



Why I'm standing

Like 300,000 other people I rejoined the Labour Party in 2015, just after the general election. I couldn't sit idly by while the political situation in Britain went from bad (the Con-Dems) to much worse (an undiluted right-wing Tory Government, with UKIP snapping at its heels.)

There was a chance to elect a Labour leader who would lead a real fight against the Tories, and against the continuing rightward drift of British politics. Just after the election that rightward drift led to the spectacle of a Labour opposition being whipped to vote for 12 billion pounds of social security cuts, and an interim leader who thought that Ed Miliband had been too left wing.

More generally, I felt that I needed to get active again. The world is becoming more and more unstable and dangerous. We face multiple threats from the rise of the far right and the growth of xenophobia across the world. Climate change may render large parts of our planet virtually uninhabitable in our lifetimes, or in those of our children. Finally, the effects of deregulation and automation may lead to our children never having secure work or incomes, unless we act.

Labour International

Labour International has tripled in size in the last 18 months. Many want to participate actively in a campaigning outward looking international CLP. I want to work with others to make that happen. I want to encourage more active participation by members, which takes into account that we are scattered all over the world. To do this we need to:

- Encourage and support the setting up of new branches, or where geographic distances are too great, smaller local groups, grouped together into regional or national branches;
- Encourage and support the self-organisation of women, BAME and LBGT+ members;
- Find new ways of communicating, discussing and decision making, which correspond to our unique situation as a CLP;
- Link up with other social democratic and socialist parties, trade unions and campaigning organisations, locally, nationally and internationally;
- Make sure that the LICC properly represents members across the world as well as in Europe.

The most pressing issue first – Migrants' Rights and Brexit

For me the most pressing issue in the immediate future is the increasing number of attacks on migrants' rights worldwide. British people in Europe have no idea of what the effect of Brexit will have on their lives; three million EU nationals in the UK are being treated as bargaining chips by May's government; US and Australian residents who are not nationals or who are not considered permanent residents face possible incarceration and deportation, and the many cases of British people who are exiled from their own country because the UK's ridiculous income requirements for those with non-British family members. This is not to mention the millions who are fleeing wars and poverty.

My Background

I was the Berkshire Area Convenor for the National Union of Students for two years and was a member and Branch Officer of NALGO and a member of the CPS in Britain, as well as a Labour Party Branch Officer. I was Chair of the Reading Anti-Poll Tax Federation. I am active in my TU Branch in Belgium. Along with another LI member I set up the [Labour International unofficial discussion group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colin.odriscoll.10) and I am one of its moderators. I am a member of Momentum and of the LRC, but I am happy to work with anyone who agrees in general with these ideas.

I am standing as a member of the [Momentum, Grass Roots slate](https://www.facebook.com/colin.odriscoll.10) and encourage you to also vote for Jenny Semahimbo, David Rothery, Rowan Shaw and Jonathan Clyne. Please also consider voting for incumbent LI secretary Lorraine Hardy.

Colin O'Driscoll

Tel	+32 477 339 271
E-Mail	mailto:colin.s.odriscoll@gmail.com
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/colin.odriscoll.10
appear.in	https://appear.in/colin-o-d (Wednesdays 20:00 to 21:00 CET)