



Support Ukraine! But don't cut aid!

The Labour Government has choices: it should continue to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian imperialism. It should resist Trump's betrayal of Ukraine and rapprochement with Putin.

Ukraine can defeat Russia if it has sufficient arms to do it: the UK should help to arm Ukraine. We should not call for a general rearmament, but Ukraine has the right to defend itself and must have the support of the Labour Party and trade unions.

The Labour Government does not need to and should not slash the aid budget in order to support Ukraine.

Nor does it need to bite deeper into benefits, or give up on rebuilding the NHS, or refuse funding to cash-strapped universi-

ties, or in any other way betray the hopes of the working-class voters who back it, or who could be won with decent social policies.

Labour can pursue a progressive social agenda, restore the aid budget, and help Ukraine to beat Russia if it grasps the nettle and taxes the rich and big business. That is the choice it must make.



Nottingham march in support of Ukraine, 22 February 2025

'Blue Labour' does not have the answers

Labour Party supporters were shocked and angered at reports in the *Guardian* (6 February) about a Facebook group called UK Migration Updates that claims it is run by Yorkshire and Humber Labour Party but was using Reform colours and linked to right-wing content from GB News and the *Telegraph*.

At the same time, we have new pressure from Lord Maurice Glasman's "Blue Labour". Glasman accepted a personal invite from Donald Trump for Trump's inauguration, and was the only Labour figure there. In an interview with currently-out-of-favour Trumpist Steve Bannon, Glasman hailed the inauguration as "an incredibly important day", called "progressive" thinking "woke capitalism", and denounced it as a cancer in the Labour Party (<https://x.com/TimesRadio/status/1880602229637353710>).

Glasman says that "the only place to build a house now is on the left side of MAGA square" (YouTube - <https://shorturl.at/MUPNw>).

Glasman is not in Starmer's inner circle — he has denounced Rachel Reeves — but he claims that Starmer's Chief of Staff Morgan McSweeney "is one of ours, we love him".

Dan Carden, a formerly leftish Labour MP who resigned from the front bench to back a ceasefire in Gaza, has started a Blue Labour group of MPs (*Times* article - <https://shorturl.at/C5UBs>).

Glasman started Blue Labour in 2009, but retreated after outcry over his 2011 claim that English Defence League people should be drawn into the Labour Party.

Only through inactivity by the "progressive" majority can anti-migrant — worse: racist — ideas take hold in sections of the Labour Party.

We need to campaign for democracy in the labour movement, for the removal of the Labour whip from Glasman (he sits in the House of Lords), and keep up the pressure on Labour and trade unions to support refugees (which most of them, to their credit, currently do).

Reinstate the three remaining suspended MPs!

While the whip has been restored to four of the seven Labour MPs who rightly rebelled over the two-child benefit cap last year, our leadership still has yet to offer such respect to left-wing MPs Zarah Sultana, Apsana Begum, and John McDonnell.

What differentiates these three so much? Is it that they are three of the most vocal critics of Starmer's leadership and its errors, particularly around Palestine? McDonnell has been a speaker on the marches, and Begum and Sultana have been continuously vocal at other gatherings.

The latter two have also been open in speaking about the horrific racism and harassment they have faced as female Muslim MPs, with Begum being the first Hijab-wearing MP, including that which has come from within the Labour Party itself.

By keeping these three MPs suspended from the whip, Starmer and his leadership are continuing to divide the Labour Party, prove their intolerance of dissent, and refusal to support or protect MPs and members who need it most.

Reinstate the three suspended MPs and end Starmer's continued division of Labour!

● Template motion: <https://labourleftint.uk/2025/01/29/template-motion-on-rebel-mps/>

Where Labour falters, Reform UK gains!

If anything can be learned from by-elections since the General Election last year it is this: we are losing support and Reform UK is gaining it.

The Labour government is failing to transform the UK as it needs to. Instead of taxing

the rich and funding our public services, we have seen the continuation of austerity, with policies such as the two-child benefit cap and winter fuel allowance cuts. These have only become sticks with which the far-right can beat Labour over the head and gain ground where it was once ours. We must see a real, transformative push to the left if we want to avoid the worsening of the far-right threat.

We must tax the rich, fund our public services, and repeal all anti-trade union laws if we want to empower and gain the trust of those communities which have been left behind as targets for the far-right.

Model motions:

- Resolution on puberty blockers passed by Islington South CLP, 19 February 2025: <https://labourleftint.uk/2025/02/26/resolution-on-puberty-blockers/>
- Template motion opposing Heathrow third runway: <https://labourleftint.uk/2025/01/29/template-motion-on-third-runway/>

Keep in touch with Labour Left Internationalists

Agree with any of what you have read here? Disagree and want to argue with us? Want to work to re-build a healthy Labour left-wing at the grassroots? Keep in touch at <https://labourleftint.uk/> or scan the QR-code.

We also recommend to keep in touch with CLPD: www.clpd.org.uk.

LLI, 1 March 2025

