

Be an effective BAME Coordinator

Championing Diversity

The BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) Coordinator is the key representative of BAME members within the CLP, and works to ensure that BAME members are fully involved in the work of the local party, as well as taking a leading role in making sure that the campaigning work of the constituency reaches out and engages with Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority voters.

As BAME Coordinator, you should be friendly and approachable, organised, able to run events and above all be prepared to work hard to ensure that BAME members have a real voice within the local party.

The key responsibilities of this role include:

- Making sure that BAME members are included in all of the party's activities and that meetings are relevant and accessible to BAME members.
- Reaching out to BAME communities through local campaigns, and working with BAME organisations in the constituency to engage ethnic minority voters, highlight issues, and get a better deal for BAME people.
- Bringing BAME members together to empower each other and gain the knowledge and skills they need get involved.
- Running events for BAME members, including training, policy development and social events.
- Working to recruit more BAME members into the Labour party and helping to make sure that those members make the jump from member to activist.
- Listening to BAME communities' views and ensuring that they are reflected in Labour's policy making.

This role is varied and exciting, and you can make a real difference to your local party through this position. You can choose how to focus your role and what to make your priority depending on what sort of activities that local members want to see.

In the work of a CLP BAME Coordinator there are two key aims:

- Building an inclusive party for BAME members. This means working to make sure that BAME members in your local party are supported, involved and engaged.
- Campaigning with BAME communities- playing a leading role in making sure that your local party campaigns to win BAME votes.

To help build an inclusive party for BAME members, you may want to consider doing some of the following:

- Set up CLP Ethnic Minority Forum for BAME members of the CLP, if one does not exist. This then builds a team of BAME members to support your work as BAME coordinator.
- Welcome new BAME members to the CLP, through emails, telephone contact or social events. Your CLP secretary will be able to let you know when a new BAME member joins.
- Organise training to encourage BAME members to become more involved in the party and in community activity - for example as party officers, school governors or local councillors. You could start by surveying interests and training needs of BAME members.
- Familiarise yourself with BAME Labour, the party's national affiliate representing BAME party members. There may be national events that you and other members may be interested in attending.
- Work with constituency and branch chairs to ensure party meetings are accessible and relevant to BAME members-for example, trying to ensure meetings do not clash.
- Work with your CLP Executive to ensure the concerns of the BAME community are reflected and included in policy debates-this may include organising local policy forums or events.
- Ensure BAME members are supported to contribute to discussions and stand for the CLP executive and other positions.

The other part of your role involves looking outside of the party to your local community, and exploring how your CLP can engage with BAME voters. You may want to consider organising the following:

- Set up a campaign team to recruit local BAME people who have expressed support for the party.
- Set up a team to canvass areas with a high percentage of BAME voters, run street stalls, or target campaigns at particular groups-bring Labour Party and BAME Labour membership forms along with you to sign up supporters.
- Make contact with local branches of BAME voluntary organisations, set up consultation meetings, exchange speakers and run a joint campaign in the local community.
- Organise local policy forums and discussions for BAME members and supporters with the wider community.
- Lead a campaign that affects BAME communities in the local area and identify key stakeholders in that can get involved, such as local BAME charities and voluntary organisations.

Useful Links and Information

BAME Labour- BAME Labour seeks to empower ethnic minority members within the Labour Party and campaigns for greater representation of ethnic minority communities in public life. Visit www.bamelabour.org.uk to find out more and download a membership form.

If you have any questions about the role of CLP BAME Coordinator get in touch with the National Women and Equalities Officer on equalities@labour.org.uk.