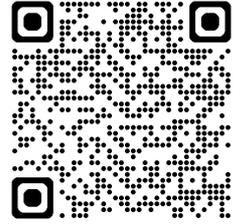


LABOUR LEFT INTERNATIONALISTS



March 2026

After Gorton & Denton

“Our party has just come third in Gorton and Denton, a previously safe Labour seat - an area where we haven't lost an election since 1931. It is those running our party who are to blame. We need change at the top and serious lessons need to be learnt:

- 1) Don't ape Reform. In order to keep our voter coalition together we should be true to the progressive values that Labour is meant to stand for. The failure to do this meant large parts of our coalition fled to another progressive party.*
- 2) Don't put factional interests ahead of everything else. The party blocked a popular candidate in Andy Burnham, who may well have been able to win this seat, from even putting himself forward for nakedly factional reasons, while the terrible decision to appoint Mandelson as US Ambassador came back to bite Labour.*
- 3) Don't play dirty. The bizarre claims about the Greens in relation to drugs and sex workers were desperate, embarrassing, and harmful. It is no wonder they did not work and instead reflected badly on our party.*
- 4) Don't say only Labour can beat Reform if - thanks to the leadership's own self-sabotage - it's not true. Because it will be true in many other seats, and now voters won't believe us.*
- 5) But fundamentally, this shows why first past the post isn't fit for purpose. If the government doesn't introduce proportional voting, a far right party could win the next general election outright on a minority of the vote. This possibility inevitably makes tactical voting essential in some seats, and Labour is playing with fire.”*

Nadia Whittome MP

“Politically the problem was that the Labour campaign was presenting us as the way to stop Reform, and the Green campaign was doing exactly the same thing. Neither campaign said a lot more than that. The early Green leaflets carried no politics at all, with the only slogan being ‘vote for the plumber from Manchester’. Labour started slightly better, but stooped lower and lower as the campaign proceeded.”

See our report from the doorsteps in Gorton & Denton at <https://labourleftint.uk/2026/02/27/after-the-gorton-and-denton-by-election/>

Fire Brigades Union general secretary Steve Wright has said: “Last week has been the final bullet for Keir Starmer. FBU members can't wait till May for change”. Starmer is only still in post because of the number of PLP members who want him to stay until May to take the blame for the local elections. The sooner he is gone the better.

Restore Labour Democracy



Restore
Labour
Democracy

“We are deeply concerned by the undermining of democracy and the rights of members within the Labour Party.

“Denying local members in Gorton and Denton the right to choose their candidate looks like part of a pattern, alongside the widespread barring of hard-working councillors and the withdrawal of the whip from MPs standing up for their constituents.

“It's increasingly clear that a narrow, factional agenda is being imposed upon the Party and that this is increasingly unpopular with the public.

“This approach is wrong in principle and damaging in practice. When the Labour Party sidelines its members, it weakens Labour's roots in our communities, alienates voters, and undermines Labour's ability to win both people's trust and elections.

“We will work together to strengthen our democracy and reverse this damaging behaviour.

“We call on all those in the Parliamentary Labour Party, affiliated trade unions, and the wider Party membership who value and respect the vitally important role played by Labour Party and trade union members to join us in these efforts.”

Add your name or that of your branch/CLP/affiliate at <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/restore-labour-democracy-add-your-name-to-the-statement>

Solidarity with the workers of Iran: statement by the Iran labour Confederation

The killing of Ali Khamenei, alongside a number of senior figures from the IRGC and the ruling apparatus, is an exceptional development in Iran's current trajectory. It is a decisive blow to the heart of the repression machine and the backbone of the Islamic Republic. For millions in Iran, the death of a man who for decades symbolised massacre, suppression, poverty, militarism, and rule through blood has triggered a moment of release — a mix of long-contained rage and explosive relief. People's presence in the streets and the broader social reaction reveal the depth of hatred that years of crime and slaughter have accumulated inside society...

"Still, we must state the reality plainly: this blow to the top of the state has taken place within a war launched from above and outside the people's will. A war that threatens lives, turns cities into zones of death, and seeks to paralyse society through fear and ruin. The United States and Israel have played a direct role through their military attacks, and they must be condemned unconditionally. No "rescue" narrative and no "defensive" framing can launder the killing of civilians."

See the full statement at <https://iranlc.org/en/12023>

A retreat from the Child Welfare and Schools Bill

The education white paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, introduces a significant change in policy - a change that was not in Labour's election manifesto, and has not come from any discussion in the party, its national conference, nor the National Policy Forum.

The new policy is summed under the heading 'vision': "We will put collaboration at the heart of the system by moving to all schools joining or forming high-quality school trusts".

As Steve Witherden MP has pointed out, this is "at odds with the stated position in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill that the Government will no longer seek to force academisation on schools."

The Schools Bill was part of an important policy shift on academies. Even before the bill was introduced, one of Bridget Phillipson's first acts as Education Secretary was to end the previous government's use of 'coasting' regulations to force schools to academise. The Schools Bill went further, with the clause entitled 'Repeal of duty to make Academy order in relation to school causing concern' doing exactly that.

This policy reversal will not help one bit to achieve ambitions on SEND, and by reducing accountability and making schools more remote from their communities, will make it harder.

Every branch, CLP and union should discuss this sudden policy change, and call for a return to an education policy that protects local schools.

(Adapted from the SEA's Education Politics blog on Substack).

May elections

This is our last LLI bulletin before the May elections, so we wish all the best to all areas with contests. But as we go into these elections we still have no functioning Local Government Committee in a number of places including Lancashire and Lewisham, while Buckinghamshire has suffered from the region taking over selections and then dragging its feet.

And every CLP and Labour Group is having to work out what to do about 'observers to group' now that these have been taken out of the rule book by the last conference (something we opposed).

Regional Conferences

The North West Regional Conference once again passed policy at odds with the party leadership, with not a single delegate defending the leadership position - this time on asylum rights and taking asylum accommodation out of the private sector. (Last year was on public ownership of water).

See our report at <https://labourleftint.uk/2026/01/26/north-west-labour-party-conference-backs-asylum-rights/>

NEC nominations

We urge CLPs to nominate candidates for the NEC that can be part of pushing for party democracy and a change of direction, those nominated by Mainstream and those nominated by the Centre Left Grassroots Alliance:

Gemma Bolton L1405940

Yasmine Dar L1173052

Minesh Parekh L1230833

Cat Arnold L1452611

Jovan Owusu-Nepaul L1232610

Kerry Postlewhite L1212372

See clpd.org.uk for information on Gemma, Yasmine and Minesh, and www.mainstreamlabour.org for information on Cat, Jovan and Kerry.

Template motion for abortion rights

<https://labourleftint.uk/2026/01/27/template-motion-for-abortion-rights-and-against-40-days-for-life/>

Keep in touch

This is the fourth issue of a regular bulletin for supporters and friends to print out and distribute in their CLPs. Email lableftint@gmail.com or download from our website. Find more on our website Below (or use the QR-code on the front page). All content on this page is available on the website. We are always grateful to hear news or comments.

<https://labourleftint.uk>