**OXFORD & DISTRICT LABOUR PARTY**

Secretary

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**To: Members of the Oxford & District Labour Party**

You are invited to a meeting of the Oxford & District Labour Party at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday 13 July 2018** in the St Clements Family Centre, Cross Street, Oxford OX4 1DA. Please arrive from 7:15 p.m. so the meeting can start promptly, and bring the papers as hardcopy or on a mobile device. A map is attached – there is limited car parking, but the centre is close to the Cowley Road and St Clements. All members are welcome to attend, speak and vote on all policy issues including resolutions. I hope to see you there.

Amendments to the motions must be sent to me at least 48 hours before the meeting, specifying the words to be inserted, deleted or replaced. It would also be helpful to have any corrections to minutes, any matters arising, and any urgent business in advance, to help the Chair in the efficient running of the meeting.

With best wishes

Ann Black, Secretary

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Trump Visit 5:30 p.m. Thursday 12 July, assemble main gates of Blenheim Palace

2 p.m. Friday 13 July, London demonstration, assemble outside Portland Place WC1A 1AA

5:30 p.m. Friday 13 July, local demonstration, Cornmarket – come along before the meeting

More details in the members’ newsletter.

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**AGENDA**

*7:30* 1. Attendance, apologies and welcome

*7:31* 2. Agreement of agenda and timings

*7:33* 3. Minutes of the all-member meeting on 14 June 2018, attached.

*7:35* 4. Matters arising.

(a) **7 Electoral reform**. The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at <https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/home-affairs/electoral-reform>

(b) **11.1 Anti-semitism**. The motion has been sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC.

(c) **11.1(b) Marc Wadsworth**. The motion was sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC. The general secretary Jennie Formby has responded as below

*“Please note that individual disciplinary cases that are being/have been dealt with through the NEC Disputes Processes are confidential. Motions on individual cases are therefore not competent business for discussion at CLPs and will not be discussed by the NEC or any associated bodies.”*

(d) **11.2 Gaza**. The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at <https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/gaza-motion>

(e) **11.3 Israeli army’s unlawful killing and maiming of Palestinian protesters**. The motion has been posted on the policy forum website at

<https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/unlawful-killing-part-1-of-2>

<https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/international/unlawful-killing-part-2-of-2>

and Anneliese writes: “I will write to the Foreign Secretary as per the calls on the government, and to Emily Thornberry calling for her to adopt the first two action points as per the motion.”

*7:37* 5. Urgent business, including any other business.

*7:40* 6. **The Living Wage** – discussion led by trade union liaison officers Mark Ladbrooke and Peter Nowland on what all of us can do to promote the living wage

*8:25* 7. Fundraising collection

*8:25* 8. Parliamentary report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

*8:50* 9. Oxford city council report.

*9:10* 10. Motions

1. **National Policy Forum** – submitted by South West Central branch

This meeting notes that:

• According to the party rule book, the National Policy Forum (NPF) is meant to provide a

“rolling programme of work” from which Conference adopts party policy.

• The NPF brings together representatives of members, unions, socialist societies, and elected

officials to develop detailed policy for implementation once Labour is in government.

• The workings of the NPF are largely opaque to grassroots members, who are offered little

opportunity to become involved and to whom minutes of meetings are not made available.

• In March of this year the NPF began its annual consultation of members by releasing 8

reports asking a series of questions to which members could respond.

• These questions were broad and gave members insufficient background information on the

issues or potential solutions to be able to foster informed discussion.

• In previous years, member responses to the consultation have been ignored when they do

not fit the NPF’s agenda and the reports it submits to Conference contain few, if any,

concrete policies.

• As a result, party manifestos tend to be written by a small group around the leadership and

do not necessarily resemble the work of the NPF

• While Jeremy Corbyn was elected on the promise to open policy formation up to members,

the same dysfunctional process has persisted.

We therefore call on the National Policy Forum to:

• Organise a series of local consultation events throughout the year at which both experts and

party members are invited to discuss policy issues

• Release transcripts and/or video of these events, along with minutes of other NPF meetings,

to be made available online.

• Direct its members to actively engage with submissions made through the NPF website.

This might take the form of, e.g., asking authors for further information, facilitating

cooperation of like-minded authors, and promoting dialogue between conflicting views.

• Inform those who make policy submissions what the NPF choses to do with them (e.g., if

they are to be used or, if not, why so)

• Ensure that annual reports address the full range of submissions which have been received.

• Ensure that the shadow ministerial teams use the NPF process to develop and promote policy.

• Use annual reports to synthesise the policy put forward by members and experts into a form

which could be implemented in government.

• Where conflicting views exist on the Forum, release minority reports which Conference may

also consider.

1. **Gaza** – submitted by Rose Hill, Iffley & Littlemore branch

This Labour Party branch condemns the massacre of Palestinian protesters in Gaza and the wounding of thousands by Israeli snipers using live fire. Recently, a volunteer nurse was shot dead as she was attending a Palestinian man who had been shot.

From the UN to countries across the world, the actions of the Israeli army have been denounced.

We also condemn the provocative decision by the US government to carry out its declared aim of opening its embassy in illegally occupied Jerusalem.

The number of people killed during weeks of protest, including children and journalists, has  now exceeded 100. This is more than the numbers killed and wounded in the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, which started South Africa's slide into pariah status.

We support Jeremy Corbyn's statement

a) demanding that Theresa May support the UN's call for an independent international inquiry

b) calling on the British government to stop the sale of arms to Israel that "could be used in violation of international law".

We also welcome the statement by Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry who noted that the killings were the "culmination of six weeks of an apparently systemic and deliberate policy of killing and maiming unarmed protestors and bystanders."

We support her call for

a) urgent and concerted international pressure on the Netanyahu government to lift the blockade on Gaza, and

b) an end to Israel's illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

**Statement by Jeremy Corbyn :**

"Today's killing of dozens of unarmed protesters and the wounding of many more by Israeli forces in Gaza is an outrage that demands not just international condemnation, but action to hold those responsible to account.

This slaughter follows weeks of killings of Palestinian civilians demonstrating for their right to return, most of whom are refugees or the families of refugees. Coming on the day President Trump moved the US embassy to Jerusalem, it underlines the threat to peace posed by the continuing and intolerable injustices faced by the Palestinian people.

"The response from many western governments to this flagrant illegality, including our own - which bears a particular responsibility for a peaceful and just resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict - has been wholly inadequate. They should take a lead from Israeli peace and justice campaigners: to demand an end to the multiple abuses of human and political rights Palestinians face on a daily basis, the 11-year siege of Gaza, the continuing 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to such wanton disregard for international law. That is why Labour is committed to reviewing UK arms sales to Israel while these violations continue.

"The international community must at last put its collective authority and weight behind achieving a lasting settlement that delivers peace, justice and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, who have waited so long to achieve their rights."

**Statement by** **Emily Thornberry, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary:**

"We condemn unreservedly the Israeli government for their brutal, lethal and utterly unjustified actions on the Gaza border, and our thoughts are with all those Palestinians in Gaza whose loved ones have been killed or injured as a result.

"These actions are made all the worse because they come not as the result of a disproportionate over-reaction to one day's protests, but as the culmination of six weeks of an apparently systemic and deliberate policy of killing and maiming unarmed protestors and bystanders who pose no threat to the forces at the Gaza border, many of them shot in the back, many of them shot hundreds of metres from the border, and many of them children.

"Throughout that six-week period, the UN's Secretary General has been calling for an independent investigation into these incidents, one that should urgently determine whether international law has been broken, and hold the Netanyahu government to account for their actions. The UK should lead calls for the UN Security Council to order such an investigation today.

"These incidents must also be the catalyst for urgent and concerted international pressure on the Netanyahu government to lift the blockade on Gaza, and end Israel's illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories. No longer can Netanyahu act as a law unto himself, under the protection of the Trump administration, whose decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem today has further inflamed the situation.

"In the meantime, we urge the Israeli forces serving on the Gaza border to show some long-overdue responsibility to their fellow human beings, and stop this vicious and utterly avoidable slaughter of peaceful protesters demanding the right to return to their homes."

*9:27* 11. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 28 June 2018 are attached.

*9:29* 12. Future meetings. **Thursday 6 September** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, conference motions and speaker from Oxford co-housing), **Friday 12 October 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, conference reports and member Jamie Tarlton on Palestine), **Friday 9 November 2018** (Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health, venue to be arranged), **Thursday 13 / Friday 14 December 2018** (short meeting with refreshments, venue to be arranged)