

*Matthew Blakemore*

Reply to Labour Party LGBT Network questions:

1. Do you accept that trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people are non-binary - and will you commit to respecting trans people as their self-declared gender – if so, how will you integrate this approach to tackle the culture of entrenched transphobia, from the grassroots membership up to the leadership?
2. Will you defend the current Labour Party policy and principle of inclusion of Transgender women on All Women Shortlists?

1. "Yes I do absolutely accept that trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people are non-binary. It should go without saying that I commit to respect trans people as their self declared gender - I don't think anyone who won't commit to that should be a candidate for the NEC. I was dismayed by the recent comments made by Labour MP Rosie Duffield. I would like to see the leadership of our party encouraging Rosie to speak to the LGBT+ network and learn about why what she said was so offensive. I personally think an effective way to truly tackle transphobia is to give the LGBTIQ+ community more of a voice in the party, and to handle complaints of transphobia in the same manner as those of anti-semitism. Transphobia has no place in the open, progressive Labour Party I hope we can build together."

2. "Yes" (October 2020)

Reply to Labour Women's Declaration Working Group questions:

1. We would like to ask, firstly, whether you agree that women should have the right to expect female-only facilities to be available in places such as changing rooms, public toilets, hospital wards, care homes, refuges, hostels and prisons, as provided for through the single-sex exemptions in the Equality Act 2010?
2. Secondly, do you agree that women should have the right to organise themselves, as a sex, across a range of cultural, leisure, educational and political activities and have the right to discuss policies which affect them, without being abused, harassed or intimidated?
3. Lastly, we would like to ask how you think that the Labour Party should go about fulfilling the promise it made to women in the Manifesto within the Labour Party itself?

"I have signed the Declaration. I absolutely agree that women should have the right to expect female-only facilities. I also agree that women should have the right to organise themselves, as a sex, across a range of cultural, leisure, educational and political activities and have the right to discuss policies which affect them, without being abused, harassed or intimidated. " (July 2020)