

Labour Women's Conference 2019

Defence Diversification motion from Sheffield Halam CLP

Following the TUC's lead, we call on the Labour Party to establish a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency (DDA) as a priority in defence of women employed in the nuclear weapons industry and the communities in which they live.

Labour's 2017 Manifesto commits the party to lead multilateral efforts with international partners and the UN to create a nuclear-free world and implement the Arms Trade Treaty to a consistently high standard, including ceasing arms exports to countries where there is concern that they will be used to violate international humanitarian law.

A shadow DDA, in collaboration with a National Investment Bank and National Education Service, will work with all involved in the arms and nuclear weapons industry to prepare plans for conversion to alternative, socially useful products, such as green energy generation by offshore wind and tidal power.

The announcement in October 2017 by BAE Systems of plans to axe 2000 jobs shows once again that not only are these plants producing weapons which can have devastating humanitarian consequences and, through the desire to sell, mute UK criticism of human rights violations, but also that jobs in the arms industry are not secure.

A DDA will help fulfil a future Labour government's longer-term goals of an ethical foreign policy, of nuclear disarmament through support of the UN global ban on nuclear weapons and of the provision of secure, sustainable jobs. This agency will report annually to Labour Party Conference until Labour in government has established a Defence Diversification Agency.