

DRAFT ①  
COMPOSITE (A)

Black sections at local level

(A)  
Kord: Bernie  
Sec: Elaine Ford  
(B)  
Diane Abbott  
Keith Vaz

Brent North  
Dulwich  
Hornsey + W.A.  
Tottenham  
Deptford

This Conference notes that a recent report <sup>delete</sup> by the Commission for Racial Equality showed that nearly 80 per cent of the black <sup>ethnic</sup> <sup>due</sup> minority of the electorate voted Labour in the 1983 General Election, and that this support kept Labour in power in many crucial inner city seats.

Dulwich  
Dulwich  
Vauxhall  
Lewisham East  
Peckham  
Deptford, Colne Valley

Despite this overwhelming support, black people still remain the least politically represented group within the Labour Party and in the country <sup>generally</sup>. <sup>delete</sup>

<sup>epT</sup> <sup>id</sup> Ladywood  
Colne Valley  
Deptford

Conference considers that positive action must be taken to remedy this situation and to ensure the active involvement of black comrades at all levels.

Norwood  
Vauxhall  
Barnet Green  
Dulwich

Conference welcomes the initiatives taken by some Constituency Labour Parties to tackle racism and to encourage members of ethnic minorities to join the Labour Party. In particular, it welcomes the establishment of sections of individual Afro-Caribbean and Asian members and acknowledges that it is the wish of these members that such sections be formed and called Black Sections. Conference recognises that this is a legitimate demand which would benefit the Party by giving black members greater confidence in its ability and commitment to work against racism in all its forms.

Kennington

Lewisham East  
Ladywood  
Peckham, Colne Valley,  
Deptford

Conference therefore recommends the creation of black sections, where there is a demand for this, as a base from which Black and Asian <sup>delete</sup> members can devise and propose strategies for change so that the Party can honour its obligations "to create a wider democracy in which all are able to participate equally and effectively in the decisions that affect their lives" and so that racial equality can be created through the struggle for a socialist society.

Peckham

Conference instructs the National Executive Committee:

Vauxhall  
Norwood amended  
by Hall Green  
Dulwich amended  
by Putney  
Peckham

(a) to submit to the 1985 Conference amendments to the rules for Constituency Labour Parties which will allow black sections to be formed, where black members so desire, with the right to send delegates to general and executive

committees in the same way as women's sections and young socialist branches;

(b) following consultation throughout the Party, to submit to the 1985 Conference draft regulations on the organisation of black sections;

(c) to allow existing black sections to continue, recognising that they have a valuable contribution to make in the formulation of the Party's policy [and campaigns] in relation to anti-racism and the wishes of black people.

[Peckham]

Putney  
amendment

*delete*  
Furthermore, Conference recommends and agrees that the NEC should <sup>not</sup> take no disciplinary action in relation to the existing provisions of the Party Constitution against those CLPs which have constituted black sections formally.

The following to be asked to support this composite:

- Norwood
- Birmingham Hall Green *falls*
- Bethnal Green & Stepney
- Tottenham *✓ Agree*
- Dulwich
- Putney
- Deptford *✓ Agree*
- Kensington
- Colne Valley
- Birmingham Ladywood *✓ Agree*
- Brent North *✓ Agree*
- Brent East *✓ Agree*
- Hornsey and Wood Green *✓ Agree*
- Lewisham East *✓ Agree*
- Vauxhall *✓ Agree*
- Peckham

*Streatham*

Composite (B)

Black sections at all levels.

delete all references to W/C & Women

Amund + Barnes  
ampstead + High

This Conference recognises that the discrimination against [the working class, women and] ethnic minorities by society at large is reflected all too clearly in their position within our own Party. [Conference further recognises that good intentions have proved insufficient to improve matters] and therefore accepts the principle of positive discrimination in favour of those disadvantaged groups to ensure their better representation at all levels in the Party.

[Richmond]

Richmond +  
Ham + High

Conference welcomes the NEC's undertaking to the 1983 Party Conference to set up a working party to consider how to implement this principle] but regrets the delays in setting up the working party and rejects the view - expressed by some members of the NEC before the working party had even met - that the establishment of black/ethnic minority sections would be divisive.

Ham + High

Westminster N.

In view of the fact that Labour has been [losing working class support and] failing to increase its support among women and ethnic minorities Conference calls on the NEC to treat this matter as one of urgency.

Richmond  
[Ham + High]

delete + insert

Ham + High + Richmond

Conference urges the NEC to give serious consideration to:

Ham + High  
or West N.

- (a) the mandatory shortlisting for public elections of at least one <sup>or black person if any apply</sup> (member of each of these three disadvantaged groups if such members have applied) to be considered;
- (b) the promotion of a substantial extension of affiliation to the Party by suitable [community, women's and] ethnic minority organisations at local, regional and national levels;
- (c) encouraging the formation of black sections within CLPs with full constitutional representation and voting

Richmond  
[Ham + High]

Leyton amended  
by Smeeth

and to <sup>rights:</sup> instruct the working party to put forward proposals for constitutional amendments for submission by the NEC to the 1985 conference] <sup>insert new</sup> to increase the composition of the NEC by 5 members to be elected at an Annual Conference of black sections.

Westminster N.

West N = 5  
Battersea +  
Smeeth amend = 1

Richmond  
Hackney S + S  
amendments

Conference believes that such action is essential for the Party to be able to speak with credibility on behalf of under-privileged members of the electorate.

More up

Composite B:

the following to be asked to support:

Leyton  
Streatham *to Comp A*  
Richmond and Barnes  
Battersea  
Westminster North  
Hampstead and Highgate  
Hackney South and Shoreditch

It needs to be discussed + decided whether

- (a) women and working class as proposed by Hampstead and Highgate should be included (there are a number of bits consequential on this decision, but easy to change)
- (b) whether all these CLPs support NEC places and affiliation.

Some CLPs listed in support of A could be included as supporters of B if their words are NOT used in A + if they support all of B.

NB. Movers + seconders have to come from supporters of specific composite only.

BGP/11/5/2

Party Political Papers - Black Sections - 22 Sep 1984 - 1987