



Labour Friends of Searchlight Conference July 2010

Saturday 17 July
10am – 5pm
University of London Union
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HY

‘Organising to Win’: How does Labour reconnect with communities?

A one day conference hosted by Labour Friends of Searchlight.

This one day conference will focus on debating the way forward on how Labour reconnects with communities and the best methods to do this. It will include practical skills workshops by the best grassroots and community organising campaigns in the UK.

Community campaigning is the buzz phrase of the moment but what does it actually mean and how can it be applied to the Labour Party? We want the leadership debate to focus on how Labour can reconnect with its traditional voters and change the party to initiate the campaign organisation candidates are claiming to want. **This will be Chaired by Anthony Painter start at 3pm.**

This unique debate will be part of a special conference to look at how the Party can transform itself into a campaigning organisation and in the process re-establish strong links with the communities it is supposed to represent.

The event will draw together some of the best grassroots organisations around to spread good practice and share campaigning skills. It will also be an opportunity to discuss what sort of new organising Labour requires.

It will hear about grassroots campaigns that worked - from the HOPE not hate to London Citizens - and innovative Labour Party campaigns, such as those fought in Birmingham Edgbaston and Oxford East. We will have the people that ran those campaigns there to share their skills direct in our skills workshops.



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

10.00

Registration

10.40

Introduction: Cllr. Tulip Siddiq, National Young Labour BAME Officer, and Camden Council Cabinet Member.

10.50

The need to re-engage: Nick Lowles, Labour Friends of Searchlight

11.00

Re-connecting with Communities: Keynote speech by Dr. Jon Cruddas MP

11.20

Case studies of local campaigning

- London Citizens Neal Jameson
- Hope not hate Sam Tarry
- Birmingham Edgbaston Caroline Bradley

11.50

Coffee Break

12.00

Debate: What type of organising does Labour need?

- Stella Creasy MP for Walthamstow
- Maurice Glassman – London Citizens
- Nick Lowles – LFOS/Hope not hate
- Karin Christiansen - Labour Values

12.45

Lunch

1.30

Organising Skills Workshops

- Building local relationships - London Citizens
- Building campaigns through action
- Engaging and involving local supporters – Caroline Bradley, B'ham Edgbaston
- Fighting the BNP - HOPE not hate
- Enfusing and mobilising young people – Young Labour Organising for Change
- Embracing new media to build local campaigns – Blue State Digital

2.20

How the US Right has adopted community organising more effectively than the Left. The story of the Christian Coalition and the Tea Parties.

Key-note speech by Devin Burghart, Vice President Institute for Research and Education for Human Rights. Chicago, USA.

2.50

Coffee Break

3.00

Leadership debate: How Labour can reconnect with its lost supporters

Diane Abbot, Andy Burnham, David Miliband, Ed Miliband. Plus Video message from Ed Balls. Chaired by Anthony Painter

4.30

Closing Remarks: Sam Tarry, National Chair of Young Labour