



SHARON GRAHAM'S MANIFESTO

PRIORITY ONE - A COMPREHENSIVE INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMME

LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
WORKPLACE



LET'S GET BACK TO THE WORKPLACE MY PROGRAMME FOR CHANGE

WHY I'M STANDING

I am standing to be General Secretary so that we can take our Union back to the workplace. I believe that we have moved too far from our core business – protecting jobs and improving the pay and conditions of our members.

I have represented workers since my teens, starting in the largely unorganised hospitality Sector, where I led an unofficial walkout at the age of 17. Ever since, my belief in the power of the collective and of workers has been with me, including the importance of defending our members. This led me to develop Leverage and lead twelve successful campaigns against extremely hostile employers, striking key agreements with some of the biggest bosses in Britain and Ireland. From putting a 'stake in the ground' and winning reinstatement for a blacklisted activist in construction, to fighting illegal closures and rolling back attempts to end national bargaining, I have a proven track record of success. I will bring this experience to the whole Union. Fighting for every job and against every cut to pay and conditions.

As we look to the future, we can see that the pandemic has supercharged change within our labour market. Increased casualisation, automation and surveillance are all on the rise. Politics has failed workers and we cannot simply 'batten down the hatches' and retreat. We must now develop our own trade union strategy, focused on the workplace and committed to defending working people.

To this end, I will deliver an Industrial Programme to change our Union and refocus our energies. In place of fragmented collective bargaining and a lack of industrial co-ordination, I will make sure that there is a practical strategy in place to build our power throughout industries and drive up standards. I know that by adopting a coherent strategy centred on the workplace we can win better deals and improve the living standards of our members. I will also make sure that equality is on the bargaining table and runs through everything we do. No more lip service: it is time for practical, accountable action.



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If elected, I will take steps to make our Union more democratic, where the members, Shop Stewards and Reps have more say over the decisions made in their name. That's why I will launch a Democracy Commission to make recommendations for positive change. Our retired and community sections will be positively encouraged to play their full part in the renewal of our Union. We will get back to campaigning effectively for retired members – showing we can win. Our community project will be reformed and focus on building collective power within target locations.

Politically, there will be no more blank cheques for the Labour Party. Under my leadership we will only support future candidates who have been Union Shop Stewards or Reps and our relationship with the leadership will be governed by policy. I am not interested in the internal game-playing within a political party; my priority will be to build a movement within our workplaces and wider community. We need to do more than Westminster elections – we need to create and sustain support for an agenda based on the interests of working people.

This manifesto sets out my programme for change over six key priorities. It is time to get back to the workplace.

In solidarity,

Sharon Graham

