



Jeremy Corbyn **Labour Leader 2015 - current**

The 18th and current Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn was born on 26th May 1949 in Chippenham in Wiltshire, his mother a teacher and father an electrical engineer. Both his parents were peace campaigners who had met during the Spanish civil war.

Corbyn's early education was at private school before attending Adam's Grammar School where he became active within the local branch of the Labour Party Young Socialists (LPYS). After leaving school he briefly worked as a journalist before taking time out for voluntary work overseas. Upon return he became an official of various Trade Unions including NUPE.

In 1974 he was elected onto Haringey Council, becoming increasingly involved with Tony Benn and the left of the Labour Party, becoming a member of the editorial board of London Labour Briefing. These links paid off and he was selected as the Labour candidate for Islington North in 1982 and elected the following year. He immediately joined the Socialist Campaign Group of labour MP's and shortly after began writing a weekly column for the Morning Star.

As a member of Parliament he quickly gained a reputation as a rebel within the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), defying the party whip more than any other MP. This however did not impact on his popularity within his constituency where his majority significantly increased over successive elections.

Outside of parliament Corbyn was elected to the Steering Committee of the Stop the War Coalition (eventually becoming chair) and becoming national vice chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). He was also involved in high profile campaigns against miscarriages of justice such as the Birmingham 6 campaign.

After the 2015 General Election he was able to persuade enough labour MP's (many who did not support his left leaning position) to sign his nomination papers to be a candidate in the leadership election – receiving the minimum number of nominations required and with just a few minutes to spare.

The 2015 leadership election was unique as there were no block votes for Trade Unions or MP's – a rule change brought in by Ed Miliband – and that in addition any member of the public could register to vote so long as they agreed with the broad principles of the Labour Party. The result was a landslide victory on 12th September 2015 for the anti-austerity candidate, receiving a greater share of the vote than in any other leadership election with 59.5% of first preference votes.

Election as leader of the Party resulted in a call for supporters to join and this campaign was extremely successful with many 10's of thousands of people joining the party shortly after.

His leadership has not been without controversy such as asking questions received from the public during Prime Ministers question time and, in becoming a privy councillor, not kneeling before the Queen.

He recently successfully passed his first electoral test where in a By-election in Oldham on 3rd December 2015 the party comfortably held the seat with an increased share of the vote.