

Labour International Rules

Introduction

1. Labour International (LI) is the organisation within the Labour Party that brings together Party members and supporters that live or work abroad either temporarily or permanently.
2. Full membership is open to subjects of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or citizens of Eire, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man who are resident abroad and become individual overseas members of the party, by enrolment with head office and pay the appropriate rate subscription and to subjects of Great Britain or Northern Island temporarily resident abroad who retain their existing membership of the party, notify head office of their overseas address and pay the appropriate rate subscription.
3. Labour International is governed by regulations that have been approved by the NEC in accordance with Clause 2A.5 (Residents abroad) of the Labour Party Rule Book.

Aims and Objectives

4. The objectives of Labour International are:
 1. To promote the aims, values and objectives of the Labour Party as set out in Clause IV of the Party Rule book outside of the United Kingdom
 2. To provide a focal point for the social and political needs of Labour Party members and supporters living or working abroad either permanently or temporarily
 3. To develop electoral support for the Party among British subjects abroad
 4. To support sister parties as appropriate
 5. To provide the Labour Party with feedback from its overseas members and act as a source of information and advice based on the international experience of those members.
 6. To support the Labour Party, as and when appropriate, through the raising of funds.

The Executive

5. The Executive of Labour International shall be known as the Labour International Coordinating Committee (LICC) and consist of six full members of Labour International, of which at least three shall be women.
6. The LICC shall work in conjunction with the NEC of the Labour Party who may appoint a representative from the Party as an ex officio member of the LICC.

7. LICC shall meet once a year at the Annual Party Conference and at such other times as it and the NEC may consider necessary.
8. LICC shall be responsible for:
 - i. Advancing the objectives of LI amongst Party members and supporters
 - ii. Coordinating and developing campaigns of concern to its membership
 - iii. Developing and supporting local groups
 - iv. Building the individual membership of LI
 - v. Preparing material for the use of LI members and supporters
 - vi. Circulating an annual report to members
 - vii. Organising a meeting at annual conference for LI members
 - viii. Managing elections to LICC
 - ix. Maintaining and developing a web site as a focal point for LI
 - x. Managing the funds available to LI in a financially prudent manner
 - xi. Provide a channel to the Party for the views of LI members on Party policy, and also information and advice, particularly where this is based on their experiences in their host countries
 - xii. Co-ordinating campaigns for the registration of expatriate voters and the promotion of Party policies amongst them
 - xiii. Such other actions as shall advance the objectives of LI.

Membership and Officers of LICC

9. The LICC follows the principle of a broad based membership and no more than two elected LICC members shall reside in the same country.
10. The LICC shall appoint the following officers at its meeting at annual conference, at least two of which must be women:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice Chair
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer
11. Other functional officers such as membership officer, political development officer, web site manager may be appointed from among the full members of the Committee or from non-elected members co-opted to the Committee for the purpose. Such co-opted members shall serve on a basis agreed with the Committee but without voting rights.
12. The Committee will appoint two of its officers to be specifically responsible as a sub-committee for managing the elections to LICC in the election year, who will liaise with the representative from the NEC on the procedures for the ballot.
13. Having regard to the geographic spread of its membership LICC may conduct its proceedings using electronic means and any decisions reached thereby shall be as valid as if reached at a duly convened meeting always subject to the quorum requirement.

14. The quorum for meetings shall be four full members.
15. LICC will aim to reach decisions by consensus, but where this is not possible a vote will be taken. In the event of there being an equality of votes on any matter decided by a show of hands, the chair may give a casting vote provided that s/he has not used an ordinary vote. If the chair does not wish to give a casting vote, the motion is not carried.
16. In the event of a full member of LICC being unable to complete a term of office the LICC will nominate the next compliant nominee from the previous election to hold office for the remainder of the election term in accordance with clauses 5 and 9. In the event of there being no such compliant nominee, LICC will nominate a replacement to hold office (with full voting rights) until the next election year having regard to the principles of gender parity and broad based membership.
17. All LICC members should attend at least one LICC meeting per year if at least one is called, and should not miss more than one consecutive meeting, unless there are acceptable reasons for non-attendance. If a LICC member breaches this rule, the LICC shall determine whether or not to rescind his/her membership of LICC.

Elections for LICC

18. Members of LICC are elected for a two year term.
19. Elections to LICC shall be held every two years .
20. Voting will be one-member one vote (as per voting for the NEC) and each member will be entitled to vote for up to six of those included on the ballot form. Having established the order in which all nominees have finished the highest six nominees, subject to the overriding requirement for at least three women being elected and no more than two members from any one country being elected, will be deemed elected.
21. Nominations will be sought in March of the election year with the elected members taking office immediately.
22. Any member of LI with twelve months membership of the Labour Party on the closing date for nominations may stand for election.
23. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded by LI members. Individual country members not having access to other members may request LICC to arrange for a proposer and seconder to support their nomination.
24. Each nominee shall submit a 150 word statement, with their nomination, for circulation with the ballot paper to all members

Annual Labour Party Conference

25. LI is entitled to appoint delegates to Annual Conference on the same basis as British based CLPs. In the event of LI being entitled to more than one delegate the principle of gender parity shall be followed and the delegation vote shall be split between the delegates.
26. Any member of LI with twelve months membership of the Labour Party at the date of nomination and proposed and seconded by LI members may submit themselves for nomination as delegate.
27. Each nominee must submit a 150 word statement for consideration by LICC who will be responsible for selecting the delegate(s).
28. The LICC will meet the reasonable costs of the delegate(s) who will be required to submit written reports for the information of LICC and LI members following Conference.
29. Local branches may submit motions and resolutions for Conference to LICC having regard to Clause 3C.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book governing conference motions and resolutions. LICC will be responsible for submitting any motions or resolutions to Conference.
30. Local Branches may make proposals to LICC for nominations for such Party posts at Conference as are permitted to LI under Clause 3C.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book. LICC will be responsible for submitting any nominations on behalf of LI.

Finance

31. Membership subscriptions are shared between LI and Head Office on the same basis as for CLPs.
32. LICC shall establish appropriate financial arrangements to manage that proportion of the membership subscription it receives from Head Office and other funds for which it may be responsible. This will include the establishment of bank accounts and an appropriate system of bookkeeping.
33. Finance may only be disbursed under the general authority of LICC and specific items of expenditure of £250 or above will require the prior approval in principle of a quorate meeting of LICC.
34. LI accounts shall be audited on an annual basis by two auditors who should be Party members appointed by the LICC.
35. The Treasurer shall submit financial reports to LICC at each meeting and prepare annual accounts for submission to its meeting at Annual Conference.

36. The NEC may require accounting records to be inspected by the Party's Finance Officer.

Local Groups and Branches

37. Labour International shall encourage the establishment of local groups of members for the advancement of its aims.
38. Local groups are expected to promote the aims of LI, develop dialogue with sister parties and meet the political and social needs of party members and supporters in their area.
39. Local groups can be recognised as LI branches by LICC subject to the following conditions:
 - i. The number of members of a branch should not normally be less than ten.
 - ii. Voting on Labour Party matters and internal organisation is restricted to LI members.
 - iii. Members in the geographical area and the LICC are informed of its activities on a regular basis.
 - iv. Branch rules accept the principle, practices and values of the Labour Party and do not contradict any Labour Party rules.
 - v. Branch rules to be submitted to and approved by LI and made available to members on the LI web site.
40. Groups and branches are encouraged to maximise participation of supporters who may not be members of the Labour Party. To this end local groups and branches may establish associate membership under local arrangements approved by the LICC.
41. Labour Party members temporarily resident abroad only become members of LI if their membership is transferred. Party members who remain members of CLPs can only be associate members of Local Groups and Branches.

Rule Changes

42. Changes to these rules can only be made by a properly constituted LICC meeting which will submit the proposed changes to the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee may approve the rules, require amendments to be made to bring the rules in line with the Labour Party Rule Book or request that changes be made at a subsequent meeting of LICC at Annual Conference.

Record of rule changes:

1. LI Rules agreed with NEC 8 Jul 08 amended at LICC meeting 26 Sep 09 and approved by NEC Organisation Sub-Committee on 9 Mar 2010.
2. LI Rules of 26 Sep 09 amended at a meeting of LICC 25 Sep 10 and approved by the NEC Organisation Sub-Committee 19 Jan 2011.