support and replicate these initiatives and help remove barriers to their proliferation.

**Cork South West**

### **Motion 15**

Conference notes the importance of promoting active travel and making school and work journeys more sustainable through having fewer cars on our roads. As A New Deal for our Towns and Villages references 'we need to reduce reliance on the car and make our towns for people'.

Therefore, Conference calls for:

- Labour representatives at local and national level to support the roll-out of active travel infrastructure, i.e., cycle lanes and cycle pathways where local authority active travel units designate trials for cycle segregation. Labour reps will support cycle infrastructure changes and trials to improve existing road infrastructure.
- Labour representatives at local and national level to support the safety of priority road users, i.e., pedestrians and cyclists through the proper use of footpaths and cycle lanes for pedestrians and people cycling. This includes voting in favour of segregated cycle lanes, improvements to road infrastructure at junctions and roundabouts that would facilitate safer walking and cycling. Any requests to support parking on footpaths will not be supported as alternatives must be sought.

**Limerick City**

### ***Amendment to Motion 15:***

In bullet point 2, after the words "people cycling" delete everything and insert "Labour supports quality interventions in the urban realm and active travel measures."

**Central Council**

## **A NEW DEAL FOR CARE**

**11.00AM-1.00PM SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**

### **TO DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING POLICY AREAS:**

**EDUCATION & SKILLS;**

**FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, INNOVATION  
AND SCIENCE;**

**HEALTH;**

**CHILDREN, EQUALITY, DISABILITY, INTEGRATION AND YOUTH.**

#### **Health**

##### **Motion 16**

Conference recognizes the challenges faced by young people and their families when access to an inpatient Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is required. Conference notes that the small number of current CAMHS inpatient units results in a situation where many families travel vast distances to receive the care they need.

Conference calls for investment in additional CAMHS inpatient beds nationwide. Conference calls for these beds to be available in more geographical areas. Conference calls for the development of inpatient services for young people with eating disorders, meeting their needs for both medical and psychiatric care.

Conference calls for increased investment in primary care and CAMHS, with an increased focus on early intervention.

**Laois-Offaly**

##### **Motion 17**

This conference recognises, in light of recent developments and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for transparent and affordable medicines, treatments and vaccines in the public interest, in Ireland and beyond.

Medicines are public goods. The role of public funding into the research and development of medicines, vaccines and treatments must be recognised in the spirit of social solidarity and cohesiveness.

State expenditure on medicines is becoming unsustainable. The affordability of medicines and treatments must be established between the state and industry on a fully transparent and ongoing basis. Where possible policies to promote the use of generic and biosimilar medicines should be supported and championed by government.

All bodies involved in the development and procurement of medicines and treatments should be accountable to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Progressive policies at global levels, in the EU and the WTO, should be fully supported.

**Dun Laoghaire**

##### **Motion 18**

Conference acknowledges the difficulties many women and pregnant people still have in accessing reproductive healthcare in Ireland as a result of current abortion legislation.

Conference recognises that some towns and villages still do not have any GPs offering abortion services and some regional hospitals with maternity units do not offer surgical abortion.

Conference also recognises that many couples with fatal foetal anomalies still have to endure the heart-breaking journey to travel to the UK or another jurisdiction if diagnosis is after 12 weeks.

Approx. 80% of the people who contact the Terminations for Medical Reasons support group still have to travel outside of Ireland.

As per the United Nations Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, if later term abortions are allowed for a foetus with a particular condition but isn't allowed for healthy or non-disabled fetuses, it is deemed discriminatory and it breaches the provisions of the Convention. As such, Conference acknowledges that any list of conditions devalues the lives of people living with that condition and therefore the only way to facilitate abortion for fatal foetal anomalies is to make later term abortions available to all with no gestational time limit.

Conference notes that the Irish people voted overwhelming to repeal the 8th Amendment and as such voted for access to all reproductive healthcare based for anyone who may need it.

Therefore, conference calls for the following changes to current legislation:

- Full decriminalisation of abortion.
- Repeal of the 12-week limit for abortion on request.
- Repeal of the mandatory 3 day wait period.
- Repeal of conscientious objection.

**Tipperary**

#### **Motion 19**

There are over 1,300 people under 65 living in nursing homes in Ireland. Many of these are people with disabilities who were inappropriately placed in this setting for a variety of reasons including lack of provision of adequate supports to allow them to remain in their own homes.

We call on the government as a matter of urgency to implement the recommendations of the Ombudsman's report - "Wasted Lives: Time for a better future for younger people in nursing homes" (May 2021)

**Dublin South Central**

### **Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth**

#### **Motion 20**

We have a real crisis in childcare education provision in this country, which is really affecting families especially in areas of huge population growth. Parents cannot source childcare education places for their children in their locality, equally, providers cannot source premises.

Huge housing developments are granted permission where a creche is included as required in the planning application but is rarely if ever delivered. As a consequence, parents are under huge stress and faced with long waiting lists to find a place for their child, providers attempt to engage with developers to manage the planned facility to no avail. The model is broken. Conference calls on the Labour Party to call on government to address this law in our planning system, and to review the legislation as it stands so as to ensure that all future developments must deliver a community childcare education facility in order to address this important issue for families, our communities and our economy.

**Kildare North**

#### **Motion 21**

The childcare system in Ireland is in crisis. Held together by subsidies to private companies, tax credits and grants, parents can barely afford crippling fees, and too many workers are poorly paid. From full time crèche care for infants, through to breakfast clubs and after school care for pre-teens, we don't value the Early Years Sector the way we should.

Conference calls for the Labour Party to fully support Labour Women's 'Equal Early Years' campaign for universal childcare, which calls for increased state funding to ensure equality of access for children, affordability for parents and fairness for professionals. As an initial measure, conference calls for the state to fund sufficient administrative positions within the early years education and care sector. Early years professionals are faced with enormous amounts of administrative work, which can take away from quality time with children. Direct funding of administrative work would ensure that paperwork is kept fully up to date, without children losing out on quality engagement with professionals.

**Labour Women**

### **Motion 22**

Conference notes the importance of supporting the Justice for Magdalenes campaign, and their ongoing efforts to advance public knowledge and research into the Magdalene Laundries and Mother and Baby Homes.

Conference further notes the systematic effort by the Irish State to continue to evade its responsibilities to Magdalene laundries survivors, and mother and baby home survivors, and its failure to provide a truthful account of the abuses in these institutions.

Conference believes that the Labour Party is committed to securing justice for the victims of this historical injustice, and all historical injustices, at the hands of the Irish State.

Conference calls the Labour Party to hold the Government to remedy the fundamental flaws in the Irish State's investigation of the Magdalene laundries and mother and baby homes.

Conference calls for the Labour Party to demand that the Government stops the 30-year seal on Magdalene laundries and mother and baby home records. Survivors of institutional injustice in Ireland have a right to access their own records, and the records of their family members. The Government is not permitted under the GDPR to place a blanket seal over the entire archive it holds.

Conference further calls for the State to release the records concerning the matters that were investigated, and releases the administrative records that the Commission received from the institutions, the Church, and others.

**Cork North Central**

### **Motion 23**

National Archive and Centre of Commemoration

Many decades of secrecy have caused ongoing and unnecessary harm to people already profoundly failed by our State and society in Magdalene Laundries, Mother and baby Homes and Industrial Schools. At present the archives of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, McAleese Committee and Mother & Baby Homes Commission Archive remain almost entirely 'sealed' and these histories are not part of mainstream education at second or third level. Families are still searching for disappeared relatives and adopted people are still denied their identity.

Access to information is crucial to attaining any form of accountability for the serious and systemic abuses of the 20th century. Truth-telling is necessary to ensure that similar abuses never happen again. While the government committed in October 2020, following huge public outcry, to establishing a national archive of records related to institutional trauma during the 20th century it has not taken action to realise this proposal.

We call on the Labour Party to support access to records legislation, which will establish both in an interim location and on a permanent, dedicated site a human rights-based archive that gathers all historical "care"-related records and makes them available first and foremost to victim survivors, adopted people and relatives of the deceased and disappeared. Public disclosure of administrative records and voluntary deposited testimony must also be ensured, while protecting human rights.

**Dublin South West**

### **Motion 24**

The Labour Party insists that the Government White Paper on ending Direct Provision, using in the main the recommendations of the Group headed by former Secretary General of the European Commission Dr Catherine Day, be fully implemented by mid-2023.

In addition, Conference notes that in 2018 it was reported that there were 64 cases of modern slavery in Ireland, including 27 cases of sexual exploitation, 35 cases of forced labour, 2 cases of forced criminality and 4 cases involving children discovered. However, the Global Slavery Index estimates that the number of people living in modern slavery in Ireland is approximately 8,000. Only in 2020 did Ireland discover that workers are imported into this country, living in what amounts to compounds, separated from their families, while the State has little or no awareness of the situation. This is not acceptable.

Conference therefore calls urgent consideration to be given to addressing the specific needs of victims of modern slavery.

**Central Council**

### **Motion 25**

Labour Disability calls on the Labour Party to prioritise as a matter of policy the updating of the Disability Act 2005 to take account of the unmet needs of people with disabilities, particularly the right not just to assessment but to adequate services.

Labour Disability calls on the party to set up within the policy unit a group with this aim to report to the Party spokesperson on Health, Duncan Smith TD and the party spokesperson on Environment and Climate, Children, Equality, Disability, Integrations and Youth, Ivana Bacik TD.

Labour Disability will work with the group with their experience and knowledge.

**Labour Disability**

### **Motion 26**

That this Conference calls upon the Labour Party to vigorously pursue the rights of persons with a disability.

The Labour Party will pursue legislation

- a) to establish an independent accessibility inspectorate
- b) that a new certification system for accessibility compliance and audit would be introduced
- c) that all public sector bodies are fully compliant with their statutory obligations and report on their compliance efforts in their annual reports
- d) that effective sanction would be introduced for non-compliant public bodies
- e) to move towards the adoption of the new accessibility standard - A design standard that works for all (I.S. EN 17161:2019) across the public sector, beginning with the higher education sector.

Further the Labour Party will ensure that all of its policies are in future, equality proofed and all activities of the Labour Party are reasonably accessible.

**Meath East**

### **Motion 27**

Conference reaffirms The Labour Party's commitment to creating a more equal society that promotes and facilitates involvement in all aspects of Irish life for all people.

Conference calls upon the party to more vigorously pursue the rights of people who identify as being disabled and/or deaf by researching and establishing legislative policies which seek to address the following:

- a) Scope for the establishment of an independent accessibility inspectorate,
- b) Systems for the introduction of a national certification scheme for accessibility compliance,

- c) A means to ensure the compliance of public sector bodies as to their statutory obligations,
- d) Pursue policies which ensure that all public sector bodies are fully compliant with their statutory obligations, and a means to require the inclusion of a report regarding same in the annual reports of public sector bodies, and also means to ensure that effective sanction would be introduced for non-compliant public bodies;
- e) To move towards the adoption of the new accessibility standard - A design standard that works for all across the public sector (I.S. EN 17161:2019), beginning with the higher education sector.

This Conference further calls upon the party to ensure that all of its policies are equality-proofed and that all party activities are accessible.

## **Labour Equality**

### **Motion 28**

Conference notes that Ireland ratified the Istanbul Convention in March 2018.

We note the Convention outlines the service needs for victims of domestic abuse such as support services and places of safety. Conference expresses its disappointment with how Ireland is lacking and is far behind in meeting its commitments for these services which were made evident during the pandemic lockdown periods.

Therefore, Conference calls for the implementation of the Istanbul convention as a matter of urgency and asks that government provide sustainable funding for services so as to meet the demands and needs for the victims/survivors of domestic violence and we recommend that they should include interpretation services, disability access, and continuous training for staff.

## **Wicklow**

### **Motion 29**

Cork South Central calls for the Labour Party to pursue the adoption of the UN definition of the family as the basis for the recognition of family formation.

“Any combination of two or more persons who are bound together by ties of mutual consent, birth, and/or adoption or placement and who, together, assume responsibility for inter alia, the care and maintenance of group members, the addition of new members through procreation or adoption, the socialisation of children and the social control of members” UN Definition of the Family 1994

Through the introduction of a system of State Registered Union it is proposed that: -

- Non-conventional families falling within the UN definition be given State recognition by way of a system of registration which will ensure equality of treatment as compared to conventional families as well as catering for succession rights and for the distribution of assets on dissolution.
- The present definition of marriage be replaced with a new definition based on an equality of treatment, including an equal distribution of assets and a clean break in the event of divorce. (See Scottish example).

## **Cork South Central**

## **Education**

### **Motion 30**

Conference recognises a renewed crisis in availability of school places at primary and post-primary level particularly in suburban areas and condemns the failure of the Government to plan in a timely fashion for expansion of student enrolments.

Conference further acknowledges a severe shortfall in school places for children with complex additional educational needs and a systematic failure by the Government to provide adequate staffing and support services for schools to support children with additional needs.

Conference calls for

1. coherent planning of school building and facilities over a five-year period including planning

- for special classes/units where appropriate within new and existing schools
2. adequate investment in appropriate educational facilities for children with additional needs to facilitate their full inclusion within the educational system.
  3. renewed investment in staffing and educational support services to allow schools to support children with additional needs.

**Dublin West**

### **Motion 31**

Whereas the current management model of the Irish educational system fails workers, students, parents and the broader public good.

Therefore, conference calls for the abolition of the patronage based, tripartite model. Conference calls for the direct management of schools including the employment of teachers, support staff, and others, by a publicly owned body, accountable through the minister to the public.

Conference calls for appropriate regional and local organisation of the management body to support planning, accountability and parental involvement.

**Galway West**



## **A NEW DEAL FOR WORKERS 2-3PM, SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**

**SOCIAL PROTECTION, RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT;  
ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT;  
FINANCE, PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND REFORM;  
DEFENCE; TOURISM, CULTURE, ARTS, GAELTACHT, SPORTS AND  
MEDIA;  
JUSTICE;  
INTERNAL PARTY AFFAIRS.**

### **Motion 32**

Conference notes that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted a lack of protection for workers in a range of areas and the failure to date of the Government to enact legislation to deal with the issues identified, including a right to statutory sick pay, a right to disconnect, a right to request flexible work and an auto-enrolment pension system.

Conference further notes with concern the ongoing failure of the Government to recognise the legitimate concerns of workers across the public service who are fighting for adequate pay, terms and conditions, including student nurses and midwives, members of the Defence Forces, school secretaries and caretakers, and the ongoing failure to address pay inequality.

Conference –

- welcomes the fact that Labour has brought forward legislative proposals to address a number of these concerns and condemns the Government's delay in progressing those Bills
- reiterates our commitment to campaigning for a living wage for all workers, and that all public contracts should include a clause committing employers who tender for public services and goods to paying their workers a living wage
- calls on the Government to commit to legislating for a right to collective bargaining and for employers to be required to negotiate with the trade union representatives of their workers
- calls on the Party to bring forward a comprehensive policy programme of proposals in 2022 to deliver a new deal for workers.

**Central Council**

### **Motion 33**

Conference notes that Ireland has the second lowest number of public holidays in the EU and three fewer than the EU member state average of twelve.

Conference further notes the sacrifices, solidarity and resilience of workers throughout the covid-19 pandemic.

Conference acknowledges the fundamental need to celebrate the dignity of workers; to enhance opportunities to contribute to community life and; to recognise the efforts of frontline and other workers in combating a global pandemic.

Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to commit to increasing the number of public holidays by at least three days per year.

**Dublin Rathdown**



### ***Amendment to Motion 33***

Delete the last paragraph and substitute the following:

“Conference therefore calls on the Labour Party to commit to increasing the number of annual public holidays by at least three days in addition to our current entitlement. This would bring us up to 12 bank holiday days and more in line with European standards.

This should be fully implemented over the next three years.”

**Central Council**

### **Motion 34**

Conference recognises the very serious challenges facing many young people wishing to enter employment, the exceptionally high unemployment rate among young persons in 2021 and that youth unemployment will be one of the major legacies of this pandemic.

It also recognises that across many job sectors, the need to have work experience or an internship in order to be considered for a job is becoming more crucial and that in some sectors, unpaid internships are the norm and thereby exclude and disadvantage many.

Conference thereby calls on the Party to campaign to ban unpaid internships and to ensure that all workers, regardless of age or duration of employment are paid a decent wage for work undertaken.

**Dublin Central**

### ***Amendment to Motion 34***

Delete the last paragraph and substitute the following two paragraphs:

“Young people are also exposed to increasing levels of precarious work, such as platform work. As the number of jobs in the platform sector grows, it exposes young workers to unsustainable and precarious work, preventing them for entering decent employment on a decent wage.

Conference thereby calls on the Party to campaign to ban unpaid internships and campaign to end all forms of precarious work. Our work must ensure that all workers, regardless of age or duration of employment are paid a decent wage for work undertaken.”

**Central Council**

### **Motion 35**

Conference calls on the Labour Party to engage in a campaign to achieve recognition of the work done by, and equality of treatment for, workers in the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Thousands of organisations operating across Health and Social Care, Housing and Youth and Childhood Services delivering many essential State and Public services that would otherwise have to be delivered through the Public Sector. These services are professionally delivered to those in most need, with flexibility and responsiveness to local or regional requirements.

By operating services at arms-length the State has abdicated its responsibility towards workers in the sector, and has driven down wages, terms and conditions of employment in the sector by effectively freezing and reducing funding available since 2008.

We resolve to campaign for:

- Define and recognise the importance of work carried out by Non-Profit Organisations within and for the benefit of the citizens and residents of the State;
- Equality of treatment for workers delivering State and Public Services whether employed in the Public, Private or Voluntary/Community/Charitable Sector.

**Sligo-Leitrim**

### **Amendment to Motion 35:**

In the second paragraph, after the word, "Housing", insert the word "Employment,".

After the last bullet point, insert the following bullet points:

- For a more equitable state for workers whereby organisations in receipt of public funding are legally obliged to recognise and collectively bargain with Trade Unions.
- For the state to provide the best possible forms of work, and the highest amount of collective bargaining through its tendering process in local, regional and national government.
- To end all forms of precarious work paid for by the state and the taxpayer.

Add a new final paragraph to the end of the motion:

Conference therefore calls on the party to seek increased funding into these sectors where pay rates have stagnated over the years and workers have seen no real increase in their pay or terms and conditions, despite the rise in inflation and all other costs within society. Workers in these sectors have experienced the hard end of an employment model which has been at the stark end of the ideological perspective of the right in respect to public services and has seen a harsh privatisation approach and de-funding within the sector. We should seek for these services to be provided on a not-for-profit basis and for workers employed in such services should be employed on no less favourable terms than their relevant public servant comparator"

**Central Council**

### **Motion 36**

Shannon Airport is vitally important for the economy of the surrounding regions. Traditionally Shannon's international flights have supported tens of thousands of jobs, particularly in international business and tourism. Much of this activity is now at risk.

Shannon Airport was already vulnerable before Covid. In the Covid environment, the outlook for Shannon is very bleak due to its increased inability to compete with the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and Shannon's now near monopoly dependency on Ryanair.

Following decades of consolidation, global airline companies now control international aviation. Small independent airports don't have the passenger volumes, resources or leverage to effectively negotiate with these conglomerates and typically end up with very expensive deals which do not provide the desired connectivity.

The DAA does have the "economics of scale" to negotiate with the monolithic airlines.

It no longer makes sense for Ireland to have one viable airport monopolising passengers and 3 other airports who are totally underutilised, financially stretched and unable to meet their regional mandates. In this scenario, the international airlines are the winners and Ireland loses.

Government needs to urgently implement an aviation policy which coordinates the efforts of the 3 state airports so that scarce public resources are utilised to strike multi annual deals with the airlines which are to the benefit of all 3 airports, through the allocation of agreed routes and passenger volumes to Cork and Shannon. Kerry and Knock airports can be included in this arrangement at their request.

This will also help decrease pollution and traffic congestion in Dublin.

**Clare**

### **Motion 37**

Conference notes the evidence that most wealth in Ireland is held in assets and not in income from work, with reports from the Central Bank (2020) and others recognising that the wealthiest 20% of households possess more wealth than the other 80% of households combined.

Conference further notes that the proportion of income going to work has declined steadily since the 1970s, the widening of the income inequality gap and the fact that over one-fifth of all workers are low paid.

Conference recognises the emergence of a 'dual economy' in Ireland, characterised by an excessive dependence on multinational corporations for tax receipts and for well-paid and high-skilled jobs.

Conference reaffirms as core policies of the Labour Party:

- to address the challenge of economic inequality by providing high quality universal public services based on need and not ability to pay,
- to make work pay and provide for dignity and fairness at work, and
- to encourage the development of a strong, sustainable and innovative indigenous Irish enterprise base.

Conference therefore calls for –

- the development of a system of targeted net wealth taxes and taxes on assets to fund public services and bring general government expenditure up to the EU norm,
- the creation of a legally robust system of collective bargaining and trade union recognition laws, which are the hallmark of decent and economically successful and productive societies, and
- the development of a new National Industrial Strategy which focuses on developing this country's under-developed indigenous enterprise base.

**Central Council**

## **Justice**

### **Motion 38**

Conference acknowledges the harmful impact gambling addiction has on Irish society, and commends the recent work done by Senator Mark Wall to ban gambling advertising.

Conference recognises the predatory potential of addictive game mechanics deliberately used in apps and video games commonly marketed towards children.

Conference calls for an extension to current gambling regulations to explore the need for restrictions on games, such as applying higher age ratings to apps that involve gambling or "loot box" mechanics, and limiting the ways in which they can be advertised.

**Cavan-Monaghan**

### **Motion 39**

Labour acknowledges and recognises the vulnerability, exploitation, health risks and safety concerns of those engaged in sex work, and the need to address these concerns through a policy framework based upon an evidence-based approach and model of practice which is responsive to public health and social care, along with also evaluating current legislation and policy matters in terms of their effectiveness in meeting the concerns of those involved in sex work.

To this end, Labour will commit to the formation of an internal independent (i.e., objective) review group in relation to people engaged in sex work - and inclusive of their voices and views, to facilitate a rights-based approach. This group will come under the responsibility of the Policy Unit, and will review current research on:

- Sex Worker healthcare & welfare
- Exit strategies
- Laws affecting Sex Workers
- International best practice & evidence-based policies

The group will report back with recommendations by next Labour Conference.

The Labour Party has a proud tradition and long-standing record of responding to societal matters no matter how difficult or controversial, and of looking after the most vulnerable in society, and is an innovative, progressive party unafraid to review its stance in line with evolving best practice.

**Kerry**

***Amendment to Motion 39:***

Delete the text of the motion and substitute the following:

'Conference mandates an internal independent (i.e., objective) review group under the responsibility of the Policy Unit to conduct an evidence-based review of, and to report with recommendations on, the law relating to the purchase of sexual services. Pending any decision on those recommendations, Party policy as currently articulated remains unaltered.'

**Central Council**

**Motion 40**

Labour Party Conference notes the rise in hate, bigotry and intolerance towards minorities in Ireland taking place through; extremism, street protest (specifically targeting minorities), street violence, online hate speech and physical and verbal attacks targeting minorities. All of this manifests in people from various minority groups such as migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, LGBT+ people, travellers being specifically targeted because of their identities.

Conference recognises all of this can cause significant distress and harm to members of minority groups/communities in Ireland.

Labour party conference affirms that the Labour Party stands clearly and unambiguously for all human rights including the right to freedom of expression. Labour Conference clearly notes that hate speech/hate crimes can often be a threat to human rights of equality, safety and security.

Conference welcomes and supports planned updates to the Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 and planned legislation on Hate Crimes and Criminal Hate Speech and also the new proposed National Action Plan Against Racism.

Conference calls for the following additional measures in these areas

1. More resourcing of the Garda National Diversity and Inclusion Unit to include promoting the Garda Diversity Officer widely.
2. Human rights and sensitivity training for all Gardai on how to work sensitively with minority communities, hate crime and explaining the Garda Diversity Officer role
3. Clear pathways to report hate crime on the Garda pulse system and annual published statistics on hate crime in Ireland

Additionally, Conference calls for extra accountability measures of online social media corporations in how they deal with online hate speech.

**Labour LGBT**

## **Internal Party Affairs**

### **Motion 41**

Conference further notes the current membership fee structure rightfully provides consideration for the financial hardship of students, youth members, and persons over 65 years but no consideration for the financial difficulty many others face, especially in a post-pandemic economy.

Conference mandates that the Party conduct membership campaigns similar to Sign up a Sister which address encouraging and supporting various under-represented groups of Irish society in our politics and in tandem with such campaigns, re-assess party membership fee structures in the short and medium terms as to how adjustments to the fee structure may better facilitate political involvement of under-represented and minority groups.

**Louth**

### **Motion 42**

Conference recognises that the attainment of economic equality entails challenging the dominance of the three parties of the nationalist tradition, and that there is a clear mandate and consensus of support from the electorate for social democratic and democratic socialist values.

As the party of Connolly, we bear a responsibility as a Party to ensure that those left out of society, those left on the margins of society and the issues that matter to working people are represented against the hostile nature of organised capital. Without a common platform to pursue these objectives we cannot ensure that those who would benefit most from these values, have the fullest possible opportunity to benefit from them.

Doing so requires the development of a coherent constructive Left. Accordingly, while remaining totally focused on building the Labour Party, we must be open to the possibility of forging the development of a Common Platform with others who share our broad egalitarian perspective, if the opportunity arises, to provide a real Left Alternative to the electorate.

**Labour Trade Unionists**

## NOTES



