

Sarah Teather

1 Federal Conference Committee

"It's vital that every Liberal Democrat member is able to play a role in our most important platform: conference."



On the campaign trail in a recent Camden council by-election



Appearance in this photo does not constitute an endorsement

Why I am standing for Conference Committee

Dear Member,

You may wonder, why am I as a former MP and government Minister choosing this moment to seek election again for Federal Conference Committee?

I am standing because I believe conference is at the heart of how we as a party navigate the crisis Britain faces and I want to play my part.

Since standing down from Parliament in 2015, **I've watched political discourse become more toxic, more polarised and less civilised.** Democracy itself is at a crossroads with those most vulnerable in society often being victimised the most.

I ran a refugee charity for 9 years after leaving Parliament. **I have seen first hand the way culture wars have intensified and the terrible effect this has on marginalised communities in Britain.**

I have seen how quickly disagreements in public discourse turn to aggressive conflict. We have become unable to speak to one another or to listen, not only on immigration but on many topics that now divide us with terrible consequences.

Our party has always been the liberal voice, challenging inequality, promoting social justice, amplifying voices that are silenced, marginalised and demonised. Holding space for people with different perspectives to coexist is what we are about.

And conference is at the heart of this.

Conference sets our agenda and is our platform. **It's the voice of Liberal Democrat members and it's grounded in our ideals as a party.** Every voice matters: every member has the same rights whether Party Leader, elected representative or former government Minister. We must never forget this. **This is what makes us who we are; this is what makes us Liberal Democrats.**

Conference is also the place where we can showcase how we can disagree, debate and decide policy – with respect – even when dealing with deeply held convictions and opposing views. Our party prizes this space. We do it well, and it is a gift that we can give back to the wider body of politics and the country.

There is further to go of course on making it possible for all to get their voice heard at conference. Attending conference remains too expensive for some. It doesn't always reflect modern liberal Britain. And it still remains inaccessible for many.

As a party, we have a critical role to play over the next few years. With an increasingly authoritarian Labour Government and a beleaguered Conservative Party dancing to the tune of Nigel Farage and Donald Trump, it's vital that every Liberal Democrat member is able to play a role in our most important platform: **conference.**

Best wishes,
Sarah

VOTE SARAH TEATHER

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All about... **Sarah Teather**



Sarah **won the Brent East Parliamentary by-election** in 2003, winning the seat from Labour with a 29% swing. Sarah continued as an MP until 2015.



On the campaign trail in the Mid Beds by election with Chris Leaman and Shaun Roberts



As an MP Sarah **initiated and chaired a cross-party Parliamentary Inquiry into Immigration Detention.**

Sarah **founded and chaired the APPG on Guantanamo Bay** and campaigned successfully to have a constituent released, changing UK Foreign policy.

Sarah **represented the most ethnically diverse UK constituency** for twelve years.



Sarah is a **former Liberal Democrat Children and Families Minister.**

She coordinated Ministers across departments and party lines to publish **first ever UK-wide Government Child Poverty Strategy.**

Sarah championed the **Pupil Premium** to support children from poorer backgrounds (pupil premium) and negotiated successfully with the Home Secretary to **secure end to immigration detention of children.**



Sarah is **the CEO of a national children's charity**, providing support to children and families experiencing bullying, delivering training in schools and youth projects.

Sarah is also the **Board Member of two large NHS Trusts** in London and Essex.



Sarah receiving a present created by a refugee in 2025

She is the **former Director of a refugee charity**, supporting destitute asylum seekers and people held in migration detention and formed a partnership with the NHS to deliver vaccines to destitute migrants in East London.

MY TOP PRIORITIES FOR CONFERENCE

SHOWCASE DEBATE

At a time when disagreement in politics is too often dominated by culture wars, shrill voices and hatred, we have a chance to show how

we can navigate difference with passion, humanity and respect, taking care to hear voices that are rarely heard.

MORE AFFORDABLE

Attending conference remains too expensive an experience for many. We have to work

creatively to find novel ways to widen participation amongst our members.

MORE ACCESSIBLE

It's disgraceful how much of Britain remains inaccessible to so many people. Sarah and her husband, who is a wheelchair user, face these challenges everyday, taking on

companies and organisations who fail to support disabled people. Sarah will work to champion a more inclusive approach, drawing on her family's experience.

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