

## Full NCG Minutes

5/12/2020

Participants: Angus Satow, Gaya Sriskanthan, Deborah Hermanns, Abbie Clark, Alan Gibbons, Ana Oppenheim, Andrew Scattergood, Mick Moore, Tony Kearns, Barry Gray, Craig Anderson, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jackie Owen, John Taylor, Jon Trickett, Liz Smith, Mish Rahman, Sonali Bhattacharyya.

Apologies: Matt Wrack, Leigh Drennan, Solma Ahmed, Tracey Hylton, Phil Clarke, Puru Miah

Staff: Ollie Hill, Andrew Dolan, Chloe Koffman, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Santiago Bell-Bradford.

### 1. Apologies/Matters Arising

GS noted the events of the last six months and the work that the NCG has been doing, including campaigns and events. GS noted the NEC election victory.

### 2. Co-Chairs Report

GS noted co-chair activities and media appearances. Noted meetings with members and upcoming events. GS noted the development of the operational strategy. GS noted some work with the DSA.

### 3. Officers Report

SB noted staff who have left and acknowledged their dedication and work. SB noted thanks. SB noted TK, AS and GS were appointed as directors of the organization. SB noted the migration of all non-urgent WG comms over to Slack.

SB noted the development of the organisational strategy by AD. SB noted the response to the report into Islamophobia into the Labour Party.

#### 4. Equalities Report

SB noted meeting with the Comms working group. SB noted early discussions about a BAME Momentum network and noted attendance at the MBC AGM. SB noted the progress of the Trans Liberation Programme. SB noted a review of Momentum's Equalities policies.

#### 5. Membership Report

DH delivered the Membership report, noted thanks to staff. DH noted decline in capacity. DH noted the second half of the refounding process and ways to improve the democratic process. DH noted developments in the Conference policy process. DH noted presentations from staff on CallHub.

AC asked how long it would take to roll out CallHub to all groups and RGW confirmed she isn't sure, due to the training implications. LS asked if CallHub could be used to help win AGMs early next year, RGW said this is a possibility but it may take time.

#### 6. Procedures Report

CA noted changes to the minutes process and the addition of the Matters Arising item. CA noted the addition of a monthly report from AD. CA noted the amendment of the standing orders to clarify that the Chair of the meeting does not have a vote, unless in the case of a tie. CA noted the Q&As are now quarterly. CA noted the Slack training. CA noted the minutes discussion and the review around the relationship between Momentum and their affiliates.

TK asked if there is coordination between the Procedures group and the Officers around the role of trade unions/affiliates in Momentum. DH and CA confirmed. BG noted there needs to be clarification around representatives. BG noted that there needs to also be clarity around documents circulated to affiliates. DH noted that there will be a proposal at the next NCG meeting around the affiliate process.

## 7. Comms Report

AG noted the work of staff on NEC/YL campaigns. AG noted the work on the Defend Corbyn campaign, including the petition, motions and the lobbying tool. AG noted the work around the open letter on the SpyCops bill, the Islamophobia report and the Trans Liberation Programme. AG noted work on the Holyrood campaign.

## 8. Campaigns Report

DM gave an update on the Campaigns WG activities, including updates on the housing campaign and work from volunteer researchers. DM noted barriers to some campaign activities due to the national lockdown. DM noted upcoming political education events and work with Living Rent. DM noted the student rent strikes and upcoming actions.

AC asked about other campaigns and if there are plans to run any campaigns around job losses. DM noted this and noted the focus has been mainly on housing due to urgency and lack of capacity. DM noted efforts to move to a more distributed model in future.

## 9. NEC/YL elections evaluation

RGW summarised the operational aspects of the campaign, noted the financial impact. RGW noted the importance of a unified slate and the impact of the regional ranking system. RGW noted the Disabled Members Rep won by a small margin.

MR noted congratulations and noted thanks to NCG and staff. MR noted it has been a quite difficult and long campaign. SB noted thanks to the staff and NCG members.

## 10. Financial Committee Proposal

AS noted this proposal is to form a formal financial committee, with TK as treasurer and four other NCG members. AS noted the responsibilities of this committee and the reporting structure. AS noted there is a provisional annual budget to be signed off in January. AS said PC and RM have noted interest in joining the committee. TK gave further updates on the committee

activities. CA asked about the co-chairs being on the committee and noted it may be useful for affiliates to have some representation. GS put her name forward to the committee and AC nominated as well. TK nominated CA. GS suggested that the two women be accepted and we contact PC and RM and ask if one wants to step aside for CA and confirm the final composition later. This was agreed.

Break

### 11. Campaigns Proposal- Electing a General Secretary

PC noted support for the motion and that it is a practical and positive way forward. PC noted that we should meet with the leadership of the unions if this was being seriously pursued. AG noted there is ground support for passing no-confidence motions. AS noted agreement with AG and noted there has been some negative response to this motion but we should always be looking to increase democracy. BG noted the impact on free speech and the violation of current rules by the General Secretary. BG noted that it may not be agreed at Conference if the unions are not in favour. BG noted there must be consideration around the exact proposal.

EI noted the possibility of regional directors being elected, as there is little accountability. EI noted the importance of democracy at all levels of the party. RM noted this is important and that although the General Secretary is important, the regional directors are also important. Suggested that Momentum expand the campaign to include elections for regional directors. RM noted that this would mean at least some areas would consistently have a left-wing director. RM also noted the possibility of the Director of Directors to be elected. RM proposed that the motion be amended to call for regional directors to be elected as well and the campaign would be amended to reflect this. RM noted the amended document and circulated.

CT proposed not agreeing the motion but coming back to it once the unions have been consulted and all options have been explored. AS disagreed and noted there is an urgent need to confront the General Secretary actions. AS noted he isn't against electing regional directors but an elected General Secretary would have the remit to deal with regional directors. SJ noted agreement with AS. MR noted that having elected regional directors may make it difficult to pass. MR noted the issues around the delegated powers. SB noted that the campaign should be

around democracy in general, not just one individual. SB noted support for the amendment. CA noted that there is a General Secretary in Wales and Scotland and this needs to be addressed. CA noted he doesn't have an issue with the proposal but there is a little more work that is needed.

GS proposed voting on the original proposal to agree to campaign for an elected General Secretary, without the amendment.

Yes: DH, AC, AG, AO, AS, CA, DM, EI, HPS, JO, JTa, LS, MM, MR, PC, RM, SJ, SB, TK

No:

Abstentions: ASa, CT, BG

Proposal was carried.

DH proposed agreeing RM's proposal in principle, whilst staff do further work into this. EI noted that this should be accepted before the item, GS clarified that RM's amendment is now a separate proposal. RGW and EI noted that the relationship between regional directors and the General Secretary may change according to what democratic process and what delegated powers are decided upon.

GS proposed voting to agree on the investigation of a campaign to elect Regional Directors and to come back to the NCG with a proposal.

Yes: AC, AG, AO, AS, CA, DM, DH, EI, HPS, JO, JTa, LS, MR, PC, RM, SJ, SB, TK

No:

Abstentions: ASa, BG, CT, MM

Proposal was carried.

## 12. Democratic Policy Making Process

RGW noted the discussion around this proposal in the last NCG meeting. RGW noted the changes: a clearer remit around the motions, a final list of eight motions, affiliated unions and organisations can submit motions as well as some unaffiliated organizations. RGW noted a three-stage process for the process. RGW noted there should be a working group during the drafting process and will create a recommended shortlist to bring to the NCG. RGW noted a two-part voting system, in order to eliminate motions without majority support - which would be excluded from the STV ballot. RGW noted the timeline and the launch around mid-January. RGW noted the criteria for exclusion and also the criteria for unaffiliated organisations to submit motions. ASa asked if Momentum and organisations would end up putting forward similar motions and asked about the timeline, RGW confirmed.

DH noted this will be the final proposal to the NCG. GS asked if there are any objections to this, JO asked if CLPD will also be distributing motions. BG noted that CLPD will be circulated model motions and model rule changes. BG noted there will be close discussions with Momentum around the areas of agreement. ASa noted that coordination should be an issue for the working group. RM asked if there could be some discussion around rule changes as it is important. RGW noted this can be worked out. DH noted that in the context of the challenges to democracy, ruling out discussions on rule changes would not be well-received. DH noted the importance of members feeding into the rule change discussions. DH asked for suggestions to be sent through. BG noted that regarding the rule changes, the three year rule is actually three Conferences so this is now essentially four years. BG also noted that these are often ruled out on the basis of changes being in the same section as a previous challenge. BG noted that if this is facilitated, you would have to give members huge amounts of information regarding what is possible and this could be difficult. DH noted the limitations are exactly why the rule changes need to be discussed so that members understand why we aren't approaching them.

GS asked if there were any objections, none made. Proposal was carried.

### 13. Defend Corbyn Campaign Meetings

AG noted the authoritarian actions around Corbyn's suspension and Angela Rayner threatening to suspend members. AG noted Momentum's response. AG noted the response in solidarity with Bristol Momentum and suspended members. AG noted the upcoming five regional meetings and the need for a strategy following these meetings. AD noted work to create a

network to support suspended members about navigating the disciplinary process, rather than encouraging litigation. AD noted this should be up and running in the next few days. SB asked AD if there could be a “suspension pack” to send to members as soon as possible. AD noted this is in the pipeline.

a. Local Government Working Group Proposal

SJ introduced the proposal and noted there is a working group of seven NCG members proposed, alongside staff to develop a newly refounded councillors network. SJ noted interest from LD, SD, EI and AG. SJ noted that this would be important for getting left-wing people to stand as councillors. EI noted interest and noted the SCG of Councillors. EI noted this would be an opportunity to bring back those people who have shifted away from Momentum.

GS asked for objections to the proposal, none made.

GS asked for people to nominate themselves or others for the working group. GS noted that LD, SD, SJ, EI, DM, GS, AC and AG have expressed interest. CT asked who is a councillor and who is not among those nominated. EI suggested adding one person to make it an odd number. GS proposed that if someone else wants to put themselves forward at a later time this is fine. GS asked for any final objections, none made.

14. Clarification of rules on representation for the four affiliate organisation NCG

CA noted proposals from CT and LS, noted work on a new proposal. CA noted that the Procedures Group is recommending that affiliates can send replacements but this will be subject to conditions. CA noted there should be further discussion around the relationship between Momentum and their affiliates and processes to evaluate these. CA noted proposal to review affiliate relationships and facilitate discussions with current affiliates.

GS asked for any objections, none made. Proposal carried

## 15. AOB

AD noted the communications around the GenSec campaign. AD noted that we should work quickly towards a coordinated launch rather than having NCG members communicate it publicly beforehand. AD noted NCG members can talk about it verbally at meetings but it should be vague rather than explicitly outlining what has been agreed.

CT noted the government's increase in military spending and the response from the Labour leadership. CT noted that military spending will increase by £16bn as well as increasing spending year by year by 0.5 above inflation, which means it will go up by more than £24bn. CT noted Starmer's support for this and noted an upcoming meeting with Richard Burgon about this and requested that Momentum retweet this. CT noted the upcoming lobby tool can be shared by NCG members. AD noted a video that has already come out on this issue and noted he doesn't see any problems with retweeting the event. PC noted the framing of the argument as "military spending vs public sector spending". PC noted the importance of highlighting money lost in offshore tax avoidance and corporation tax. AD noted support for Veterans for Peace and this has been included in the video published and we should make VfP aware of this. LS noted that the response should be around food poverty and free school meals as it is a powerful counterargument. CT noted it is important to highlight that military spending does not keep people safe. CT noted she can submit a motion to the NCG to make the arguments clear.

GS noted that the next meeting will be on the 9th of January, instead of the 2nd of January.

AD noted he will circulate staff holiday periods shortly.