

Why the LRC backs John McDonnell MP for Leader . . .

. . . and why you should too!



As Leader, John would head a Labour Party committed to fighting against the cuts and ensuring that our communities don't pay for the economic mess caused by the banks

"The role of the labour and trade union movement now is to build a broad anti-cuts coalition, to mobilise to protect our community against the coming attack on public services, wages and conditions, pensions and welfare benefits and to create links with the campaigns that are being waged across Europe and elsewhere in the world."

John McDonnell has been a consistent and diligent campaigner on behalf of trade unions and workers. John was one of the architects of the Trade Union Freedom Bill to repeal the anti-trade union laws, and sponsored it as a Private Members Bill in Parliament. John also moved amendments to the Employment Bill in another attempt to repeal Thatcher's laws. John said:

"I pay tribute to the many trade unionists who have campaigned on these issues over the years and lobbied Parliaments. They include many rank and file trade unionists, general secretaries and others: we all owe them a debt of gratitude for campaigning for basic trade union rights in this country."

John has called and voted for the strengthening of rights for agency workers. He has fought in defence of migrant workers – and against "employers using immigration status as a mean of attacking workers fighting for their rights and breaking union organising".

In the last year he has stood on dozens of picket lines, spoken at trade union meetings, lobbied Ministers on behalf of trade union campaigns, taken up individual victimisation at work cases, and always shown solidarity with our movement.

He also moved amendments to the Equality Bill to give workplace equality reps statutory rights, and campaigned to introduce mandatory pay audits. John was also a leading campaigner in defending the right to abortion up to 24 weeks and campaigned to protect sex workers' rights. He led the opposition to the Welfare Reform Bill and the introduction of workfare – and fought to improve the appallingly low level of benefits.

John has an impeccable campaigning voting record against privatisation. During the last Parliament John campaigned and voted against privatisation in schools, hospitals, the civil service, prisons and probation, and the Royal Mail – and will campaign against Con-Dem privatisation plans.

John is an anti-war activist. He voted against the Iraq war, spoke in the parliamentary debates and at dozens of Stop the War demos and meetings. John has since voted for an inquiry into the Iraq war, and called for the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan.

His record on civil liberties is second to none, campaigning against ID cards, the anti-terror laws, and police violence against anti-war, environmental, anti-capitalist and anti-fascist protesters. John has also spoken out publicly and in court to defend the right to protest in Parliament Square. He has taken part in Climate Camp and led campaigns against airport expansion.

We back John because he is exactly the Leader that Labour needs: dedicated, democratic, and a fighter. He's a socialist and we're proud to back him for Leader ... we hope you will too.

We're on John's side because he's on ours

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