

London Regional Conference 2021

Candidate Booklet

If you require this booklet in another format please email
London2021@labour.org.uk

London  Labour

Candidates

(W) = candidate eligible to be selected in designated women's position

Please note nominations are not included as the threshold for the Chair and Vice Chair positions was self-nomination.

Chair

Maggi Ferncombe
Jim Kelly

Vice Chair

Dean Gilligan
Emine Ibrahim (W)
James Mitchell
Shama Tatler (W)



Chair

Candidates

Maggi Ferncombe

Statement:

Meet the challenge – make the change

Following the pandemic and the sheer incompetency of this government and their mishandling of the crisis, we face new challenges to show how Labour in power will prioritise London's public services, infrastructure, job creation and address systemic inequalities highlighted by Covid 19 and inspirational BLM movement.

To meet the electoral challenge, we must organise together, speaking up for Londoners rather than speaking to each other.

I will work with every section of the party to lead London Labour, win future elections and help deliver a progressive agenda for Londoners.

My experience

Party Member since 1988

GLLP Board since 2015

Regional Secretary of UNISON

Member of Mayors Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Board

Committee member of TULO

LESE TUC exec since 2015

I was raised in an Irish immigrant family, my dad was a bus driver and my mum a cleaner. I grew up in a household where robbing Peter to pay Paul was our everyday life. But I was also raised in a Labour and trade union household because Labour was and is the only party that speaks for the working class and has embedded values of equality and social justice.

My Priorities for 2022 and Beyond

As Chair I will:-

Ensure the Executive meets regularly, is accountable, effective and has transparent decision making



Work with the Executive and Staff to provide organisational support to CLPs to deliver campaigning on the ground, maximising the Labour vote and exploring new campaigning techniques

Lead on increasing women as leaders throughout the region, in CLP's and particularly standing as Labour candidates in 2022

Work closely with the Women's Officer, BAME Officer, Disability Officer and LGBT+ Officer to support their work in raising the voices of those underrepresented in our society and promote active allyship in our party

Ensure we deliver Labour's message, boost voter turnout and maintain majority control of London Councils in 2022

Support the region to strengthen links between members, trade unionists, affiliates and elected representatives to ensure we act as one Labour family

London remains Labour but we cannot afford complacency, we must meet future challenges with new leadership, fresh ideas, pride in our past achievements and ambitions for our future

Vote for me and together we can win



Jim Kelly

Statement:

My name is Jim Kelly. I am a member of Unite and I have served as Chair of the Regional Executive Committee since 2019. I am seeking your support for the position of regional chair for the coming electoral cycle.

I am a Unite GC delegate to Chingford & Woodford Green CLP. I am also Vice President of LESE TUC. I have worked as a London cab driver for 30 years.

GENERAL ELECTION

In the 2019 General Election I campaigned in several constituencies, helping support excellent candidates such as Emma Dent Coad, Jon Cruddas, Gordon Nardell, Marsha De Cordova, Bambos Charalambous and Faiza Shaheen.

The party was unable to shift the focus of the election from Brexit, with many good MPs losing their seats in London.

On a positive note, there was a Labour gain in Putney, the only Labour gain on the night. Much was down to an excellent candidate, but also the hard work and commitment of dedicated party community organisers.

The community organising model should be at the core of our campaigning and electoral strategy.

WORKERS RIGHTS

Workers' rights must be on top of Labour's agenda in London. Employers are exploiting covid to kickstart a race to the bottom in workers terms and conditions. The disgraceful use of Fire and Rehire at Heathrow is the best known, and it was good to see the support of Labour MPs on Heathrow union demonstrations.

Attacks on union organisation on passenger services enshrined in the Tory deal imposed on TfL, the derisory pay offer to NHS workers, job losses amongst shop workers and council workers, all are examples of policies which need to be opposed vigorously by London Labour working closely with London's unions. Council services should be insourced not outsourced.

MAYOR

Sadiq's re-election was a great result. Yet The Tories are certainly not down in London, we need a united democratic party, with an engaged and enthusiastic membership,



standing on a radical socialist agenda to prepare for the inevitable economic downturn from Brexit and Covid.

HOUSING

Labour needs to be bolder in fighting the dysfunctional housing market in London. we need to be campaigning against estate regeneration schemes which lead to displaced working-class communities and increase inequality.

RACISM

As was pointed out by the motion on racism at the 2019 conference, racism never went away. The recent disgraceful racist comments on social media against black players in the England team show that the right is ready and able to exploit any opportunity.

LEADERSHIP

The country needs effective opposition to the Tories from the Labour Leadership. This is the most inept, corrupt government in living memory, yet where is our Labour voice? Labour Voters are saying they no longer know what Labour stands for. We need to build on our radical manifesto of 2017, but we also need a Leadership willing to come out fighting; as Gordon Brown said in his conference address in 2009, we need to "Think big and fight hard". As things stand, we are doing neither.



Vice Chair

Candidates

Dean Gilligan

Statement:

"I am standing for election for the role of Vice-Chair of the London Regional Executive as I believe I have the right attributes as a trust worthy and honest sounding board for the Chair, fellow Executive Officers and the wider Executive. I understand the importance of bringing a fresh perspective and being that extra pair of eyes and ears that a Vice Chair can bring to the work and meetings of the Executive.

As a GMB activist a member of the GMB Regional and National Executive Committee and as a local councillor in Harrow, my aim is to maintain and strength the link between CLPs, the Region and the affiliated Trade Unions, in what will be a crucial 12 months for Labour in London, with all out borough elections in May 2022."



Emine Ibrahim

Statement:

I am proud to be re-standing for a 4th term for the Regional Executive Committee and this year I would like your support to take on one of the two Vice Chair positions. I am a longstanding and experienced member of the London Labour Party and have a reputation as a dedicated socialist.

There are many things most ordinary party members agree on and one of them is the need to fight for a transparent, accountable, and democratic party.

I am committed to fighting for an anti-austerity party and I have proven my commitment to this over the past 7 years representing CLPs across North and East London on the London regional Executive. I believe that only with the engagement of ordinary party members and activists can we deliver a radical Labour government as well as making further strides for Labour in Local Government. I am an unashamed champion of a radical future for our party, particularly in Local Government. I will always believe that Labour does best when the very people we seek to represent feel that we are fighting their corner.

My main priority over the last 7 years on regional board has been fighting for a democratic London Labour Party and I would like to continue to speak up for ordinary members who often feel that the regional structures of the party are remote. Lots of those members have faced challenges in understanding how our party structures work.

I will speak up for local activists who want to see a party that is;

- Transparent, accountable and democratic;
- Listens to the voice of trade unions that represent the interests of workers our party was built to provide a voice for.

As a trade unionist I am committed to providing a voice for workers hit the hardest by the cuts. I am also a Councillor for Noel Park ward in Haringey. I represent Unison members in Local Government in the borough I work by day and attend council meetings in Haringey in the evening.

I am active in my own CLP and have previously been the Branch Chair of Noel Park BLP, Vice Chair of Hornsey and Wood Green CLP and Fundraising officer for Hornsey and Wood Green and also held the same position while I was a member of Tottenham CLP. In the recent Mayoral and GLA elections I stood as a London wide list candidate



and could be regularly seen out on the doorstep across London supporting local campaigning.

This year is an important time for London Labour in the run up to the 2022 London local elections. There is much to do in the London party to make sure the best and most diverse pool of candidates step forward for next year's elections. This will be a key priority that I will focus on with your support.



James Mitchell

Statement:

My Name is James Mitchell, and I am a member of the Bermondsey and Old Southwark CLP. We have a proud record in our constituency of winning and retaining. Wining Southwark from the Lib Dems and then Increasing our Labour density and maintaining a Labour local council, shows Labour's strength in our community.

The Labour party was formed to give a political voice to working class people in the 1900's. Today, our party needs to continue its key reason of inception. We are in a new environment, financially and diversely and where although some people look better off on paper, the reality is, that more and more people in work are using foodbanks, even though they are working. More people are seeking financial help to prevent their family from losing their home and more children are suffering by not getting a fair start in life because of an education system that favours the wealthier. Coming through that system myself, I understand about growing up in a one parent family and on top of that being black.

To me, this party has been the sole party that has brought about hope and a chance for freedom for hundreds of thousands of BAEM/migrant families to be proud that this is their home, but as recent events have shown like Brexit, this has allowed us as a nation to deteriorate and allow the resurrection of the far right to poison society and bring about a system that again only favours the privilege.

The disunity, which we see in our party, can only help to strengthen the far rights ego and power and allow the working class people of our nation to suffer.

As a key worker and trade unionist on London Buses during the pandemic I have seen first-hand the tragic deaths of many of my colleagues caused by Covid-19. I know the importance of trade unions working with the Mayor's Office/TFL and operators to introduce extra health measures to try to mitigate the risks for all transport workers and passengers.

As key workers, housing in London is clearly become an issue of affordability and with many who work in the food and leisure industries who are on low pay and precarious contracts, survival in London and towns and cities across Britain to support a family home has become impossible. With more people taking to using food banks and sleeping on the streets, we need to now be getting back to council-based rents and retaining council lands for building of council owned properties and stop private property developers taking over these lands and building homes for what seems to be the wealthy and overseas buyers, which is wiping out local communities.



So, to this end, I am standing for the position of vice-chair, to help us work through our differences and to help get our party back to what I believe we were fundamentally set up to do and that is to fight and protect our nation and workers.



Shama Tatler

Statement:

Shama has the personal, professional, and political experience make her a strong candidate to be the Vice-Chair of London Regional Executive. To be part of the solution to help Labour to win in London. The executive is central to setting the foundation from which to build a platform to win and support our constituency parties.

Shama is the daughter of immigrants, a teacher and Councillor in Brent since 2014. This has enabled her to see how Labour in power can make a real and lasting difference in people's lives. She is proud to work with a great Labour Group in Brent and is proud of their achievements despite years of austerity.

Shama been an active member of the Labour Party both at ward and constituency level. She has been the Chair of Brent North Constituency Party. Additionally, she has experience of executive bodies having been the vice-chair of a school governing body, member of the Fabian Women's Network executive and an executive member for a children's cultural organisation as well as currently being a Cabinet Member at Brent Council.

Shama joined the party because she wants to be part of shaping and improving the lives and representation for every community, particularly minorities and those most disadvantaged. She wants to improve participation, training and tolerance in our party and will support learning every possible lesson from our past to ensure that we can all go forward together; united in common cause of securing the election of Labour candidates.

