

Guidelines for Momentum’s Policy Primary to select motions for Labour Party Conference 2021

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Introduction

We want to leave this year’s Party conference with Labour democratically committed to transformative socialist policies that can meet the challenges of Covid-19, climate change and capitalism.

To do that we need to harness the biggest strength of our movement: the ideas, energy and creativity of our members.

Under the newly elected National Coordinating Group (NCG), Momentum is fully committed to supporting our members to decide what motions to support for this year’s Labour Party Conference.

This document outlines the process by which Momentum members can have a decisive role in drafting and voting on the policy motions Momentum campaigns for, and how affiliated and unaffiliated organisations can participate.

Background: Labour Party rules

Under rules introduced under the Democracy Review, 20 issues can be debated at Conference, 10 of which come from the Constituency Labour Party (CLP) section and 10 from affiliated organisations. CLPs will be able to pass one motion each *or* one rule change anytime between January and early September, although the majority are likely to do so between May and September.

Objectives of Momentum's Policy Primary

- To enable participatory drafting of motions via Momentum local groups, affiliated organisations, and unaffiliated campaigning organisations in order to develop the left's agenda for this year's Party Conference.
- To enable every Momentum member to vote on the final motions that get approved in order to ensure Momentum's motions are fully supported by the Momentum membership. All motions put to the ballot will contain policy proposals which **a)** advance Momentum's aims and objectives, **b)** are feasible, **c)** are in order with Labour Party guidelines, **d)** and are well written.
- To arrive at a final list of 8 motions, voted on by members, which Momentum will then circulate as motions for the Labour Party Conference and promote.

The NCG will retain existing powers to circulate additional motions at a subsequent stage based on unfolding events and political priorities. These will be in addition to, and not in replacement of, motions chosen by members.

Policy Primary Stages

Stage 1: Drafting of Motions

Policy motions will be drafted by local Momentum groups (maximum two motions per group), unaffiliated campaigning organisations, affiliated organisations, and affiliated trade unions (maximum one motion per organisation), all of whom will submit into an NCG Working Group appointed specifically for the purpose of amending, amalgamating, compositing, and recommending a shortlist of motions. Local Momentum groups will submit their motion via MyMomentum.

Only designated Momentum local group Data Protection Administrators will be able to submit motions directly to MyMomentum for the Policy Primary, and only after these motions have been democratically decided by an all-member meeting of that local group. Submit your motion [here](#).

All local group Momentum meetings to decide on and draft motions must meet the guidelines for meetings, detailed [here](#).

Stage 2: Amendments, compositing and shortlisting by NCG Working Group

The NCG will appoint a working group responsible for amending, amalgamating, compositing, and recommending a shortlist of motions to the NCG to consider for the members' ballot. The working group has the following remit:

- a) The working group shall recommend a shortlist of policy motions to the full NCG for consideration before the members' ballot. This recommended shortlist shall clearly identify the ownership of the different motions.
- b) Only policy motions consistent with Momentum's aims and objectives, that are practically feasible, that are drafted to the highest possible quality, and that are in keeping with Labour guidelines, shall be put forward for shortlisting by the NCG. The working group shall liaise with local groups, unaffiliated campaigning organisations, affiliated trade unions, and affiliates to achieve this.
- c) Where there is more than one submission on a similar subject area, the working group shall liaise between the respective organisations that have submitted or are likely to submit a similar motion to encourage the drafting of one motion which can have shared ownership.
- d) Where there is more than one policy motion covering the same subject area, but with potentially viable yet competing objectives or details, the working group shall put both motions to the full NCG and ask them to decide between them.
- e) Where necessary the working group shall delegate administrative and liaison tasks to a staff member.
- f) There shall be a full NCG meeting to agree on a finalised shortlist, based on recommendations made by the working group. The NCG shall have final say over the final shortlist going to the members' ballot. All motions must meet the required criteria.
- g) The working group will not filter out motions that it disagrees with but that are otherwise consistent with Momentum's aims and objectives, and are feasible.

Find out more about the function of this shortlisting process in our FAQ below.

Stage 3: OMOV Ballot

Each policy motion will be presented on the ballot, along with the author/ownership of the motion (this can include any combination of groups, affiliated organisations, or unaffiliated campaigning organisations, who have had a role in drafting the motion and are happy to retain ownership of it), a short explainer of the political rationale behind the motion, a yes/no voting option, and an option to rank it with a number according to single transferable voting (STV).

The votes will be counted on the basis of Single Transferable Voting. Only motions which receive at least 50% 'yes' votes will be counted. Motions which fail to achieve this threshold will be removed from the preferences of each voter, and the subsequent motions will be shuffled upwards accordingly, prior to counting. A maximum of 8 motions will be elected via this process.

Timeline

Month	Labour Party	Momentum process
Jan	CLPs allowed to submit Conference motions	<p>Launch: timeline and guidance sent to Momentum members on Tuesday 19 Jan</p> <p>Local groups, and affiliated organisations notified of timeline and process and asked to arrange meetings and consider drafting of motions.</p> <p>NCG elect working group.</p> <p>Deadline for unaffiliated organisations to apply to participate in the process by writing to andrew.dolan@peoplesmomentum.com by midday on 31 January.</p>
Feb	CLPs allowed to submit Conference motions	<p>Groups, affiliated trade unions, affiliated organisations, and unaffiliated campaigning orgs drafting and submitting motions to working group.</p> <p>The deadline to submit motions is Tuesday 23 February at midday.</p>
March	CLPs allowed to submit Conference motions	<p>NCG Working Group to compile recommended shortlist, liaising between all organisations involved to agree on motions to be recommended, redrafting, compositing, otherwise changing motions where necessary.</p> <p>NCG Working Group submits recommended shortlist of motions to the full NCG in time for a special meeting on Wednesday 17 March.</p>

		<p>Shortlisted motions published next day.</p> <p>Ballot starts on Wed 24 March and lasts until Mon 29 March. Successful motions circulated soon after.</p>
April	CLPs allowed to submit Conference motions	
May	CLPs debating and passing motions	
June	CLPs debating and passing motions	
August	CLPs debating and passing motions	
Early-Mid September	<p>Deadline for CLPs to submit</p> <p>CAC categorisation</p>	NCG decides what to prioritise with preference for motions backed by members.
Conference	<p>Priorities Ballot</p> <p>Conference debate and vote</p>	Momentum mobilises delegates in favour of the motions.

FAQs

I live in an area which does not have an active local Momentum group which is likely to engage in this process. Can I submit a motion?

Momentum is committed to empowering local groups and enhancing their say in key decisions such as this. For this reason only members which are organised as active groups, or are involved in an affiliated or unaffiliated campaigning/policy organisation will have the opportunity to participate in the process at the drafting stage. However all members will be allowed to vote on which motions actually get agreed and supported by Momentum. If you would like to submit a motion, we would suggest contacting your local group and asking them to hold a meeting to decide on a motion. If there is no active local group, and you can identify a significant body of activists willing to set one up, with a coherent idea of what to achieve, please contact rachel.godfreywood@peoplesmomentum.com.

Do you have advice on drafting motions?

Yes, please see our guidance [here](#)!

How do groups discuss and submit their two motions?

See guidelines for running meetings and submitting motions [here](#).

Why does the NCG working group have power to amend, amalgamate or exclude motions before they go to a ballot?

It is important that all motions put to the ballot contribute to Momentum's aims and objectives; are feasible; are in order with Labour Party rules and conventions; and are of the quality required to be debated at Party Conference. In addition it is also necessary to liaise with different groups and organisations who submit motions on the same subject areas in order to draft amalgamated motions, where possible by mutual agreement. A working group elected by the NCG is the most legitimate body to

effectively perform this function in consultation with groups, unaffiliated and affiliated organisations.

Are organisational motions in order?

The Labour Party rulebook does not rule out organisational motions (i.e. ones covering issues relating to party management, including finances, democracy, governance, etc.) although in recent years there has been an unjustifiable trend to prevent them from being heard at Conference. Organisational motions submitted as *motions* (as opposed to rule changes or constitutional amendments) therefore have a higher chance of being ruled out of order.

Because Momentum opposes these moves towards exclusion, the NCG Working Group will consider organisational motions for shortlisting depending on the significance of the issue and likelihood of getting it onto the agenda.

Why does the ballot have two types of voting?

The ballot has a 'yes/no' function as well as ranked (STV) voting. The function of the yes/no function is to ensure that only motions which have the support of the majority of voting members are considered for circulation. STV voting is then subsequently chosen in order to get the most accurate indication of the 8 most favoured motions.

What constitutes an 'unaffiliated campaigning organisation' and what are their powers?

Any organisation which campaigns along principles that are consistent with Momentum's aims and objectives, and which would like to promote a policy motion at the 2021 Labour Party Conference, will be considered an 'unaffiliated campaigning organisation'.

How do unaffiliated organisations participate?

Unaffiliated organisations must register their interest by midday on Sunday 31 January by writing to Andrew Dolan at andrew.dolan@peoplesmomentum.com.

Unaffiliated organisations will be requested to provide the following information:

- The name and purpose of their campaign organisation (50 words max)
- A short explanation of the policy area they would like to encourage Momentum members to support, and any information on when they have previously

campaigned on this issue at Labour Party Conference (150-200 words maximum)

- A draft motion (should they have it) (250 words)
- A key contact to liaise with Momentum (email and phone)

The final decision on which unaffiliated organisations can participate in the policy primary will be taken at the February meeting of the NCG, following a shortlisting process by the Policy Primary Working Group. Once an unaffiliated organisation has been approved, they will then have until the 1 March deadline to submit their motion to the Policy Primary Working Group for shortlisting. The Policy Working Group and the NCG reserve the right to limit the number of motions that go to ballot from unaffiliated organisations.

In order to qualify to submit a motion, unaffiliated organisations must:

- Be committed to campaigning for the policy changes they would like Momentum to campaign for
- Willing to work with Momentum to build support for the policy they would like to see the Labour Party adapt
- Adhere to the highest standards of public behavior and not under any circumstance engage in behaviour we consider to be racist, oppressive or in any way contrary to Momentum's code of ethics.

Why are only 8 motions being agreed by this process?

Given that there is maximum of 10 issues that can be debated from the members' section at Party Conference, and that Momentum may still be required to endorse motions in the coming months on the basis of new information, the NCG have decided that 8 is an appropriate number of motions to be approved from this process, giving the NCG the ability to subsequently submit additional motions.

What happens to unsuccessful motions?

Momentum will not promote any motion which fails to be elected as part of the process unless the NCG decides otherwise. Decisions over which motions to support will be revised by the full NCG prior to the Priorities ballot at Conference (see below).

How will Momentum decide what issues to support in the Priorities Ballot at this year's Conference?

As in previous years, the full NCG will identify 10 issues to support in the Priorities Ballot in the run-up to Conference as in previous years. The NCG will give priority to issues covering motions which are chosen by members through this democratic process, unless this issue is being prioritised in the trade union section, or unless the motion circulated by Momentum does not receive enough submissions, or unless other extraordinary circumstances arise.

What about Rule Changes?

Momentum is holding a separate, parallel process to decide what rule changes to pursue. For more information on this process, please click [here](#).

Are organisational motions in order?

Organisational motions are motions which focus on organisational issues within the Labour Party (these could span from areas normally covered by rule changes, such as leadership election rules, as well as key operational issues like Party funding). The Labour Party rulebook is ambiguous with respect to organisational motions. There is a precedent of guidance being issued to the CAC to rule organisational motions out of order, which is problematic because it means there cannot be proper debate over issues of the utmost importance to the running of the Party, not all of which can be addressed through rule changes. Momentum is considering re-submitting a rule change this year to explicitly allow for organisational motions to be discussed. However for the meantime, we will not be considering any organisational motions for this process.

Why is the process scheduled as it is?

CLPs are able to submit motions from January onwards. However, in practice the majority will only start submitting between May and September. Therefore the process is designed so that Momentum has decided its motions by April.