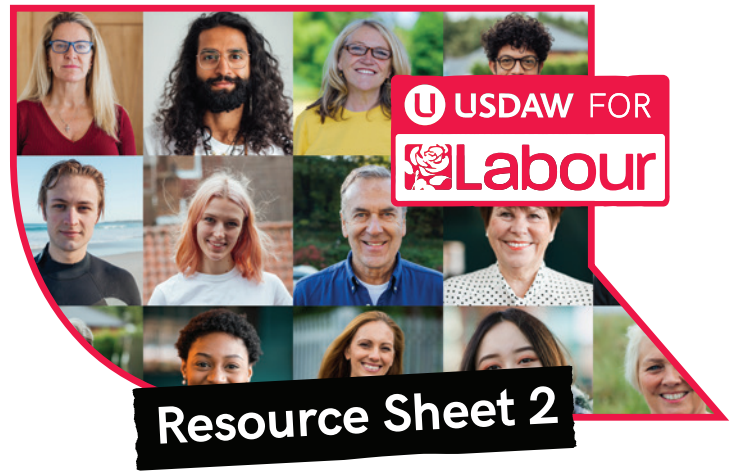


The Usdaw Guide to Being a Labour Party Member



This Guide is for Usdaw members who are interested in representing their Usdaw branch as a delegate to the General Committee (GC) of their Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

What is the GC?

The GC or General Committee of the Constituency Labour Party is made up of delegates from Labour Party branches and affiliated trade unions. Its role is to provide leadership and organisation to the Labour Party in that particular constituency. The General Committee is responsible for:

- Organising local policy forums to debate policy consultation papers and submit responses.
- Receiving reports from the Labour MP (if there is one) and asking questions about issues and policies.
- Appointing delegates and submitting resolutions to Labour Conferences.
- Appointing all officers eg Chair, Secretary, etc.
- Appointing a Campaign Committee to organise election campaigning.
- Appointing delegates to other Labour Party bodies such as the Local Campaign Forum.
- It is also the body which decides the shortlist of candidates in the selection of the Parliamentary candidate in the General Election if the Labour MP is standing down, or if it is a non-Labour seat.

Whilst it is very important, usually all this will be done at a monthly meeting lasting about one and a half hours and followed by socialising.

The Role of an Usdaw Delegate

An Usdaw delegate will represent their union branch at the Constituency Labour Party. Their role is to:

- Put forward the views of local Usdaw members to the Party and MP or candidate, asking for support for national or local campaigns.
- Let the local Usdaw branch know what is going on in the Labour Party including election campaigns, policy discussions or social events that members can get involved in.

What Does Usdaw Gain?

GC delegates are very useful to Usdaw because they help:

- Gain support from local Labour Parties and MPs for our political campaigns. Often this is crucial.
- Support Usdaw candidates for Parliament.
- Build good relations with a wide range of local politicians and MPs - this can help in local campaigns, in disputes or in recognition claims.

What if I Cannot Always Make Meetings?

No-one expects you to be able to make every meeting and you should not feel guilty if you cannot.

As long as you are not taking the place of someone who could do the job better (and with each branch being able to send five delegates to each CLP that is rarely the case), whatever you can put into the role benefits Usdaw.

If you can make every meeting, that is great. If not, try to prioritise - for instance, just go along if there will be a discussion on a relevant issue like workplace rights, or if Usdaw has put forward a motion to the Party, or if there is a selection meeting.

What Are the Qualifications for Being a Delegate?

The qualifications are very simply:

- Membership of Usdaw and a political levy payer.
- Membership of the Labour Party.
- To live in the constituency.

If you're not a Labour Party member but would like to join, contact Usdaw's Politics Office on **0161 249 2452** for a form or visit: www.usdaw.org.uk

How Do I Become a Delegate?

For your branch to appoint you as a delegate it needs to be affiliated to the CLP.

If it is not already, this can be done by:

- Completing Usdaw Form AY (call **0161 249 2452** for a form) and email or post to Usdaw's Politics Office at: politics@usdaw.org.uk
- Affiliation costs £6 for 100 members (or part thereof) and payment will be arranged from the branch's Political Fund.
- Branches can appoint two delegates for the first £6 and one additional delegate for each extra £6, up to a maximum of five delegates*.

*Rates correct at March 2023

