



NORTH TYNESIDE
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To:

May 30, 2024

Chronicle Live

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Broad Church with narrow doors

Diane Abbott was elected the very first black woman Member of Parliament in 1987. At the same time, Keir Starmer had just qualified as a junior barrister. Since 1987 Diane has been re-elected 9 times by her constituents. She has served her constituents for 37 years, in Hackney North and South and Stoke Newington. Keir Starmer didn't become an MP until 2015. He had been serving as a barrister, Queens Council and Director of the Crown Prosecution Service before then. Both have defended the vulnerable and oppressed but for Diane it has been personal she is a dyed in the wool politician and has not been afraid to espouse unpopular causes. Her popularity in Hackney is undoubted.

In 2017 she got 75% of the vote. Even in 2019 she received over 70% of the votes. It is remarkable that she has received almost a third of all abusive tweets received by MP's, many of them horribly racist and misogynist. In March this year Frank Hester, Businessman and Tory Donor, stated that when he thought of her it made him hate all black women and he wanted her shot. He did apologise for his 'rude comments' and the Labour Leader did say that Hester's comments were "abhorrent". However, he still wasn't prepared to give back the whip even though other suspended members of the party were allowed back in.

The Labour Leadership deny that they are targeting left-wing candidates in this election. Are they to be believed? Already, this week we have seen along with Diane Abbot, Lloyd Russell - Moyle, MP for Brighton Kemptown, and Faiza Shaeen barred from standing. She is a bright young Asian woman, and an economist. She almost beat Ian Duncan Smith in Chingford and Woodford Green at the 2019. election. All are on the left. And all are due to be replaced by Starmer stooges possessing very large parachutes.



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The Forde report, in 2020, concluded that there were serious problems of discrimination in the operations of the Labour Party. However, only last year, several black MPs signed a letter calling for urgent action on anti- black racism in the Labour Party and the implementation of the recommendations of the Forde report. Several MP's spoke to Channel 4 anonymously, for fear of losing the Whip.

The Labour Party has prided itself on being a "broad church" from being founded, in 1900. It now appears that, if you are black, or Muslim and on the left, the doors of the church are being shut against you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Davis

North Tyneside Community Independent



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