

ALP SA Convention 2019

Active Left made some significant and positive contributions to the party platform at this year's SA Labor Convention. The party now accepts our position on Fuel Security, and that SA won't accept becoming a nuclear waste dump. Convention also agreed that generating electricity through nuclear power is neither safe nor economically viable. SA Labor will now demand that a Federal Labor Government will raise Newstart by a minimum of \$75 a week (as opposed to the 'Review Policy' taken to the last election and the 'just raise it' that this Convention had pencilled in). We took a lead in ensuring that Rail Safety was strengthened by including the union in negotiating legislation for freight train operation. The RTBU led the fight against the privatisation of our trains and trams.

A special motion was moved by the SDA about the Turkish incursions into Syria following the withdrawal of the US from the region and the ensuing attacks of the NATO-armed Turkish forces on the Kurdish people. The problem with the motion was that it didn't condemn the Turkish Government outright and it didn't call out the Australian Government for its support of the US decision to give permission for these actions to be commenced by the Turkish regime. We felt that this was an inadequate response. Unfortunately, the movers would accept no amendments on this point. Nevertheless, this item was the highlight of Convention. The mover was fierce in attacking the US, Trump and Australia for allowing this to happen. She detailed what devastation and destruction had been wrought in the few days since the US forces had ceded control to Turkey. In three days up to 100,000 people had their homes bombed with the dead numbering far in excess of the reports in mass media. Active Left delegate Karimi in seconding the motion eloquently and ferociously highlighted that the Kurds were the most democratic, the most pro-West and the most feminist group in the Middle East, that it was the armed Kurdish people who had defeated ISIL and were still holding thousands of POW on behalf of the West and were the most successful ally in the war against Islamist terrorism. She declared that it would be an act of cowardice on our behalf to ignore the genocide being committed by the Turkish regime. We'll leave this by saying that both these fierce women received universal standing acclaim.

Motions that we had put forward to make our party more democratic were, as usual, pushed right to the end of the agenda. With time running out, we were forced to accept a proposal from PLUS to move them out of the Convention over to the Rules Committee – with the promise of a report-back to State Council within six months. In the circumstances we felt that this was the best we could do.

To end on a positive note, Jamie Newlyn – state secretary of the MUA/CFMMEU and leading Active Left member - was elected to the SA Labor State Executive.