After one term as a member, I am seeking re-election to the National Constitutional Committee (NCC) at a vital time for those who believe that a Party which is fighting for a more democratic and equal society should itself demonstrate transparency, equality and fairness in its own internal governance and conduct.

During my time on the NCC relatively few cases have come to the NCC when it has been clear to me that major disciplinary matters which have been the subject of media coverage have not been referred to the elected committee set up to deal with this.

The Chakrabarti Inquiry however has put forward recommendations for consideration on improving disciplinary procedures in the Party and the need for clearly defined policies.

The major step which I advocate in achieving the principles of a fairer and more just system is to ensure that the NCC has direct elections. It is an anomaly to be elected by delegates only at Conference which in the current economic climate denies a voice to those CLPs which are too poor or distant to afford the high costs of sending a delegate to Conference. I myself am only too aware of the situation as member of a CLP from a deprived area and attending only a few conferences during my 30 years in the Party.

From a working class family I went on to manage civil society and governance projects for the EU in Eastern Europe. A member of Unite and a trade union member for over 30 years, I have been a Parliamentary List candidate and CLP Women’s Officer. I have extensive experience in policy-making and governance as Chair of Scotland’s second largest community-owned social enterprise and elected representative for the Voluntary Sector on the City Council Community Planning Partnership.

Email: a.dyer.glasgow@gmail.com

Anna Dyer is a sitting member of the NCC. Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn CLP. Membership Number: L0081865

CLPs can nominate up to two candidates for the National Constitutional Committee and up to two for the Conference Arrangements Committee, till Friday 23 June. Please urge your CLP to nominate the CLGA supported candidates.

CLGA

Published by the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance, which, when established in 1998, was welcomed by Tribune’s editorial as an initiative to challenge the forces within the party ‘who wish to further downgrade internal democracy and to ensure that the left and centre-left wins as large a presence as possible within the NEC’.

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