



GRASSROOTS BLACK LEFT

Labour African, Caribbean and Asian Socialists

NEWS RELEASE

February 6, 18

Labour Party Movement's Parliamentary Launch

Grassroots Black Left (GBL) is proud to be bringing together shadow cabinet members and community campaigners at its launch in the Boothroyd Room, House of Commons at 6.30pm, on Wednesday (February 7).

Confirmed speakers include frontbenchers Imran Hussain, Labour's justice spokesman, and Clive Lewis, treasury, as well as former fire services shadow minister Chris Williamson.

Grenfell Tower disaster campaigners for justice will also be on the platform. The meeting has been endorsed by, among others, the Indian Workers Association, Africans for Jeremy Corbyn's values, and The Monitoring Group civil rights organisation, whose representatives will also speak.

At GBL's Nottingham inaugural meeting in 2017 the new organisation received overwhelming support from around the country. African, Caribbean, and Asian Labour members, who are socialists, turned up for the well-attended event that backed Jeremy Corbyn's progressive leadership of the party.

Co-Chair Hassan Ahmed, a former Nottingham City councillor, said: "We believe the time has come for Grassroots Black Left as a nationwide, community-based, left-wing movement of Black party members. The appalling Grenfell Tower disaster claimed the lives of poor people, many of them Muslim migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who were Black.

More follows

Labour Party Movement's Parliamentary Launch-2.

No wonder there's been an upsurge of Black consciousness and a popular social movement against Blairite-backed neo-liberalism and Tory austerity and cuts in public services that disproportionately affect our people."

London-based Co-Chair Deborah Hobson, who is vice-chair of her Unite trade union branch, said: "GBL has in its ranks grassroots campaigners, Labour and trade union activists and people of different faiths. Now Black people have a genuine ally who is the leader of the Labour Party, we believe great strides forward can be made for our communities."

She added: "We must renew the spirit of Black political unity that, 30 years ago, that put four members of the Labour Party Black Sections campaign into parliament. A year later the organisation published its groundbreaking Black Agenda."

"National and local government adopted its policies, including Black History Month in October. There were four Black Sections-supporting African, Caribbean and Asian council leaders and a three-fold increase in Black councillors. Black unity and organisation in the Labour Party is the way to repeat such achievements, as we have stated in our submission to Jeremy Corbyn's extremely welcome Democracy Review."

GBL's aims and objectives place the new movement in the vanguard of the campaign for socialism as well as racial and social justice. It is committed to fighting anti-Black racism, including Afriphobia, Islamophobia, spoken about alongside anti-semitism, in Labour's Chakrabarti report. The party must act on its long-overdue recommendations about due process and natural justice.

GBL will work with its allies to promote the fair representation of progressive Black Labour members inside and outside the party.

Ends

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