

Ellie Reeves

a voice for grassroots members on the National Executive Committee

January 2012

Dear Colleague,

It has been a privilege to serve grassroots members on the NEC for the past 5 years and I was pleased to be re-elected 18 months ago with 182 CLP nominations and broad support from across the party. Nominations have now opened for this year's NEC elections and I am asking for your support to be re-elected.

Standing up against the cuts

The government are attacking public services and workers' rights. Now, more than ever, it is important to have a strong NEC standing up against the cuts.

As a trade union lawyer, representing working people day in day out, I see the effects the cuts are having on working people and their communities. I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that we have clear lines of attack against this government and that we always stand up for working people.

Putting members at the heart of our Party

In September, conference overwhelmingly voted in favour of reforms to our party, and I am proud to be vice-chair of Refounding Labour. I spoke to members all over the country about the review. The message was clear – that members wanted a stronger voice in the party and that is what I fight for on the NEC.

In the months ahead, the NEC will be overseeing the implementation of Refounding Labour – to ensure that we become a party whose structures are more inclusive, more dynamic, more democratic and that members have a greater say.

A winning party, fighting back

We have important elections ahead of us. We must ensure that we have the right policies in place to re-connect with the public and prove that we are ready to return to government. A strong NEC must work with the leadership and the grassroots to drive that policy process forward.

We also need to ensure that we will be an effective fighting force. The NEC must work to ensure that funds and resources are allocated in the most effective way and that staff and volunteers are motivated and their efforts appreciated.

I have a proven track record as a campaigner – I've worked tirelessly in every election since I was 15. In the past year, I have campaigned not just locally across London but also in the by-elections in Oldham East and Saddleworth, Barnsley Central and Leicester South.

Engaging with new members, encouraging diversity

Since the last election, our membership has risen sharply, particularly among young people. It is crucial that we engage with new members and that the Labour Party is welcoming place for them.

It is crucial that the NEC supports the Youth, Women's, LGBT, Black and Minority Ethnic and disabled sections of our party, so that we are a party that reflects the communities we seek to represent.

We must break down barriers to selection. It is wrong that 27 per cent of the Parliamentary Labour Party have 'politics' as their career background. On the NEC I have called for a cap on spending in selections to make it easier for a more diverse range of candidates to stand for Parliament.



Ellie, her dad and her sister campaigning against public sector cuts



Ellie at the launch of "Refounding Labour"



Ellie with partner John and sister Rachel, out campaigning in Leyton.

Keeping in touch

As your representative on the NEC it is vital that I keep in touch with members, so that I can take your views to the leadership.

Over the past six years I have reported back after every NEC meeting. Recently I have spoken to numerous local labour parties including Leyton and Wanstead, Lewisham Deptford, Blackheath, Leeds West, Milton Keynes, Windsor, Solihull, West Ham, Orpington, Hackney South and Shoreditch, Stratford upon Avon, Manchester Central, Brussels Labour and Labour International.

I have also spoken at our National Youth Conference, addressed the East of England Regional Board, spoken at South West Regional Conference and ran workshops at the Progress Political Weekend.

How you can help

Your CLP should have received nomination papers for the NEC elections. You can nominate up to six people for the NEC and I would be grateful if your CLP would consider nominating me at your next meeting so that I can continue to serve the grassroots membership of our party.

If you would like me to come and speak to your CLP, if you have any questions or any issues you would like me to raise on the NEC please get in touch. I can keep you up to date about the work of the NEC if you email me at eleanorreeves@aol.com

I really appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely,



Ellie Reeves



Ellie out campaigning in the snow in Oldham

About Ellie

Ellie has been a member of the Labour Party since she was 15. She has served on the NEC for the past 6 years. Ellie works for OH Parsons Solicitors as a trade union lawyer, representing Unite and UCATT members. She also runs training courses for union members and regularly addresses the Institute of Employment Rights. Ellie also serves on the Unite London and Eastern Regional Political Committee. Ellie is the sister of Rachel Reeves MP and the partner of John Cryer MP.

What others say about Ellie

"Ellie has been an outstanding grassroots representative on the NEC. She has relentlessly pushed the leadership of the party to fight hard against the government's attacks on worker's rights."

John Cryer, MP for Leyton and Wanstead

"Ellie is a tireless campaigner. She brought a team of people to Leicester South to help secure Labour's victory in the by-election there. She doesn't just sit in meetings talking about campaigning, she gets out there knocking on doors, fighting for our values"

Jon Ashworth, MP for Leicester South

"Ellie is highly effective on the National Executive Committee. As Vice-Chair of Refounding Labour she travelled up and down the country listening to members views and taking them back to the Leadership. Ellie is the members' voice on the NEC." **Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East and Vice Chair of the Labour Party**

"Ellie was the youngest person ever to be elected to the CLP section of the NEC. She has always worked closely with Young Labour and Labour Students, supporting the £1 youth rate, a full time Youth Officer and greater autonomy for Young Labour"

Stephanie Peacock, NEC youth rep 2007 - 2011

"Ellie and I both joined the Labour Party because going to inner city state schools in the 80s and 90s we saw first hand the impact of 18 years of Tory government. With the government's attacks on the public sector Ellie knows how important it is that we fight to win back power. Ellie has campaigned for Labour since she was 15."

Rachel Reeves MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Labour Party Experience

1996	Joined Bromley & Chislehurst Labour Party aged 15.
2001	Chair of Oxford University Labour Club
2001-2006	London Representative on the National Policy Forum
2002 - 2003	National Chair of Labour Students
2003-present	Unite Regional Political Committee
2003 - 2006	Vice Chair and Campaign Co-ordinator, Ladywell BLP
2003 - 2006	Political Education Officer, Lewisham Deptford CLP
2006	Council Candidate, Lewisham East CLP
2006 - present	Member of the National Executive Committee
2007 - present	Women's Officer, Lewisham Deptford CLP
2007 - 2010	Campaign Co-ordinator, Crofton Park BLP
2008 - present	Co-convenor, Britain in the World Policy Commission
2010 - present	Vice chair, Refounding Labour