

Letter to Members in Hackney South and Shoreditch CLP

Dear CLP Secretary

I'm writing to let you know I am re-standing for the Labour Party National Executive Committee.

I would be grateful if local members would consider nominating me. I have enjoyed meeting and campaigning with activists across the country and in Hackney and now I am asking for members to support my re-nomination for the NEC.

I'm proud to be a member of our party and I believe we can make it even better. The energy and enthusiasm from members I meet up and down the country is fantastic. As the largest mass-membership political Party in Europe we have a chance to end "politics as usual." I am re-standing for the NEC to fight for an open, tolerant party that reaches out to excluded groups and campaigns tirelessly for a Labour victory at the next election.

Being an actor and performing stand up is what I do for a living, but being an activist has been part of me for a long time. I have always fought for the campaigns that I believe in, even when they are unpopular or I've been advised against it.

I came out in 1985, joined the Labour Party in 1995 and I now campaign for LGBT rights, for the Labour Party, for Europe and have run marathons for charities for many years. I have campaigned against racists and fascists all over our country and around the world.

I want all of our members to feel welcome in the Labour Party. We have to tackle the un-comradely behaviour we see between Labour Party members and factions. Even if we disagree on this policy or that, we should do so in a friendly manner. There is an ugly side to our politics that we need to stamp out.

We need to tap into the diversity within our movement and do more to increase involvement from a range of groups that I don't feel are represented enough in our party. That includes those from LGBT, disabled and ethnic minority backgrounds, as well as those who have suffered from mental health issues. Gender equality and increasing working class participation is also vital. In the last NEC election, I launched an Inclusivity Action Plan, and I want to be re-elected to the NEC so that I can deliver for you.

Most importantly I want to do all I can to help Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party take the fight to the Tories, building on our strong performance in the 2017 general election. We need to look honestly at the recent local election results. We did very well in some areas, winning in Plymouth and Trafford, getting some of our best ever results in true-blue Tory boroughs in London. Yet we also should be doing better in the polls, and must work harder to reconnect with voters who have left us in parts of the North and Midlands, particularly our working class support.

We have to keep our eye on the prize, and fight the Tories, not each other. I'm not into this factional infighting we see played out in the media, on facebook and twitter. I'm self-propelled, not being wheeled out by anyone. I will be an independent voice for members of the NEC. I am Labour and always fight for us.

We need a party that builds on the energy of the past few years and harnesses it to create the tolerant, open movement that Britain needs.

I hope you'll consider nominating me.

With best wishes

Eddie

Eddie Izzard
Labour Party NEC Member
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