



GRASSROOTS BLACK LEFT

Labour African, Caribbean and Asian Socialists

grblackleft@gmail.com

GBL African Caribbean and Asian Left: Black representation and the witchhunt

February 9, 2020

GBL African Caribbean and Asian Left is appalled by the Labour suspensions of Jo Bird and Mohammed Azam both competing to fill the vacancies on the party's ruling national executive that became vacant when two of its members, who are African Caribbean and Asian, became MPs.

We are totally opposed to Labour Party members being automatically suspended when unsubstantiated allegations have been made against them. This is neither due process nor natural justice and the party's unfit-for-purpose disciplinary procedure has disproportionately affected Black, Jewish and Muslim Labour Party members.

We do not know who made the allegations that led to the suspension of Mohammed Azam and Jo Bird, or the nature of the complaints against them, although people say they are flimsy.

Labour's Chakrabarti Report supported our position that suspensions are in themselves punitive.

GBL restates its commitment to Black self-organisation and self-determination, in the tradition of the Labour Party Black Sections, which means that, as African Caribbean and Asian people, it is a non-negotiable principle we choose our own representatives.

It is clearly wrong that the Momentum leadership has put out an all-white slate of candidates to replace two African Caribbean and Asian Labour NEC members and we call on them to urgently reconsider.

The two Labour Party members GBL is supporting to become NEC members are African Caribbean female socialist Deborah Hobson, for one of the constituency section seats to replace a left African Caribbean female, and Asian male socialist Hassan Ahmed, to replace an Asian male for the BAME Labour seat. Both Deborah and Hassan support this statement and would like to thank all those Labour Party members in Constituency Labour Parties who have nominated them and, we are pleased to announce, successfully put them on the ballot.

GBL has contacted Jo Bird and Jewish Voice Labour, of which she is a member, directly.

We understand that, for personal reasons, Mohammed Azam has withdrawn his candidature.

Nizam Chowdhury

Treasurer

Shamsher Chohan

East Midland Organiser