

National Executive Committee

Elections 2012

Joanne Milligan



Dear fellow member....

I'm standing for the Labour Party National Executive Committee and I'm asking for your support to get elected.

I'm sure a number of candidates will contact you during these elections and say that, if they get elected, they want to represent your views as a member on the NEC.

I do too.

But I want to do more than that.

I supported recent measures to refound our party and give members more of a say but changing our structures can only ever be the first step in building the political movement we need to return Labour to Government. We must now focus not on ourselves but on addressing the concerns and hopes of the public.

The strength of our party lies in the values which members share. But we only have the chance to put those values into practice when our vision of the future chimes with the public.

If elected to the NEC with your support, my priority will be building an outward looking party – one that gives members' views the weight and importance they deserve but also recognises the reality that we need to regain the popular support and trust of the British people.

Labour did much to be proud of during 13 years of Government at Westminster – reinvesting and rebuilding public services and creating jobs and opportunities – but it's time to put the debate about the recent past to bed and face the challenges ahead together.

The past should not define our future. We must show that we are a credible alternative Government with a new policy programme that reflects the concerns the public have about their future. Anything else would see us in opposition for a further term - betraying the people we seek to represent and the values our party was founded to advance.

I hope I can count on your support.

Best wishes

Can you help?

If you share my priority of rebuilding trust with the public and winning their support, then please support my election to the NEC by doing 2 small things:

Ask your CLP to nominate me

Forward this leaflet to your CLP secretary and ask them to make sure that '*nominations for the NEC*' is on the agenda for your next CLP meeting. The deadline for nominations is 5pm on Friday 30 March 2012.

The CLP secretary will need to know my Labour party membership number is **A636183** and that I'm a member of **Croydon South CLP**.

Please forward this leaflet to other members you know and ask them to nominate me at the CLP meeting. You can nominate 6 people - I'm also supporting Luke Akehurst, Florence Nosegbe, Ellie Reeves, Ruth Smeeth and Peter Wheeler.

Ask other members to vote for me

Ballot papers for the NEC elections will be issued in June and every member can vote for up to 6 candidates. Please forward this leaflet to other members and ask them to vote for me when they receive their ballot paper.

Thanks for your support and help.

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I have been **active in every local, Holyrood, Westminster and European election**, as well as by-elections, since first campaigning in Govan during the 1992 General Election.

I have held a variety of voluntary positions in the Labour movement including:

- Chair of Scottish Labour Students
- Branch Chair, CLP Secretary, CLP Vice Chair
- Campaign Co-ordinator and Election Agent
- Local Government Committee Secretary in North Lanarkshire (Scotland)
- Local Government Committee Chair in Croydon (London)
- Member of Labour's Scottish Policy Forum and National Policy Forum, initially representing members in Scotland and since 2007, representing London members.
- Various MSF (now Unite) Scotland and STUC committees
- Chair of my Unite (T&G) branch

As a member of the National Policy Forum I have **championed policy proposals from members** on issues such as low pay and the working poor; progressive taxation; fuel poverty and energy tariffs; international aid; cluster munitions and multilateral nuclear disarmament.

I am also a member of the union Community and of the Co-Op Party - and a regular canvasser and leaflet deliverer.

Politics matters ... because it's about people

I grew up in a working class family in Coatbridge, near Glasgow, during Thatcher's years in power. In my early teens, I witnessed the heart being ripped out of Lanarkshire's industries with thousands consigned to unemployment, struggle and poverty.

It was this experience that led me to the Labour party and politics.

Another generation are now being made to endure a similar experience as this Tory-led Government neglects the vulnerable, neglects communities and neglects this country's future.

I've sat through almost every type of Labour party committee meeting there is but I've never felt that the commitment of Labour party members should be judged solely by the number of Labour committee meetings they attend.

An outward looking party listening to, understanding and responding to public concerns is a party fit for Government. We need to show

the public that we are serious about preparing ourselves to govern again.

Our party must always be on the side of the decent hard-working majority, tackling the issues they care most about. We lost the last election because we lost touch and lost trust.

Being in touch with the everyday concerns of pupils or pensioners, passengers or patients, parents and workers, will help us on the path to regaining trust.

I want to be one of your NEC representatives now for the very same reasons I joined the Labour party some 20 years ago – **to build a movement that fights for fairness, opportunity and the chance of a better life for all and help elect a Government that delivers on those ambitions.**

We won't do that without focusing relentlessly on the concerns of the public so we can design a programme to get Labour back into Government in 2015.