

# Your Party: *Origin, Crisis and the Path Forward*

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## Introduction

This report examines the rapid emergence of 'Your Party' as a new socialist force born from disillusionment with Labour under Keir Starmer, tracing its ambitious ideological aims, explosive internal conflicts, and uncertain future. It details how initial mass support and membership growth were undermined by severe leadership fractures between Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana, governance crises over finances, and resignations by MPs who described a toxic internal culture. The report also highlights how Palestine solidarity—particularly a shift toward explicit anti-Zionism—has become both a defining feature and a source of generational and ideological tension, leaving Corbyn challenged by a more radicalised grassroots base

## Origins and Ideology

Born from the political vacuum created by the rightward shift of Keir Starmer's Labour Party, the initiative now permanently known as 'Your Party' was announced in the summer of 2025. Led by former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Independent MP Zarah Sultana, the group aimed to galvanise disaffected voters, trade unionists, and the pro-Palestine movement into a coherent socialist force. The goal is a '30-year project' that turns MPs into megaphones for the streets, rather than insiders in the Westminster bubble

Despite a chaotic rollout - characterised by unilateral announcements and initial strategic misalignment - the appetite for a left-wing alternative was undeniable. The party quickly registered over 50,000+ paid-up members and 800,000+ supporters, tapping into a desire for a platform that unequivocally challenges the capitalist system and advocates for the marginalised.



## Operational Crisis and Leadership Fractures

The months leading up to the party's foundation were characterised by a level of internal warfare that threatened to capsize the project before it had officially launched. What began as strategic friction between the two figureheads spiralled into a public brawl involving legal threats, data watchdogs, and high-profile resignations.

The conflict first exploded in September 2025 over a disastrous fundraising initiative. After Sultana's team launched a membership portal and solicited donations via email, Corbyn and four allied Independent MPs publicly disavowed the move as 'unauthorised'. They took the extraordinary step of instructing supporters to cancel their payments and reported their own party to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Sultana retaliated with a blistering statement, alleging she was being sidelined by a 'sexist boys' club' and accusing Corbyn's former chief of staff, Karie Murphy, of being handed 'sole financial control' despite holding no elected position.

This leadership feud was compounded by a severe governance crisis involving MoU Operations Ltd, the temporary holding company set up to manage the party's initial £800,000 in donations. By October, the company's independent directors - including former North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll and ex-MP Beth Winter - resigned en masse, citing fears over legal liabilities. This left Sultana as the sole director, effectively holding the party's war chest hostage. Corbyn's camp accused her of using the funds as 'political leverage', while Sultana insisted she was merely ensuring liabilities were met before transferring the cash.

The toxicity of the internal culture within Your Party has had immediate political consequences. Just days before the party conference, two of the party's five MPs, Adnan Hussain and Iqbal Mohamed, severed ties with the project. Hussain's resignation letter was particularly damning; he described the party environment as 'toxic, exclusionary and deeply disheartening', citing 'persistent infighting' and a 'struggle for power' rather than a shared commitment to the common good. Mohamed followed suit, citing 'false allegations and smears' that were reported as fact by party insiders.

## The Liverpool Conference: A Festival of Factionalism

The party's founding conference in Liverpool took place between the 29th and 30th of November and was intended to be a coronation of the new movement but instead highlighted deep factional divisions. The weekend was characterised by open conflict between the 'Corbynite' old guard and Sultana's younger, more radical base.



Tensions peaked immediately when Sultana boycotted the first day of the conference. She protested the barring of her close supporters and delegates from other left-wing groups by what she termed 'faceless bureaucrats', comparing the organisers' tactics to the very Labour Party machinery they claimed to oppose.

## Three Pivotal Votes

Despite the chaos, the conference established the party's permanent structure through three pivotal votes:

1. **The Name:** Members voted (37.06%) to permanently adopt the placeholder name 'Your Party', beating out 'Popular Alliance', 'For The Many', and 'Our Party'.
  2. **Leadership Structure:** In a major victory for Sultana, members voted 51.6% in favour of Collective Leadership, rejecting Corbyn's preferred Single Leader model. The party will be led by the lay Chair and Deputy Chair of the CEC; MPs are barred from leading the party until late 2027.
  3. **Dual Membership:** The conference voted (69.2%) to allow members of other aligned political groups (such as the Green Party or socialist societies) to join Your Party.
- The results of the above votes represent a decisive strategic shift, effectively institutionalising Sultana's vision of a decentralised, grassroots movement while sidelining the parliamentary 'old guard'. By barring MPs from leadership roles until 2027, the membership has delivered a stinging rebuke to the traditional hierarchies favoured by Corbyn's camp, opting instead for an untested experiment in radical democracy. However, the razor-thin margins and low turnout suggest a mandate that is far from absolute.

## Palestine: Uncompromising Stance and Internal Friction

While Your Party is poised to be the most vocally pro-Palestine party in the British political system, the issue has paradoxically become a source of internal tension rather than unity. The conference exposed a sharp generational and ideological rift regarding the specific framing of the conflict, with Zarah Sultana and a radicalised youth base pushing for a harder, more explicit line than Jeremy Corbyn.

Addressing 2,500 activists in Liverpool, Sultana staked out an uncompromising position, explicitly identifying the party's future with anti-Zionism. She declared to the hall, 'I am an anti-Zionist and if we fight for it, Your Party will be an anti-Zionist party'. Her demands went far beyond standard diplomatic critiques, calling for the immediate severance of all ties with Israel. 'We must expel the ambassador and shut down the embassy', she argued, urging the party to 'stand with the Palestinian people until every inch of their land is free, from the river to the sea'.



This shift towards ideological purity was reinforced by Jeanine Hourani of the Palestinian Youth Movement, whose speech provided the intellectual architecture for the challenge to the old guard. Hourani argued that 'Zionism is an enemy of socialism in Britain', controversially attributing Labour's 2019 defeat to the work of the 'Zionist movement'- a reference to the antisemitism allegations that dogged Corbyn's previous leadership. For the party's younger base, Hourani insisted that 'anti-Zionism is not a maximum demand but a minimum expectation', asserting that the very genesis of Your Party was owed to the Palestine solidarity movement. This framing positioned anti-Zionism not just as a foreign policy stance, but as a foundational litmus test for the new organisation.



Consequently, Corbyn - once the undisputed figurehead of the Palestine solidarity movement in the UK - found himself unexpectedly outflanked on his left. In his keynote address, marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Corbyn hailed the '37th national march' in London, declaring, 'We declare our solidarity from Liverpool', and described the violence as 'genocide broadcast live', citing images of 'starving children' and 'torn bodies' to attack government complicity.

Yet, for the newly radicalised base emboldened by speakers like Hourani, this traditional language of solidarity was insufficient. Footage emerged from the conference of the former Labour leader being confronted by activists who accused him of being 'too weak' on Zionism. A visibly frustrated Corbyn defended his record, telling hecklers, 'I'm fed up with being painted into a corner of being seen as a pro-Zionist... What do you think I've been doing with my life?' While he led chants of 'free, free Palestine' from the stage, his speech pivoted to a warning against factionalism, arguing that 'division and disunity will not serve the interests of the people that we want to represent'.

Despite these clashes, the broader trajectory of the movement remains clear: internal disagreements have not derailed the party's overall commitment to positioning itself as the most staunchly pro- Palestine force in British politics. However, the friction at Liverpool suggests the party is moving away from Corbyn's 'broad church' solidarity toward a stricter, identity-defining anti-Zionism, a shift that may continue to alienate the leadership from its most militant activists.

## Outlook: Challenges Ahead

'Your Party' leaves Liverpool with a constitution and a name, but also with a confirmed divide between its two most famous figures. In her keynote speech, Sultana praised Corbyn's past contributions but pointedly noted, 'now we are building something new', while outlining a radical platform including the abolition of the monarchy and extensive nationalisation.

The party now faces immediate electoral tests in the Scottish and Welsh parliamentary elections in May 2026. However, they face an existential threat from the Green Party. Under Zack Polanski, the Greens have surged in polls by blending environmentalism with anti-establishment socialism, actively courting the same demographic Your Party relies upon. With a collective leadership structure untested in British politics and low turnout in internal votes (just 41% on the leadership question), the party must quickly unify its warring factions to survive the electoral realities ahead.



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