



Communist Party

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2019**



Communist Party

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis employing the historical cost convention and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. The format of the accounts is that specified by the Electoral Commission.
2. Fixed assets have been written down to their recoverable amount. There were no movements in the year.
3. Stocks of literature and merchandise are stated at the lower of cost and net realizable value.



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2019 REVIEW

1. General

The Communist Party was founded in 1920 as the Communist Party of Great Britain and was re-established in 1988 as the Communist Party of Britain. Its activities are based on the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism and its organization employs the principles of democratic centralism, combining democratic participation of the members with an elected, centralized leadership capable of directing the Party's activities. For information on the Party, its history and activities see www.communist-party.org.uk.

The Party will celebrate its centenary in 2020.

2. National Officers at 31 December 2019 with individual executive responsibilities, all of whom were elected, were:

General Secretary	Robert Griffiths
Chair	Liz Payne
International Secretary	John Foster
Editor of Communist Review	Martin Levy
Election Nominating Officer	Jonathan Havard
National Treasurer	Martin Graham

The principal office of the Communist Party is Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR2 0BN, telephone 020 8686 1659, e-mail office@communist-party.org.uk. The Party's principal website is www.communist-party.org.uk.

3. MEMBERSHIP

	At 31 December	
	2019	2018
Full Party members	761	775
Members of the Young Communist League	<u>250</u>	<u>220</u>
Total	<u>1,011</u>	<u>915</u>

The number of YCL members at 31 December 2018 has previously been under-stated, being based



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on partial records kept by the Communist Party itself. The re-stated number at 31 December 2018 is an estimate. The number of YCL members 31 December 2019 is accurate and based on YCL membership records.

Members' dues are levied according to the individual member's self-assessed income. The bands employed have remained largely unchanged since April 2013.

4. Review of Financial Activities

The surplus for the year was £ 17,216 (£27,499 in 2018). In 2019 the Party ended the year with net assets of £56,541 (£39,325 at 31 December 2017). The forecast for 2019 is consistent with maintaining a satisfactory state of affairs.

5a. Activities in the year: extra-parliamentary

The Party again organised and participated in successful mobilisations in Central London and elsewhere. The Party assisted its district committees to organise local CP involvement in annual national labour movement festivals (London May Day, Tolpuddle, Durham Miners etc). This support included the production and distribution of special editions of Unity! and mobilising teams of comrades to enhance the presence of the Party and the Morning Star at these events.

The Party continues to support the work of trade unions and to win them over to progressive policies. Unity! was published and distributed at major trade union conferences. The Party continued to support the People's Assembly. Communism amongst young people was encouraged and supported through the work of the Young Communist League (YCL).

The Party continued its support for the work of the National Assembly of Women. .

The Party supports the Morning Star, the world's only English language socialist daily newspaper and continues to deplore the efforts of the mass media, including the BBC, to ignore its existence. The Party and its branches continue to encourage local readers and supporters groups and to hold regular collections for the Fighting Fund. Four editions of the Party's theoretical journal, Communist Review, were published. The Party supports the work of the Marx Memorial Library and organizes with it the annual Marx Oration at Highgate Cemetery. The Party supports Manifesto Press and through the Communist Party Heritage Fund encourages it to publish books that maintain the history and legacy of the Communist Party.

5b. Activities in the year: electoral

The Communist Party is severely handicapped when standing candidates in national elections by the first past the post electoral system, the weak control of election spending, media ownership and the way election deposits effectively fine the Party for standing candidates. A further obstacle is the widespread failure to provide the free use of public buildings for public election meetings, a required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 which, in our experience, is widely ignored.



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Given its support for much of the Labour Party manifesto and the leadership provided by Jeremy Corbyn, the Communist Party once again refrained from standing candidates in the 2019 General Election. After the election, Rob Griffiths, our General Secretary, commented that Labour's shift towards a "Stop Brexit" stance, with which we disagreed, had driven millions of Labour supporters to abstain or vote to "Get Brexit Done". 52 of the 54 seats lost by Labour to the Tories had voted in 2016 to leave the EU. Britain's monopoly capitalists so feared many of Labour's manifesto policies, Mr Griffiths concluded, that they had rallied behind Boris Johnson even though he had departed from the majority ruling class position of maintaining EU membership. This explained the ferocious media campaign against Jeremy Corbyn, abetted by treacherous anti-socialist and fanatically pro-EU Labour MPs.

The Communist Party does not engage in politics in Northern Ireland and encourages communists there to join the Communist Party of Ireland. When members move abroad, they are encouraged to join the communist party of the country in which they reside.

6. International Activities

Since 1999, communist and workers' parties from across the world have met each year to exchange news and views, hold bilateral discussions and endorse statements setting out common positions on particular issues. In 2019 meeting was held in Izmir, Turkey. Information on this meeting and on the international communist and workers party movement in general may found at www.solidnet.org.

Priority was again given to solidarity work with the peoples of Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela, to campaigning to oppose further foreign adventures, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere, and to opposing proscriptions against communist parties anywhere in the world including the European Union and Ukraine.

At home the Communist Party of Britain participates in the work of the Co-ordinating Committee of Communist Parties.



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Treasurer's Report

I confirm that the information provided in this Report and Accounts is, to the best of my belief, true and accurate.

Martin Graham
Outgoing National Treasurer
18 April 2020

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018	Notes
	£	£	
INCOME			
Membership fees and subscriptions	80,608	81,392	
Donations	63,735	51,339	
Fundraising	-	-	- The Communist Party does not engage in 'fundraising' events per se or pay agents to raise funds for it
Bank Interest	-	-	
Notional Income	-	-	
Other	12,766	18,314	
Total	157,109	151,045	

EXPENDITURE

Campaigning	127,647	111,020	Campaigning is the Party's core activity. This is not confined to election activities
Registration Fees with Electoral Commission	25	25	
Transfers	25	25	Unity for Peace and Socialism.
Cost of Fundraising events	-	-	- See comment above about 'fundraising'
Administration costs	12,196	12,476	
Notional Expenditure	-	-	
Other	-	-	
Total	139,893	123,546	Note 1

Surplus

17,216	27,499
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BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018
Fixed assets	1	1
Current assets:		
Stocks of literature and merchandise	901	1,059
Bank deposits and cash in hand	64,660	39,690
Debtors and Prepayments	11,584	12,421
	77,145	53,170
Total assets	77,146	53,171
Less Creditors falling due within one year:	20,605	13,846
Less Creditors falling due after one year:		-
Net Worth	56,541	39,325
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund b/f	39,325	11,826
Suplus for the year	17,216	27,499
Accumulated fund c/f	56,541	39,325

Note 1

Staff costs £48,884 (2018 £46,029)
Premises £16,812 (2018 £15,330)