

*Mick Johnston*

In February 2020 Mick Johnston signed the Labour Campaign for Trans Rights Pledge, which called, among other things, for those who express “bigoted, transphobic views” to be expelled from the Labour Party.

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, yes and this is a big question and relates to a number of the questions below, in particular 3,4,6,7,8. So see my answers to these. I don't have any personal experience of entrenched transphobia in the Party although I am aware of the Labour Women's Declaration position. The views of some of its supporters seem transphobic although some of its supporters dislike being labelled as transphobic. They present themselves as feminists and logicalise that the interests of ciswomen are antithetical to those of transwomen. I don't accept that this the case and wonder what really motivates them. I'm open to persuasion, it's not a big issue in Thirsk & Malton, but they don't seem to have that much support and raising their profile by confronting them in a high profile way might not be the best way of dealing with them. I'd like to think that some of those who have leaned toward them and may have signed their petition are not so dogmatic as to insist that Ciswomen's rights override those of a very small and vulnerable minority. In the end it comes back to your point that transphobia is antithetical to the Party's aims, with the caveat that a workable definition of transphobia has yet to be established."

2. "YES, although I hope this would not result in Transwomen being pressurised to stand in selections just to make the numbers up."

Mick Johnston did not reply to Labour Women's Declaration Working Group questions.