



Ian Stewart Labour Member of Parliament for Eccles

A Scot, born in Blantyre near Glasgow in 1950, he was a sickly child who suffered severe bullying and did not attend school regularly until he was around 10 years of age. In 1963, at age 12 years he and his family migrated to the Town of Irlam, in the City of Salford, near Manchester, England. He left school at 15 with no academic qualifications but with a well developed ability to read.

Most of his formal learning was gained through his Trade Union.

His first job at 15 years of age was with Lankro Chemicals in Eccles, also in Salford, where he joined the Transport and General Workers Union (now called **UNITE**) on his first day at work. By the age of 18 years he had joined the local Labour Party in Irlam near Eccles. In 1978 he became employed as a Regional Full-time Official of the TGWU. During his time working for the TGWU, he covered most industries and had a particular interest in Education, Skills and Vocational Education and Training. Ian held this position for around 20 years until **he was elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Eccles constituency in 1997.**

In 1990 Ian was involved in founding the very first European Union (EU) funded **Trade Union Led Social Partnerships (SPs)** in the UK. These SPs comprised of Trade Unions, Employers, Further and Higher Education and Non-Statutory Voluntary Sector partners. These SPs broke new ground in developing and harmonising EU-wide Vocational Education and Training projects and materials. **In the 1990s, Ian was a founder of the 'European Foundation for Social Partnership and Continuing Training Initiatives' and 'The Centre for Employment Initiatives (CEI).** These 'Non Governmental Organisations' (NGOs) were established as UK 'Not for Profit' bodies which promoted SP and carried out Education, Skills and Citizenship project work in many different countries.

During his 12 years as a UK Member of Parliament, Ian has spent 6 years working as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) for two Secretaries of State, in what was then called the Department of Trade and Industry. In this post he was part of the team which worked on the first Warwick Agreement, which developed policy agreement between the Labour Government and the UK Trade Unions. Ian also worked in Gordon Brown's Treasury Team as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Economic Minister. He is currently a **member of the Parliamentary 'Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee'.**

Ian is an active member of his Union UNITE both inside and outside Parliament. He is Vice Chair of the Parliamentary Trade Union Group and works closely with all UK Trade Unions.

He is a Trustee/Board Member (all un-paid) of the following 'Not for Profit', Charitable or 'Giving Back' Non Governmental Organisations:

1. **CMDC-SPOC: A UN accredited NGO** 'The Global Circle of Consensus for Self Sustaining People, Organisations and Communities' (www.cmdc-spoc.org)
2. **EURIM:** 'The European Informatics Market'. A Parliamentary interface with the Informing Communicating and Enabling Technologies Industry (www.eurim.org)
3. **KGF:** 'The Kanka-Gajendra Foundation' a Charitable 'Giving Back' body which promotes Education and Health in India and the UK (www.kanka-gajendra.org)

Finally, Ian is currently registered at Manchester University pursuing a PhD relating to 'Trade Union Promotion of Lifelong Learning in the UK Workplace' and is an Honorary Visiting Fellow at Salford Business School, University of Salford.