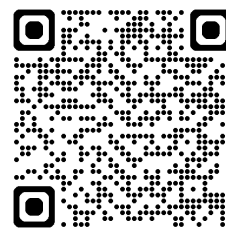


LABOUR LEFT INTERNATIONALISTS



Winter 2025

Two-child cap victory, but much still to be done

"A huge win for anti-poverty campaigners and the labour movement. For myself and my colleagues who were suspended for voting to scrap the cap back in July last year, this is a clear vindication of the stance we took. But let's be clear - this would not have happened without a mobilised left demanding change inside the Labour Party".

John McDonnell MP

When the two child cap was introduced in the Tory Welfare Reform Act 2016, 48 Labour MPs defied the whips' instruction to abstain. (None had the whip removed). The campaign against it has built since up in CLPs, unions and more widely.

The section in Labour's 2024 manifesto - rightly condemning the Tories for increasing child poverty by 700 000 - committed only though to "reviewing universal credit... so that it tackles poverty". It was left to the SNP to table a King's Speech amendment calling for cap to be scrapped, with seven Labour MPs losing the whip for supporting it. Pressure continued to build though - there were (as far as we can tell) more CLP motions to this year's party conference calling for its scrapping than on any other topic. It was that pressure - not some sudden reversal of mind - that led to Rachel Reeves scrapping it with effect from next April. It should have been done a year ago.

Elsewhere in the budget concessions to that pressure were real but much more slight than the Tory press - and the LibDems and Reform - make out. Income tax thresholds had already been frozen by the Tories; the freeze has just been extended. And as the FBU's Steve Wright said, **"the increase in the statutory minimum wage is welcome and will help many low-paid workers... however, without meaningful action on taxing extreme wealth, this Budget does not yet provide secure, long-term investment or break with austerity"**.

Despite this year's annual conference vote (in Composite 14) for a wealth tax, there was nothing of the sort, nor land tax, nor increased tax on bank profits (which have increased again). Council tax is untouched. The 'mansion tax' is in fact small.

"It is shocking that the biggest revenue-raising measure in this budget, that should have been about taxing the super-rich more, will be a freeze on income tax thresholds.. Even the proposed mansion tax, which is a step in the right direction, is a messy half measure and raises a relatively small amount".

Faiza Shaheen (Tax Justice UK)

The NHS, green conversion and the national grid, public sector wages, council house building, relief to local authorities cut to the bone - this budget provides for none of them. And the education unions have already pointed out that the SEND provision bail-out looks to be funded by cuts to school budgets. (See also <https://davelevy.info/on-the-autumn-statement-2026/>)

Mainstream are right to point out that the removal of the two child cap "shows what's possible when Labour hears and heeds the voices of its mainstream" - when campaigning in the party and unions makes it do so - but there is much still to be done.

We need to rebuild the labour grassroots, with a healthy, democratic, internationalist left.



<https://labourleftint.uk>

Speakers for CLP/Branch meetings:

Pride in Labour: www.prideinlabour.org.uk

Labour Campaign for Council Housing:
<https://thelabourcampaignforcouncilhousing.org>

Ukraine Solidarity Campaign:
<https://ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org>

Neurodivergent Labour: <https://www.ndlabour.com>

Employment Rights

After three months of Tory-LibDem delaying tactics in the Lords, the government have backed down rather than press on with protection against unfair dismissal from day one of employment.

As *Mainstream* have said, “ensuring millions of workers have enhanced sick pay protection, defending improvements in collective rights, and progress on guaranteed hours are good outcomes from this compromise if it sticks. But we have to be clear: the delay in introducing this legislation, an unwillingness to use the Parliament Act, and the bad faith interference of those who would see Labour ditch the whole project have left unions high and dry in the wrangling of the last few weeks.”

A full second ERB could risk another bogged-down lengthy process, but a ‘day one bill’ to press on immediately with the manifesto commitments dropped from the ERB would protect workers taken on a long series of 5-month contracts, seasonal workers and others from unfair dismissal. TU branches, trades councils and CLPs should press for this urgently.

Refuge & Asylum

Labour’s annual conference called (in composite 13) for measures “enabling workers to challenge bad employers without the threat of deportation”. That composite said the government must “retain the 5-year route to Indefinite Leave to Remain and halt any moves to retrospectively extend the qualifying period”

On 17th November Shabana Mahmood announced extreme changes in the completely opposite direction. People granted asylum would need to wait 20 years before they can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain or Settled Status. Those granted asylum will have their status reviewed every 30 months, and if their home country is considered “safe” they could be liable for immediate deportation.

Alf Dubs would have been deported in 1945.



Follow the qr-code for the model motion for CLPs circulated by Momentum.

See also **Labour Campaign for Free Movement:** <https://www.labourfreemovement.org>

**#Stop
Rosebank**



Trade unionists working with the Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group and organisations involved in the Stop Rosebank campaign are calling for trade union organisations and individuals to sign an open letter calling on the government not to grant approval for the climate-wrecking Rosebank oil field. More information, and the link to add your name on the qr-code.

The right of protest

Motion put to CLPs: *As much as we have disagreements with Palestine Action (including their refusal to even talk with workers employed in targeted workplaces) the government’s attempt to ban them and treat them as terrorists is wrong, anti-democratic and counter-productive.*

Doubling-down, as in the Home Secretary’s announcement of further restrictions on the right to protest, is doubly so.

We call on the Labour government to stop kow-towing to Trump, Reform UK, and the right wing media. Instead of restricting protest, it should reverse the Police Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023, which Labour opposed when the Tories put them through Parliament.

Tribune Group

We are pleased to hear that the ‘soft left’ Tribune MPs are getting organised - bolstered by the revolt on disability cuts. Their statement on the budget is poor, but we look forward to hearing from them on the Employment Rights Bill, on the

Reform-lite immigration policies, and on party democracy.

Keep in touch

This is the second of a regular bulletin produced for supporters and friends to print out and distribute at CLP or branch meetings, or any other Labour events they see fit. Email lableftint@gmail.com or download it from our website.

Use the qr-code to see the bulletins we gave out at national conference.



Regions

Are you going to the **North West** Regional Conference in January, or the **East Midlands** regional Conference in February? Get in touch if you want to promote your CLP’s motion, take part in our events on the fringe, or help distribute our bulletins. Email lableftint@gmail.com.

After Gaza vote at annual conference

Labour Party conference voting for Motion 2, and rejecting Motion 1, on Israel-Palestine, is a net positive. The policy passed recognises the genocidal nature of Israel’s war, and reaffirms Labour’s support for a solution based on equal rights, including equal national rights, for both peoples: Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. In the first instance, this means an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel... But there is another vital element that is often missing from the way Israel-Palestine is discussed in the party, including on the left. Without a strong grassroots agency fighting for peace and equality from within Israeli society, external diplomatic pressure will always be limited in its effects. Use the qr-code for the full article.

UK Friends of Standing Together:
<https://ukfost.co.uk>



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