

The Labour Party's

WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION *for* DEMOCRACY

Programme

Annual Report
2017-2018

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Figure 1: Participants at the Women's Academy for Africa (WAF) National Workshop in Botswana

Introduction

The Labour Party supports political parties in new and emerging democracies abroad through its Westminster Foundation for Democracy Programme – a key component of Labour's international strategy.

The programme helps build the democratic and institutional capacity of political parties ensuring our values of democracy, freedom, justice and human rights are shared across the world. This contributes to Labour's broader aims of encouraging good governance, prosperity and security in a rapidly changing global environment. An increased emphasis of our work has been on inclusiveness and equalities, *A world for the Many, Not the Few.*

How we're funded

Labour receives funds from the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy** (WFD) - a public body sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with additional funding from the Department for International Development.

WFD builds the capacity of parliaments and political parties; delivering parliamentary work itself whilst resources are provided to Westminster based parties to work directly with political parties.

The funding from WFD enables Labour to deliver projects with political parties and regional networks designed around their specific needs and in line with our international WFD strategy.

This document gives a summary of the projects we completed in the financial year 2017-18 and focuses primarily on what changes came about as a result of this support.

For more information, please visit our website <http://www.labourwfd.org.uk/>

Section 1: Yearly Overview

Political Update

Our projects are designed in accordance with the relevant political context and tailored to meet specific needs of political parties, particularly our sister parties across the regions experiencing both challenges and opportunities within their respective political environments.

2018 marks the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act, the legislation that gave some women in the UK the right to vote. Women's political participation is fundamental to promoting gender equality worldwide. However, it is estimated that women consist of less than twenty five per cent of the world's legislators and are largely absent from national and local decision-making bodies.

In the centenary year of the Representation of the People's Act, the Labour Party continued to support and develop the skillset of social democratic women to play an active role in party politics and public life.



Figure 2: WAFA National Workshop in Ghana

In Africa, a number of our sister parties focused on strengthening their

organisational capacity in preparation for forthcoming elections through the Women's Academy for Africa (WAFA) programme; a regional network of women from political parties across Africa that offers training to its members with a view to increasing the number of women activists.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the strengthening of social democratic parties continues to be vital for democracy development in the region, particularly in terms of strengthening youth and women's movements. The Labour Party is supporting our partners in the region with this through both bi-lateral and regional programmes.

The political situation continues to remain challenging for our sister parties in the Western Balkans due to hostile political environments and electoral irregularities. In Serbia, the results of the 2018 Belgrade Assembly elections were disappointing for our sister parties. The public's mistrust for traditional political parties, along with

little media support are believed to be contributing factors to the poor electoral results for opposition parties in Serbia. However, our partners in the region are continuing to develop their

party structures ahead of upcoming elections in order to present the electorate with a social democratic alternative.



Figure 3: Policy Development workshop in the Western Balkans

Section 2: Outcomes

The overall goal of the Labour Party's WFD Programme is to provide choice to citizens in developing democracies through well-functioning and accountable social democratic parties. This is a long-term goal that can take many years, if not decades, to achieve. The scope in which we operate is limited and a number of other factors determine whether a political party or network is able to flourish in some areas. However, our partners can make a difference and we were pleased to see the following outcomes from our work over the past year:

Wafa has been an excellent example of women working together to enhance their political skills and confidence and make use of these skills to engage in political processes, applying for leadership or candidate positions. The national workshops enabled the network to spread its reach to women activists at the grassroots level across a range of countries on the continent. Participants trained on leadership, campaign and media skills. Through Wafa, beneficiaries have succeeded in taking public office, been appointed government ministers, stood as parliamentary candidates and organised as activists.



Figure 4: Wafa National Workshop in Mozambique

The Labour Party in cooperation with the Foundation Max van der Stoep (FMS) organised a visit to Jordan to review the

impact of the Future Leaders programme for a selection of beneficiaries from the past four years. Participants met with Rushanara Ali MP, Vice Chair of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), during the visit to review the impact of the Future Leaders network and discuss next steps. Whilst in Jordan, Rushanara visited a UN registration centre and met with representatives from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the United Nations World Food Programme to assess the humanitarian situation including the impact the influx of refugees has had on the host country.

Best Practice programmes form a large part of our work as they offer an opportunity to share experiences and strengthen regional cooperation and development.

A Best Practice programme took place this year in Slovenia for representatives from the Western Balkans. The purpose of the visit was to share best practice in

the Slovenian Social Democrats' preparation for the 2017 Presidential elections; both from the perspective of senior party stakeholders and from local campaigns. This visit also contributed to the development of regional dialogue to facilitate the continued sharing of knowledge and experiences amongst political parties in the Western Balkans.



Figure 5: WorldPride in Madrid

Building on previous support for LGBTQ activists, a fringe event was organised in cooperation with Rainbow Rose at WorldPride in Madrid. The event was chaired by a member of the Labour Party's NEC, and the panel comprised of party activists and networks from the Western Balkans advocating for a political and cultural shift on LGBTQ issues. It highlighted that further work is needed to change political and public attitudes, and pave the way for a more liberal and respectful society.



Figure 6: 2017 Annual Conference Best Practice Programme

The Labour Party was pleased to welcome participants from across Africa, the Middle East and North Africa and the Western Balkans to the 2017 Annual Conference Best Practice Programme in Brighton. The focus was on the UK General Election and was an opportunity to meet with politicians, party staff and stakeholders to discuss the 2017 campaign and share their own experiences of campaigning. Alongside the conference debates, votes and fringe events, the programme included a dedicated 2017 General Election analysis day for representatives from our sister parties.

Similarly, the Labour Party's WFD programme invited representatives from our sister parties and organisations to Manchester to find out more about the work of our regional parties. Through a series of meetings with regional staff, the participants learned how the party campaigns in key local areas and how the national message is communicated at a regional level. Further meetings with councillors

and local activists helped the participants to understand their contribution to the 2017 General Election, while a visit to a local constituency office provided an overview of what happens after an election has taken place.

This was an excellent opportunity for participants to discuss the key role of the regional offices during the 2017 General Election campaign, and provided a platform for sharing their

own ideas and experiences with like-minded colleagues.

Following the completion of the 2015-17 Summer Academy programme, the Labour Party in cooperation with the Foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS) organised an alumni event in The Hague to evaluate the programme's impact by bringing together a selection of past beneficiaries of the programme. The feedback from the visit will help to design future Summer Academy programmes.



Figure 7: Elections Best Practice Study Visit to Manchester

Resources

OUR PROJECTS ARE FUNDED THROUGH AN ANNUAL GRANT FROM THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

The charts below show the breakdown of expenditure in 2017-18 according to three objectives across the regions.

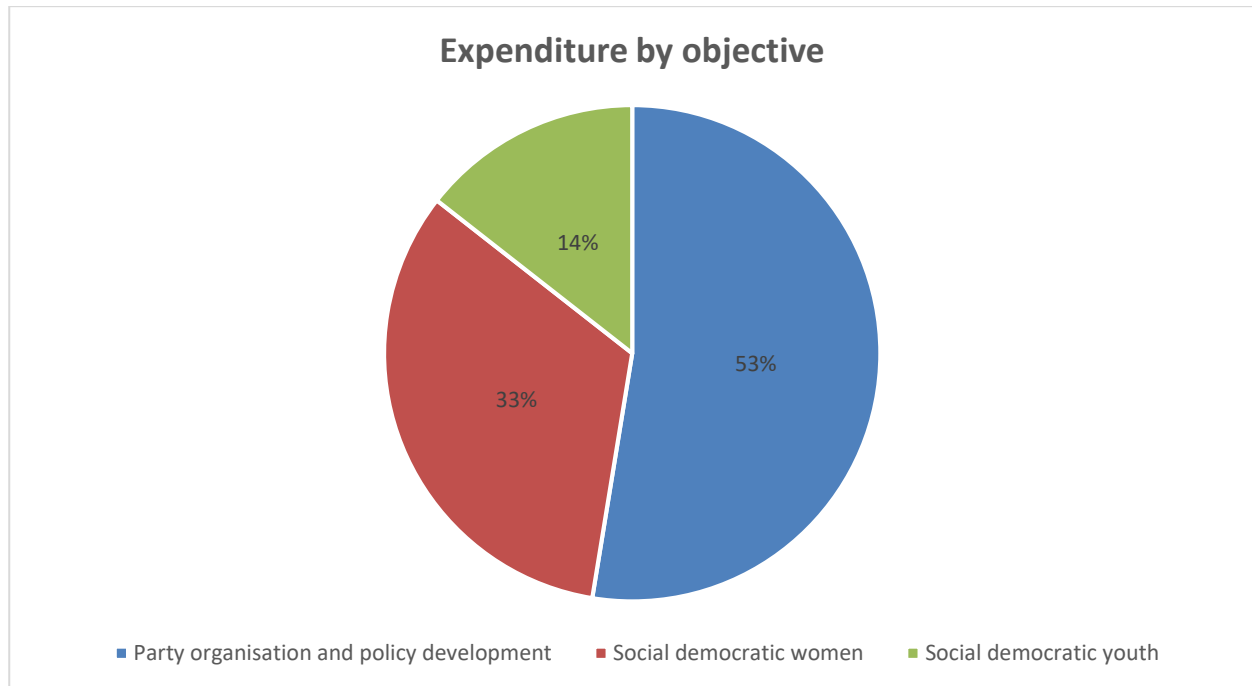




Figure 8: Partners from the SD Platform addressing a Forum of Progressive People in Ukraine

Section 3: Highlights

The Labour Party's work this year has continued to focus on ensuring that citizens have choices and an opportunity to engage with the democratic process, through projects that allow parties to strengthen political processes at local and national levels. This has also been achieved through women playing an active role in party politics and beyond; with young people who identify with social democratic principles and participate in inclusive political processes; strengthened regional cooperation and international solidarity. We are therefore proud of the following highlights from this year:

Africa

In Botswana, our bilateral programme to support and share best practice on campaigning, party organisation and member mobilisation with our sister party concluded this year. A key outcome of this programme was that

trained party activists were able to apply the skills learnt in a crucial by-election in May 2017.

As reported earlier, one beneficiary of the Wafa programme informed us that she stood as a candidate in

parliamentary elections as a result of the skills and confidence she gained during the WAFA training.



Figure 9: WAFA National Workshop in Cameroon

Eastern Europe

The Social Democratic Platform (SD Platform) in Ukraine has continued its outreach and growth by providing communications training activities for over 70 activists across the country to equip them with the knowledge and skills to present the organisation's agenda to a wider audience. The communications training activities have also contributed to the development of the SD Platform's communication strategy and its policy on reaching out to people with disabilities setting an inclusive agenda.

The 2017 Summer Academy for young activists across Eastern Europe focused on equipping participants with the knowledge, confidence, and ability to repeat the training as a trainer. Detailed sessions covered developing social democratic policies on issues such as youth unemployment, improving infrastructure, and

education, developing campaign messages and interview techniques. Participants were galvanised to mobilise supporters in their organisations and utilise the skills learned to full effect.

The Summer Academy Alumni event highlighted that participants utilised the skills learnt during the Summer Academy training to stand for elections and campaign within their organisations.



Figure 10: 2017 Summer Academy

Middle East and North Africa

The Labour Party is continuing to work with Tha'era members to share best practice around increasing women's political participation in the MENA region. The Arab Women's Network - Tha'era - has received support from the Labour Party since its inception in 2013. It has formally trained 150 women through a bespoke training programme, and hundreds more informally through the space created by the network. Through the network, women standing for public office in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia

received support from members during their electoral campaigns.

The Future Leaders Alumni event provided beneficiaries with the opportunity to discuss how they have strengthened their regional networks and continue to share knowledge and experiences with each other as a result of the training received. This cycle of the Future Leaders programme trained over 68 youth wing leaders from across the MENA region in campaign, communication and networking skills.

Western Balkans

Our programmes in the Western Balkans this year have focused on policy development, cooperation with trade unions and the development of regional networks.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, our partners continue to engage with citizens, members and supporters as part of a two year public policy development process through research, consultations and the promotion of policies via social networks, online platforms, printed materials and public events

Social Democratic Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina

This year, the Labour Party organised a pilot leadership training programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve the leadership skills of women members and potential candidates ahead of the 2018 elections. This was targeted to women who have sought or will seek public office and are able to cascade skills to their colleagues.



Figure 12: 2017 Summer Academy



Figure 11: SD9 host roundtable in Sarajevo

SD9

The SD9 training this year has resulted in a resolution on violence against women by the network. SD9 is a network of centre-left youth organisations in the Western Balkans. As well as practical training, the network is encouraged to work on common policy issues, with violence against women being highlighted as an area in which they will hold governments in the region to account.

Annex 1: Full list of regional projects supported in 2017-18

Region	Network	Project Title
Africa	WAFA	Women's Academy for Africa
Africa	Youth Academy for Africa	Youth Academy for Africa
Eastern Europe	Various	Summer Academy
Europe	SD9 Network	Social Democratic Youth in the Western Balkans
Europe	Various	LGBTI Rights in the Western Balkans
Europe	Various	Strengthening progressive representation and policy-making in the Western Balkans
Europe	Various	Trade Unions and Social Democrats
Europe	Various	Regional Policy Making
MENA	Tha'era	Arab Women's Network
MENA	Future Leaders Network	Social Democratic Youth in the Middle East
Worldwide	Various	Women's Political Day
Worldwide	Various	Annual Conference Best Practice Programme
Worldwide	Various	Elections Best Practice Study Visits

Annex 2: List of acronyms

LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer
MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
NEC	National Executive Committee
SD Platform	Social Democratic Platform
SD9	Social Democratic 9 (regional network)
WAFA	Women's Academy for Africa

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