



I joined the Labour Party (along with 4 other family members) immediately after the last election: It was no longer the time to stand on the sidelines. For me, Corbyn’s Labour – with the 10 pledges – presents an honest, progressive, and practical alternative to the politics of the “nasty party”. (My support doesn’t depend on the Party leader being Corbyn: It’s the policies and the sincerity with which they’re presented by Corbyn and those around him that convince me.)

My reasons for standing for the LICC – interest in Labour International’s unique role – the need for a strong coordination team:

- Labour International brings together a **highly motivated and politically engaged membership that can be a diverse and powerful force for change.**

Labour International is something unique: How many other organisations have members living throughout the world, engaging actively in progressive politics? ... working in many different roles and industries or retired and active in local organisations? Many us have lived outside the UK for many years, speak the local language, and have a deep understanding of the countries we live in. We are members of trade unions and other progressive organisations. (In my case, I’ve been a member of the trades union IG Metall for more than 25 years and more recently joined the German refugee-rights organization Pro Asyl.) **We can utilize this unique set of skills and experience to campaign for progressive change. But ...**

- **... to harness the skills and experience of our geographically dispersed membership, we need a strong coordination team.**

I’ve worked for many years on transnational IT projects and seen that it’s possible to develop software with virtual teams. In a recent project I worked on, the product and UI design were dreamt up in Germany, but the software was developed in India and the screens were put together in China. The software that was shipped was world class, but *the coordination effort behind this was enormous.*

I’d like to support Labour International in this type of coordination role. I envisage LI as an organization *where the members decide what’s to be done, while the LICC facilitates it happening.* Some examples of what might need to be done:

- Make it easier for members to find or set up groups or branches
- Help members to connect across geographies with others working on similar topics (e.g. migration) or to volunteer skills or experience (or request help from other members)
- Support campaigns being run by LI members and make it easy for members to share information about campaigns
- Improve the LICC website (better structure, regular updates, publication of minutes, ...)
- Exploit social media possibilities to the full
- Organize AGM and regular virtual meetings using video or tele-conferencing
- Find ways to attract more people living outside the UK to the Labour Party

I’m on the Labour left, but I look forward to working with members from all sides of the party. I am standing as a member of the Momentum, Grass Roots slate (<https://grassrootslicc.org>) and encourage you to also vote for Jenny Semahimbo, Colin O’Driscoll, David Rothery, and Jonathan Clyne. Please also consider voting for incumbent LI secretary Lorraine Hardy.

Rowan Shaw

E-Mail	mailto:rowan.shaw@t-online.de
Tel	+49-6221-6522885 (I’m easiest to reach in the morning or at weekends)
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/rowan.shaw.9