

momentum

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city, likely London, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. Three large, bright red circles are overlaid on the image: one in the upper left, one in the upper right, and one in the lower right. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

**SOCIALIST
ORGANISING
IN A NEW ERA.**

2021–2024

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A new era for socialist organising

A letter from the Co-Chairs



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The current moment demands far-reaching change, yet the Government and the political centre will not provide it. Our movement can, but there is work to do first.**

In the 2017 and 2019 general elections Momentum was at the heart of two of the biggest political campaigns in UK history, as tens of thousands of our members took to the streets to elect a socialist Labour Government led by Jeremy Corbyn. These were campaigns powered by people, motivated by socialist ideas and made possible by the latest digital technology.

In the end we came up short, but much of what we’ve built along the way is here to stay. Both election manifestos are full of fresh and timely ideas for a better society that remain popular with large numbers of the public, and the last five years has seen the emergence of many new and dynamic organisations fighting for economic and social justice, including our own.

Momentum has members and groups in all corners of the country. Together we have won campaigns and helped to elect socialists at every level, and our organisation will continue to impact UK politics for decades and for the better.

But there has never been a greater need to get organised, in our communities, our workplaces and in the Labour Party. The Conservative Government’s handling of COVID-19 has further exposed the deep divides that separate the rich and rest of us, as the burden of the pandemic is forced on workers, carers and the vulnerable. The recession it has unleashed may last for years, while climate change and spiralling inequality will continue to expose the destructive nature at the heart of capitalism.

The current moment demands far-reaching change, yet the Government and the political centre will not provide it. Our movement can, but there is work to do first. Labour’s historic gains in the 2017 General Election were wiped out just two years later. The reasons for this reversal are complex, but the simple fact is that support for socialist transformation is not as deeply rooted as it needs to be, either in the Labour Party or in the country.

Along with our allies across the labour movement, Momentum has a key role to play in meeting this challenge head on. We have to convince people that another world is possible and we have to make

sure our organisations are capable of delivering this change. We must re-tool Momentum and transform the Labour Party, building on our successes and learning from our defeats.

To do this we need every Momentum member to get active in our organisation and in Labour, in your trade union and in your community - organising to win selections and elections, politically educating, running campaigns and reaching out to create broad alliances for socialism. It will not be easy, but we have the vision and commitment to succeed.

The way forward also requires a robust defence of democracy, because for Labour to become a campaigning force capable of winning elections it must be organised from the ground up. So we'll stand with Labour members that have been unjustly suspended simply for upholding the rights of local Labour Parties, and we'll use every tactic available to challenge heavy-handed Party management aimed at marginalising the left.

There are many obstacles to confront, but one thing is certain: the era of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party is behind us, and it's time to move forward. Socialist Organising in a New Era is the beginning of this. It's a summary of what we want to achieve and how we're going to get there. At the end of each year we'll work closely with our members, local groups and affiliates to review and relaunch this document to reflect the changing political landscape and our organisational growth. We hope you find it useful.

Andrew Scattergood & Gaya Sriskanthan

Co-Chairs Momentum



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**MOMENTUM IS A SOCIALIST
AND ANTI-RACIST
ORGANISATION COMMITTED
TO A FUNDAMENTAL
AND IRREVERSIBLE SHIFT
IN WEALTH AND POWER
TO THE WORKING CLASS
IN ALL ITS DIVERSITY.**



What is Momentum and what do we do?

Momentum is a socialist and anti-racist organisation committed to a fundamental and irreversible shift in wealth and power to the working class in all its diversity. Our socialism means the democratic transformation of society and the economy to serve human need and flourishing, not profit.

“Momentum groups and members will be at the forefront of this vital work, and our vision is for an organisation in which they take the lead and where they decide on the candidates and the issues they campaign for. We’ll transform Momentum’s structures to create a democratic culture that facilitates this member-led organising.”

This starts by demanding that the long-term cost of the pandemic falls on the wealthiest and not on working people. It calls for a Green New Deal that protects our planet and provides meaningful and secure work for everyone, and the overhaul of our dysfunctional political system. It means our organising must be internationalist, anti-racist and rooted in struggles for equality.

Momentum’s role is to build popular support for socialist ideas and policies through political education and campaigns, and to organise to advance them in the Labour Party, with the aim of electing a socialist Labour Government to deliver them.

To succeed, we will do the vital work of movement building: skilling up a layer of organisers across the country and scaling up political education among our members and throughout society. We’ll

campaign to get socialists elected to local, regional and national government, and we’ll make sure they are accountable to the movement that backs them. And we’ll be there when it matters, campaigning with working class communities as they organise against the political and economic status quo or simply to survive, from the picket line to the foodbank.

Momentum groups and members will be at the forefront of this vital work, and our vision is for an organisation in which they take the lead and where they decide on the candidates and the issues they campaign for. We’ll transform Momentum’s structures to create a democratic culture that facilitates this member-led organising,



and our staff will support this by developing digital infrastructure, delivering training sessions and providing strategic advice, all under the leadership of the National Coordinating Group (NCG).

As well as organising from the ground up, we'll also reach outwards. Momentum is just one part of a broader movement for socialism committed to social, economic and political change. We'll collaborate with a range of allies - first and foremost trade unions building working class power, as well as tenants' unions, anti-racist groups and civil society organisations. We'll amplify the work they do, expanding movement capacity and helping to channel their demands into Labour Party policy. Momentum has a crucial role to play in bringing together a left that is united, pluralist and capable of winning.



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MOMENTUM'S ROLE IS TO BUILD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR SOCIALIST IDEAS AND POLICIES THROUGH POLITICAL EDUCATION AND CAMPAIGNS, AND TO ORGANISE TO ADVANCE THEM IN THE LABOUR PARTY, WITH THE AIM OF ELECTING A SOCIALIST LABOUR GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER THEM.

Strategic and Organisational Priorities

Momentum's role is to build popular support for socialist ideas and policies through political education and campaigns, and to organise to advance them in the Labour Party, with the aim of electing a socialist Labour Government to deliver them. To achieve this and to confront the challenges of COVID-19 we have three strategic focuses, with a further three goals for each of these:

STRATEGIC FOCUS

- **Build left power in the Labour Party and elect socialists**
- **Campaign in communities and support working class struggle**
- **Popularise socialist ideas and politically educate**

Running throughout all our work will be five key organisational objectives, which will help Momentum become a more effective organisation capable of delivering on our strategic priorities:

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

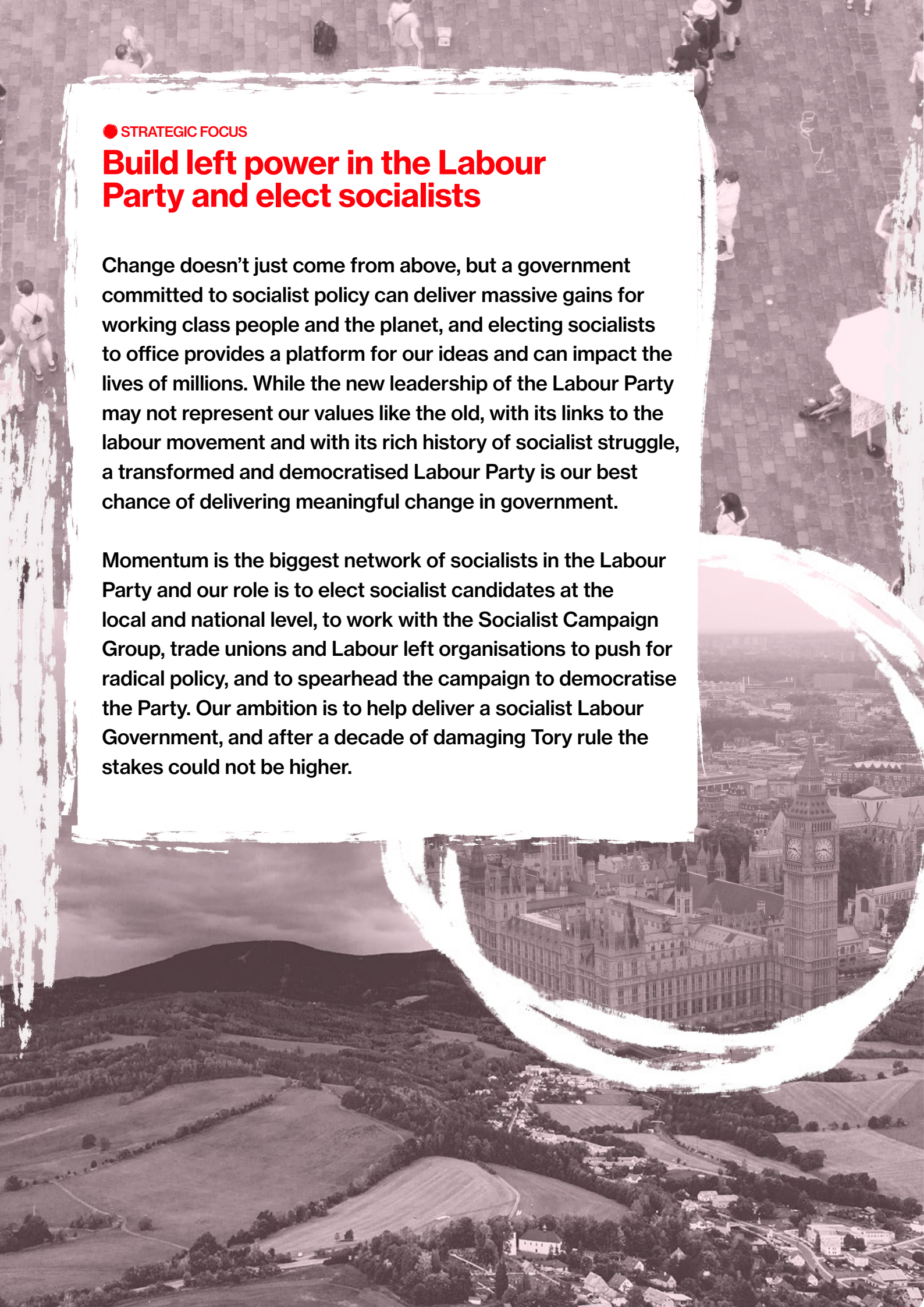
- **Develop Momentum's membership**
- **Strengthen local Momentum groups**
- **Democratise Momentum**
- **Create a skilled layer of Momentum organisers and leaders**
- **Deepen alliances with trade unions, socialist MPs and councillors, and campaign organisations**

● STRATEGIC FOCUS

Build left power in the Labour Party and elect socialists

Change doesn't just come from above, but a government committed to socialist policy can deliver massive gains for working class people and the planet, and electing socialists to office provides a platform for our ideas and can impact the lives of millions. While the new leadership of the Labour Party may not represent our values like the old, with its links to the labour movement and with its rich history of socialist struggle, a transformed and democratised Labour Party is our best chance of delivering meaningful change in government.

Momentum is the biggest network of socialists in the Labour Party and our role is to elect socialist candidates at the local and national level, to work with the Socialist Campaign Group, trade unions and Labour left organisations to push for radical policy, and to spearhead the campaign to democratise the Party. Our ambition is to help deliver a socialist Labour Government, and after a decade of damaging Tory rule the stakes could not be higher.



● **STRATEGIC FOCUS**

Build left power in the Labour Party and elect socialists

Goals for 2024



To organise to push the Labour Party to contest the 2024 General Election with a socialist policy platform

that offers genuine solutions to the struggles of working class people. We will look to achieve this by developing the left's programme in collaboration with the Socialist Campaign Group, trade unions and the wider Labour left; by mobilising for socialist policies at Labour Conference and by building popular support for transformational change.



To win selections and elections to increase the number of socialists holding elected office.

Our aim is to build a well-organised socialist current at every level of the Party, in local government, the devolved assemblies and in Parliament, so we can shape the legislative agenda and win future leadership elections. We will do this by supporting our members to win AGMs, to build alliances across the labour movement in support of popular socialist candidates, and to successfully navigate selection processes. We'll work with our allies on the NEC to prevent the exclusion of left candidates, and we'll support the next generation of socialist leaders, through political education and leadership development programmes, with a particular focus on women, BAME, disabled and LGBTQ+ activists.



To advance the agenda for Party democracy,

by campaigning for Open Selections and the democratisation of Labour from top to bottom. We will do this by winning in critical internal elections such as for the NEC, by organising for the delivery of new BAME structures, and by fighting back against attempts to marginalise the left at every level of the Party. This starts with challenging the anti-democratic suspensions of Labour members and by making sure that every candidate Momentum supports is committed to Party democracy.

● STRATEGIC FOCUS

Campaign in communities and support working class struggle

With the triple pressure of COVID-19, climate change and austerity, Momentum can't afford to sit on the sidelines while our communities suffer. We will work with trade unions, tenants' unions, anti-racist groups and civil society organisations to build support and capacity for their struggles. Local Momentum groups will also lead their own campaigns, aiming to win victories on issues critical to working class people while building deep support for socialist ideas.

Momentum will act as a bridge between extra-Party struggle and Labour, helping to channel the demands of social movements and working class communities into the Party's policy platform, while encouraging our members to get involved in trade unions and community struggles. This is the long-term work needed to build a democratic movement for socialism in a way that canvassing cannot.



● **STRATEGIC FOCUS**

Campaign in communities and support working class struggle

Goals for 2024



● **To support and amplify the struggle of working class people against the political and economic status quo**

and the hardship it brings, starting with our Eviction Resistance campaign and by building practical relationships with trade unions and community groups. We'll work to popularise organising models in Momentum and the Labour Party that prioritise working class solidarity and agency - such as the 'Walton Model' - and not a transactional politics focused solely on asking for votes every four years.



● **To ensure all Momentum members are active members of a trade union**

and networked with trade union organisers across the country, sharing knowledge and strategies and tactics to win. We'll work closely with our affiliated trade unions to roll out a Momentum Trade Unionists Network, which will run pro-trade union campaigns, help our members to access trade union education and make sure the demands of trade unions are fully reflected in the Labour Party's policy programme. We'll also support our members to democratise and build power in their unions, working with the established trade union left.



● **To develop a nationwide network of vibrant local Momentum groups,**

each capable of launching and supporting campaigns in their communities as well as in the Labour Party. We'll achieve this by providing local groups with resources and the latest campaign technology, as well as skills-training and strategic guidance - a process well underway with Refounding Momentum.

● STRATEGIC FOCUS

Popularise socialist ideas and politically educate

In 2020 almost 1 in 2 UK adults on Facebook watched a video by Momentum and our digital content regularly engages millions on issues ranging from government corruption to public sector pay, and from Islamophobia to child poverty. At the local level, many of our groups and members have been at the forefront of organising political education, developing and sharing the tools they need to understand the world around them and how to change it.

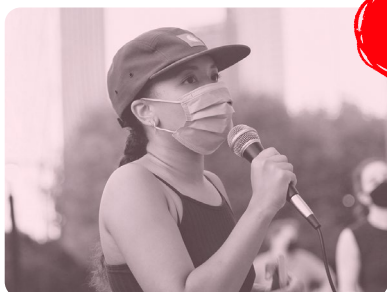
We will build this national reach and scale up political education across our movement, developing the knowledge and skills of our members and working with allies to create a dynamic culture of socialist learning throughout the wider left. As we found out in the last two general elections, there is extensive groundwork to be done to convince people that another future is possible as well as desirable, and we must meet head on the challenges of a corporate-controlled media environment surging further right.



● **STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**Popularise socialist ideas
and politically educate**

Goals for 2024



● **Running at least one priority campaign on a key issue each year that shifts the national debate,** engages

Momentum members and changes Labour Party policy, while working with our affiliates and affiliated trade unions: the CWU, FBU, TSSA and BFAWU. We will do this by empowering Momentum local groups to take a lead locally on campaigning, by building and joining broad coalitions for change and by training spokespeople to shape the media conversation.



● **Engaging at least half of our membership with political education,** through a combination of digital content,

events or sustained programmes, while cooperating with grassroots media and political education organisations to help build the cultural and intellectual foundation for socialism in the 21st century. As well as continuing to support The World Transformed festival, we will empower Momentum local groups to become engines of political education and we will assist our members to 'tool up' with theoretical, strategic and organising skills, whatever their starting level.



● **Doubling the size of our digital reach,** by staying on top of the latest developments in digital media, training our local

groups to become self-starting digital communicators, and increasing Momentum national's production of politically vital content that engages millions.

2020 WAS A YEAR OF REFLECTION, OF DEALING WITH AND LEARNING FROM DEFEAT. 2021 IS THE START OF SOMETHING NEW: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UK LEFT TO BUILD ON ITS RECENT SUCCESSES AND SET ABOUT ORGANISING FOR FUTURE ONES.





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2021: The year ahead of us

2020 was a year of reflection, of dealing with and learning from defeat. 2021 is the start of something new: an opportunity for the UK left to build on its recent successes and set about organising for future ones. While the era of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party is behind us, there is a whirlwind of ideas and movements running throughout society that have the power to fundamentally change it. From the Climate Strikers to Black Lives Matter, and from a steady growth of rank-and-file workplace organising to a generation of rent strikers, there is a renewed radical energy emerging that challenges the political and economic status quo.

Momentum is part of this new wave, and we have work to do. Over the next twelve months we'll be working closely with our local groups and members across the country to reinvigorate Momentum, learning from their experiences and together launching new projects, campaigns and alliances to deliver on our strategic priorities and organisational objectives.

Already since last summer we have organised over 50 meetings of Momentum groups and members as part of our Refounding Momentum programme. We've also launched an eviction resistance campaign, supported our first cohort of 'Future Councillors', rallied in defence of unjustly suspended Labour Party members, worked with members and allies to run a series of political education events on trans liberation, and campaigned with the wider left to elect a majority on the member places on Labour's National Executive Committee, as well as on the Young Labour National Committee.

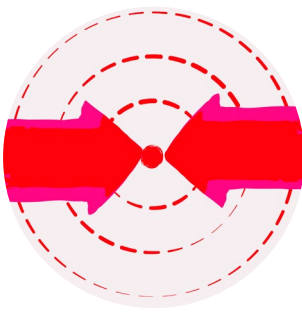
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From the Climate Strikers to Black Lives Matter, and from a steady growth of rank-and-file workplace organising to a generation of rent strikers, there is a renewed radical energy emerging that challenges the political and economic status quo.



But what's next?

Here are some of our key projects for 2021, and they will be critical to realising our strategic focuses and organisational priorities. Local Momentum groups and members will take leading roles in many of these projects and campaigns, while designing and delivering their own, supported by the NCG and our staff team.

REFOUNDING MOMENTUM



Since the summer Momentum members and local groups have been meeting to strategise and re-tool for the struggles ahead. We will continue this and we'll support new groups to emerge, as part of our organisational objective to establish a network of vibrant and self-sustaining local groups active in the Labour Party and in their communities.

This summer we'll also launch a process to collectively determine how we improve Momentum's constitution and democracy, with deliberation conducted in local groups and proposals voted on by all Momentum members. We'll be collectively thinking about the ways we can re-design Momentum so we can better deliver on the strategic priorities here outlined, as well as the goals of our local groups and members.

A MEMBER-LED CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALIST POLICY

We have now launched Momentum's first ever democratic Policy Primary, where local groups can draft and submit the motions they want Momentum to prioritise at Labour Party Conference. Every single Momentum member will get to vote on the policies they want to see Momentum campaign for. This is member-led democracy in action, helping us develop and build support for the policies we need to shape the future of our Party.

ORGANISING FOR LABOUR PARTY DEMOCRACY

While Open Selections isn't an option for this year's Labour Party Conference because of the 'three conference rule', we'll be engaging our members and affiliates to put together a package of pro-democracy reforms to take to Labour Party Conference 2021, including making the General Secretary of the Labour Party elected. We'll also continue to support wrongly suspended members with our specialist support service, and we'll lead the fight to end the anti-democratic crackdown on member democracy.

A PRIORITY CAMPAIGN FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL



Momentum's members and our affiliates were instrumental in developing and building support for a Green New Deal, and the stakes are too high to backtrack on this progress. We will work with trade unions and Labour For a Green New Deal to develop and popularise policy for a green and socially just recovery from COVID-19, so we don't move from the COVID-19 crisis into the worst of the climate crisis.

TRANSFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

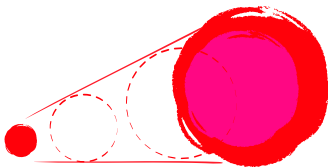
As we've seen in Preston and Salford, committed socialists can use local government to make a real difference to people's lives, and Momentum will support and encourage this new municipal socialist movement. We're also assisting Momentum members to develop the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the selection process and campaign to become a councillor. We'll continue the Future Councillors Programme and we'll relaunch Momentum's Councillors' Network - a home for socialist councillors across the country, where they can debate and develop policy and explore how Labour councils can engage with and support local communities.

RESISTING EVICTIONS

We've now established 35 action groups across the country ready to mobilise in support of tenants' unions resisting evictions. These groups are now preparing for a day of action in March, as well as calling for an extended ban on evictions and the cancellation of COVID-related rent debts. As part of this campaign we're also skilling up our members in tenants' rights, while supporting action groups to push for socialist housing policy in Constituency Labour Parties and in local government.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Supporting the next generation of socialist leaders and organisers at every level of the movement is at the heart of what Momentum will do. So from summer 2021 we'll be running an annual Leadership Development Programme to give our members the practical and theoretical skills and the confidence they need to become better organisers and leaders.

A MOMENTUM TRADE UNIONISTS NETWORK

We'll establish the first ever Momentum Trade Unionists Network - a home for socialist trade unionists whatever their union, with a focus on developing and sharing organising skills, and supporting each other's workplace campaigns. The 'MTUN' will look to drive trade union recruitment among under 35s and amplify workplace struggles up and down the country. Working with our trade union affiliates and allies, we will popularise educational material on the importance and relevance of socialist ideas to workplace organising and building trade unions.

BAME ORGANISING

Momentum has thousands of BAME members active in the Labour Party and in their communities and workplaces. As part of our broader liberation organising this year we'll be supporting our BAME members to link up with each other and organise, while deepening Momentum's relationship with anti-racist organisations and working to finally establish meaningful BAME structures in the Labour Party.

FOSTERING STRATEGIC COOPERATION

The left must be coordinated at all levels and united around a shared strategy. We'll work to achieve this by strengthening relationships with the Socialist Campaign Group and working closely with the next generation of socialist leaders in Parliament, as well as with trade unions and Young Labour. We'll also reach out to social movements to build pluralistic coalitions in support of transformative policy and democratic change that favour working people, looking to build on where we agree rather than create blockages on where we don't.



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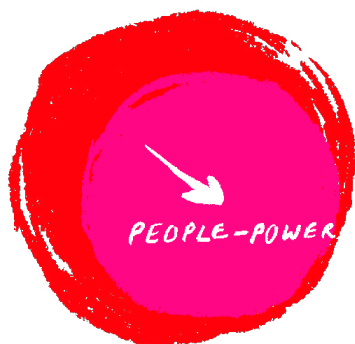


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How can you get involved?

At the heart of our strategy for Momentum are our members. Our aim is to move away from a top-down model to one where we use our resources to empower local groups and members to organise themselves and others, locally and nationally. If we are to succeed in building a genuine movement for socialism, every Momentum member must become an organiser. So your participation is essential.

Here are some of the ways that you can get involved in Momentum:



Join Momentum

If you haven't already, become a Momentum member and [join the movement for socialism](#). Or check the status of your membership by emailing membership@peoplesmomentum.com

Join your local Momentum group

Our local groups are at the heart of everything we do, so find out where your nearest group is and start organising and winning with other Momentum members.

Get in touch with groups@peoplesmomentum.com to find out more.

Start a new local Momentum group

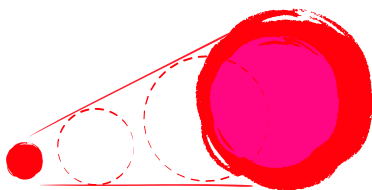
If there isn't yet a local Momentum group in your area, then you could be the one to start it. Get in touch with us at groups@peoplesmomentum.com to get linked up with other Momentum members near you and to find out more on how to start a new local Momentum group.

Join our new Trade Unionists Network

We've not yet launched our new Trade Unionists Network, but be the first to find out when we do, so you can get involved. Get in touch by emailing tunetwork@peoplesmomentum.com

Find out more about our Leadership Development and Future Councillors Programmes

Are you interested in joining these exciting programmes, and developing the skills, strategies and knowledge you need to become a more effective organiser and leader? Let us know by emailing councillornetwork@peoplesmomentum.com or leadershipdevelopment@peoplesmomentum.com



EVICTION RESISTANCE

Join the fight against the housing crisis

We have over 35 action groups across the country organising to fight back against evictions and the housing crisis. For more information on how to get involved, visit our Campaign Hub [here](#).



Meet and strategise with other Momentum members across the country

Get involved with conversations with hundreds of Momentum members by joining [Momentum Community](#).

Choose our policy platform

Vote in our first ever Policy Primary and choose the policies that Momentum campaigns on to shape the future of our Party. Ballot opens on March 25. Find out more [here](#)

Learn about our affiliates

Find out about our fantastic affiliates [here](#)

Stay up to date

Join or make sure you're on our mailing list to find out about the latest events, campaigns and other ways to get involved in Momentum.

[Sign up here.](#)

THE ORGANISER

Sign up to our monthly organising bulletin, The Organiser, [here](#).





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