

*Esther Giles*

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?

"I stand by the right of every person to live their lives freely and free of discrimination, subject to the Law and so long as they do not transgress the rights of others. This includes the right to stand as a representative in Parliament and the right to housing (I have responded separately to the Labour Homelessness Campaign) and healthcare (I am a member of the Socialist Healthcare Association and worked in the NHS for all of my career). Where there are barriers to equality, then we all need to work to overcome them, so that everyone is able to participate in democracy and society as equals.

In my bid for Treasurer, I am standing for democracy, socialism and good governance, and I believe that the running of Party finances should be based on the principle that all members' views and requirements matter, and that we need democratic processes to ensure that these requirements are understood and taken into account.

I've signed up to the principles set out by the Labour Left Alliance (LLA), and which include that the Labour Party's complaints and disciplinary procedures be overhauled so that disciplinary procedures are carried out in accordance with the principles of natural justice, and be time-limited. I am strongly opposed to witch hunts and the suppression of free speech and thought, and, as such, resist narrative such as that we should "expel bigots". It is better to engage in respectful dialectic in order to find collective understanding.

It is also my view that Conference is the supreme body of our Party Democracy, and that as an NEC member, I would be there to oversee delivery on policy (and not make policy) and to ensure that all actions and decisions of NEC are transparent and in line with permissions granted by the membership."

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?

1. "Yes."

2. "Yes."

3. "It should identify the person responsible for leading on this work in the first instance and set a terms of reference for the work to be done (which is consistent with the 2019 Manifesto commitment). It should acknowledge that there is potential conflict between the sex-based rights of women and girls and those with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment, whilst respecting the rights and dignity of both groups. It should clarify that gender identity is NOT a protected characteristic."