

Resolution Date: 14th November 2017

Resolution Title: Emergency resolution on expulsion of Kingsley Abrams from the Labour Party

This Branch condemns the exclusion of our member Kingsley Abrams from the Labour Party and commits to support his efforts to gain admission. We note that this demonstrates that those who have argued that the Blairites within Labour no longer represent a threat are unfortunately seriously mistaken.

Kingsley had a record of speaking out against cuts when a Labour councillor. It was for taking this position, in line with Unite policy, that he was disciplined by the right wing. He later stood as a candidate for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition in order to continue to argue for Unite's policy of opposition to all cuts.

We reaffirm our support for Unite's political strategy: fighting for Labour to support Unite's progressive policies including support for anti-austerity candidates and policies; support for mandatory reselection; and opposition to expulsions.

We endorse the union's work with groups seeking to promote anti-austerity policies and win support for Labour in elections including Momentum. We call for Labour to be open to all opposed to austerity and war. We urge Momentum to adopt full democratic structures and include non-Labour Party members supportive of the Labour leadership including those excluded by purges. We would welcome democratic changes in Momentum and would view working with Momentum positively in that light

We salute the Birmingham bin workers and our union's unstinting support for them. They were forced to strike against a Blairite Labour council which was prepared to use strike breaking tactics.

We strongly endorse West Midlands Unite secretary Howard Beckett in pledging that Unite in Birmingham will "not support any Tory (councillor) even one labelled as Labour" and note that many London Labour councils also continue to implement neoliberal Tory policies.