



Make Votes Matter Update - September 2021

Summary

The Labour Party conference proved that the party's membership not only overwhelmingly supports Proportional Representation, but views it as a top policy priority. Absent any support from the Leadership, there were insufficient trade unions with policy in favour to pass the motion overall - yet we have both moral and practical victories to capitalise on. The Alliance and Grassroots teams have been working hard to support the push for Labour to adopt PR as party policy. We have created a new short film featuring allies and have been generating more media coverage and discussion on the fight for equal votes.

Labour Contact: labour4pr@makevotesmatter.org.uk / hello@labourforanewdemocracy.org.uk

We may have lost the vote, but conference was a major step forward. We won the argument, the moral victory, and the practical means to continue the fight. Motions on PR were submitted by a record (for any issue) 153 Constituency Labour Parties, was voted members' 2nd highest priority of 50 subjects, and was supported in the final vote by 80% of membership delegates. Three smaller unions voted with us and Unison (among the biggest) abstained. Support for FPTP was passive, with just one union speaking against. A detailed conference report will follow. Among our next tasks is persuading affiliated unions as successfully as we have local Labour parties. Motions on PR will be debated at Unite's biennial conference later in October, whose newly elected General Secretary Sharon Graham is in favour of PR.

Grassroots movement Contact: local@makevotesmatter.org.uk

In the run up to Labour conference, we held our All Activists' Call on the 14th September to update about the activities for Labour Party conference, launched our [conference toolkit](#) and this month also saw the first Overseas MVM meeting for Brits living abroad who want to add their voice to our movement.

Great news that a majority of the British public supports PR! You can [read our blog about it](#). Surrinder has written an [article for Central Bylines](#) talking about the impact of unequal votes on West Midlands, where he grew up, was featured on a [democracy podcast](#) with a local media group called In.Society. We hope this will help stimulate interest in new local groups in the area. Visit our [events calendar](#) for full details on local group meetings near you.

Alliance Contact: alliance@makevotesmatter.org.uk

This month we are happy to [welcome Chartist Magazine](#) to the Alliance. Holly and Klina have been catching up with as many of the parties in the Alliance as possible, to hear about their current campaigns and update them on what MVM has been working on. We've also been meeting with a new intern, Inyang Udosen, who is helping us diversify our Alliance work and reach new audiences. Alex has been leading work on a new short film, 'Equal Votes' which will feature high profile public figures from the Alliance, as well as preparing evidence for the Parliamentary Committee on the Elections Bill; [read more here](#). Klina also made appearances at events including Open Britain's International Day of Democracy panel and the LDER fringe event at Liberal Democrats Party Conference.

Ensuring a coherent, growing and sustainable movement

Thank you to everyone who chipped in to fund MVM social media ads. We had a huge response, and will be reporting back on the results of those ads once they have finished running. Thank you also to everyone who helped fund our short film - we will be releasing it shortly!