

McDonnell calls for radical reform of global institutions ahead of International Social Forum

John McDonnell MP today (Wednesday 10 July) called for radical reform of global institutions, so that they can respond effectively to climate change, inequality and the displacement of people.

The Shadow Chancellor was speaking ahead of the Labour Party hosting the International Social Forum, a conference of progressive political leaders, campaigners and economists to discuss far reaching institutional reforms.

McDonnell and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn will speak at the event this weekend, at SOAS, University of London.

This two-day conference is part of internationalising Labour's programme to harness the full might of the Treasury in government to tackle climate change, end austerity and erode sky-high inequality.

John McDonnell MP said:

"The world is facing a range of challenges that require transnational action and global solutions.

"The existing global institutions are proving to be incapable of responding effectively to the existential threat of climate change, the increasingly unaccountable power of multinationals, and the large-scale displacement of people.

"Labour has convened an international social forum bringing together politicians, economists and social movement leaders from across the world to launch a new dialogue on the reform of the international institutional architecture needed to tackle the global challenges of the twenty first century."

Ends

Notes for news editors

In 2017 speech at the United Nations, Geneva, Jeremy Corbyn MP set out four main threats faced by humanity: the concentration of wealth and power in a small group, exacerbated by tax avoidance; climate change; lack of global cooperation on the refugee crisis; and the “bomb first, think later” approach to conflict resolution.

Speakers:

- John McDonnell MP (Saturday 0945), Jeremy Corbyn MP, leader of the Labour Party (Sunday 1630).
- The Labour leader and Shadow Chancellor will also share a platform in the closing plenary – (Sunday 17.30pm)
- Other speakers include: the former president of Brazil Dilma Rousseff, Ann Pettifor, co-founder of the Jubilee 2000 campaign, and Jayati Ghosh, economics professor at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi.

Also speaking, former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, Tina Ngata, an indigenous New Zealand campaigner on climate change, Asad Rehman, the executive director of War on Want, Fiona Tregenna, Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg and Richard Kozul-Wright, the director of the division on globalisation and development strategies at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

[PAC reports Eurotunnel legal settlement cost nearly £100m – Andy McDonald](#)

Andy McDonald MP, Labour’s Shadow Transport Secretary, commenting on the Public Accounts Committee’s report which found that the

government's legal settlement with Eurotunnel has cost taxpayers nearly £100 million, said:

"This report exposes the government's shambolic no-deal Brexit preparations. The Transport Secretary's incompetence has already cost taxpayers tens of millions of pounds.

"It is beyond belief that he should be given another opportunity to squander public cash and throw our transport networks into chaos. This country cannot afford Chris Grayling."

[CCC criticizes ramshackle climate change prep – Rebecca Long Bailey responds](#)

Rebecca Long Bailey MP, Labour's Shadow Business and Energy Secretary, responding to the CCC report on climate change saying that efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions are lagging far behind what is needed, said:

"This is a remarkable, damning assessment of the Government's failure to tackle and prepare for climate change by their own advisors.

"With the Government delivering on just one out of 25 policy areas, this is proof, if more were needed, that the Government has no plan to tackle the climate emergency declared by Parliament.

"Labour takes the climate crisis seriously, and will kickstart a Green Industrial Revolution to safeguard our future and transform our economy."

[Ethnicity pay gap – Dawn Butler responds](#)

Dawn Butler MP, Labour's Shadow Women and Equalities Secretary, commenting on the ONS ethnicity pay gap figures for 2018 released today, said:

“Today’s figures highlight the shocking persistence of ethnic pay inequality. People need to earn a fair wage based on merit, not by virtue of the colour of their skin – it’s shocking to see the largest ethnicity pay gap exists in London at 21.7% – one of the most diverse capital cities in the world.

“While the government seeks consultation on the ethnicity pay gaps from employers, it’s yet to give us tangible solutions to address the issue. We need action not audits.

“Labour in government will make it a priority to close all pay gaps, gender and ethnicity included, to help address the barriers people across our society face, so we can truly create a country that works for the many, not the few.”

[Jeremy Corbyn closes Labour's Brexit consultation by challenging the next prime minister to put their deal to the people in a referendum, in which Labour would campaign for remain against No Deal or a damaging Tory Brexit](#)

This morning, **Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the**

Labour Party, convened a meeting of the party's shadow cabinet to agree a settled Brexit position. The Labour Party will now challenge whoever emerges as the leader of the Conservative Party to have the confidence to put their deal to the people in a referendum, with remain on the ballot, in which Labour would campaign for remain.

Today's announcement, follows weeks of consultations across the party and wider labour movement, as Jeremy Corbyn has sought to bring the whole movement together around a common position.

Jeremy Corbyn has written to every Labour member to lay out the party's policy.

Jeremy Corbyn's email to all members:

Dear member,

I am proud to lead the Labour Party – the greatest political party and social movement in this country.

We all recognise that the issue of Brexit has been divisive in our communities and sometimes in our party too.

As democrats, Labour accepted the result of the 2016 referendum. In our 2017 manifesto, Labour also committed to oppose a No Deal Brexit and the Tories' Brexit plans – which threatened jobs, living standards, and the open multicultural society that we as internationalists value so much.

I want to pay tribute to Keir Starmer and the shadow Brexit team for holding the Government to account during this process. That helped secure a meaningful vote on their deal – which we then defeated three times – including inflicting the largest ever defeat on any Government. And following their refusal to publish their legal advice, this Government became the first to be held in contempt of Parliament.

Labour set out a compromise plan to try to bring the country together based around a customs union, a strong single market relationship and protection of environmental regulations and rights at work. We continue to believe this is a sensible alternative that could bring the country together.

But the Prime Minister refused to compromise and was unable to deliver, so we ended cross-party talks.

Now both Tory leadership candidates are threatening a No Deal Brexit – or at best a race to the bottom and a sweetheart deal with Donald Trump: that runs down industry, opens up our NHS and other public services to yet more privatisation, and shreds environmental protections, rights at work and consumer standards.

I have spent the past few weeks consulting with the shadow cabinet, MPs, affiliated unions and the NEC. I have also had feedback from members via the National Policy Forum consultation on Brexit.

Whoever becomes the new Prime Minister should have the confidence to put their deal, or No Deal, back to the people in a public vote.

In those circumstances, I want to make it clear that Labour would campaign for Remain against either No Deal or a Tory deal that does not protect the economy and jobs.

Labour has a crucial, historic duty to safeguard jobs, rights and living standards. But no Brexit outcome alone can do that.

We need a general election. After nine years of austerity, too many people in this country cannot find decent secure well-paid work, and have to rely on public services that have been severely cut back.

Our country is ravaged by inequality and rising poverty, huge regional imbalances of investment, and the government is failing to tackle the climate emergency facing us all.

That is why we need a Labour government to end austerity and rebuild our country for the many not the few.

Yours

Jeremy Corbyn