

Full NCG

Agenda

8/5/2021

Participants: Jackie Owen, Tony Kearns, Craig Anderson, John Taylor, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Deborah Hermanns, Barry Gray, Andrew Scattergood, Carol Turner, Callum Bell, Darran McLaughlin, Rory Maclean, Liz Smith, Gaya Sriskanthan, Alan Gibbons, Matt Buckley, Ana Oppenheim, Shona Jemphrey, Mick Moore, Mish Rahman, Abbie Clark, Tracey Hylton

Guests: Pawel, Varsha (Progressive International)

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Chloe Koffman, Craig Lloyd

Apologies: Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Phil Clarke, Solma Ahmed

1. Apologies/Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2. Co-chairs Report

AS proposed to extend the co-chairs report to include discussion of the election results. A wide-ranging discussion followed.

3. OG Report

AS addressed items in the report and asked for questions.

4. Momentum membership of The Progressive International

AD introduced Progressive International. AD noted the recent "Make Amazon Pay" campaign. VGN/PW introduced themselves. VGN noted the launch of Progressive International, to mobilize

progressive activists and institutions across the world. VGN noted that PI works across campaigns and projects from social movements across the world, noted their electoral observation work in Bolivia and on the Amazon campaign. VGN noted their work on Parliamentary/legislative action. PW noted the governance model of Progressive International, including the cabinet/council. PW noted plans to expand representation. PW noted the Collective, where members come to focus on particular issues they want to pursue. PW noted the upcoming summit in December. SB asked how PI decides on priorities regarding their work. GS asked about the benefits and responsibilities of members. VGN noted the cabinet makes decisions regarding the priorities but the purpose of the collectives is to involve members. VGN noted the response to crises, like the current crisis in India. PW noted there are different levels of commitment and responsibility, each organization can make their own decisions regarding participation. PW noted the benefits of liaising with international groups and legislators.

RM asked how the organization finances itself. DH asked if there were any decisions that we would have to take part in or is it purely voluntary. DM noted that we need more internationalism on the left and link with international struggles. PW noted that they are funded entirely by donations. PW noted there are no “essential” decisions but members would be expected to participate in the summit.

AS noted that Momentum is not technically affiliated to any other organisation, though we have affiliates. AS noted concerns around the democratic structure. AS noted that it's an organisation worthy of our support but Momentum may not have much of a say. DM noted there could be a referendum or debate over it, it could raise the consciousness of members. TK noted he is reluctant to support this idea, due to the lack of democracy. TK noted that there are a number of organisations doing similar work, including unions. TK noted democracy concerns. TK noted that this may be a distraction given the context of the local elections. CB noted this is not important enough to take to a full referendum. CB noted being an affiliate could open doors to organisations that we don't have connections to. MM noted that it may not be essential at this point in time, MM noted there will be elections coming up in Momentum and this could be rolled out with this. MM noted that we should not agree it unless it has gone back to the members.

SB noted that it isn't urgent but we do need to improve our international connections. SB noted that we could do a bit of research around different organisations that fit our structures and aims. GS noted there are concerns around capacity as well. GS noted that there are no time

requirements for this network. AS noted a strong feeling regarding further research. AS suggested deferring this item back to the Officers to produce a paper regarding how we affiliate to other organisations. DH noted that members should use the next month to think about it and do more research. DH noted there may not be a one size fits all approach to affiliation. AD noted agreement with DH and there may not be a set procedure with each affiliation.

Item deferred.

5. Campaigns WG update

DM noted the successful day of action regarding the housing campaign. DM noted the progression of the campaign. DH asked if the Campaigns group has made progress on the more general questions, ie campaigns framework. DM noted the need to engage with local members so they have more capacity to coordinate campaigns.

6. Membership WG update

DH noted that the policy primary has finished and noted the summary of the campaign. DH noted the final meetings of the rule changes WG. DH noted thanks to RGW for organising the CLP phone banking. DH noted the launch of the Leo Panitch leadership programme. DH noted that NCG members should encourage activists to apply. LS noted that this is important regarding gauging how many left wing delegates will go to Conference.

7. GND Committee

GS noted the previous agreement regarding the GND committee. GS noted the steering committee is chosen from a wide range of members and affiliates, which would oversee the formation of temporary working groups focusing on different issues. GS noted the paper and asks for the NCG to approve the steering committee, with unfilled affiliate/union positions to be determined at a later date. Also noted the ask for the NCG to delegate the ability to change the name of the committee if need be. GS noted that the temporary GND group will be dissolved upon the first meeting of the new steering committee.

AS asked for concerns or objections, none made.

SB noted welcome to Matt, the new LGND representative to the NCG.

8. Vote on Additional Policies for Momentum's Platform at Conference

SB introduced the two motions proposed on racial justice and the defend democracy motion.

RM noted the drugs reform motion and noted that it is an important issue and one centred around Scotland. MM suggested agreeing to take all three. AS noted this is an option, but there may be objections. SB noted, on the Racial justice motion, that dismantling structural racism is a key pillar of the left, noted the hostile environment and the Prevent programme.

AO noted, on the Defend democracy motion, that it was inspired by the Kill the Bill movement.

AO noted the importance of protecting the rights of working-class communities. DM noted the importance of boosting minority motions. DM noted support for the other two motions, noted support for the three motions going through. GS noted concern about putting a motion through as is, despite it not making through the policy primary. GS noted support for boosting minority motions and the defending democracy motions. MR noted ideally they would all go through but there may be room for others to contribute. AO noted that Momentum should back policies that are popular with CLPs. AO noted even if we didn't back the Drugs Policy reform then we should still engage with this campaign. CB noted his work with substance misuse in A&E and that it is a significant issue. CB noted that from a practical point of view, it's putting us on the right side of history. MM noted that for some politicians, these issues are not important. MM noted support for taking all three through. RM noted that the Drugs reform motion is on the right side of history. RM noted addicts are often ignored from mainstream society and politics. AS moved to a vote on taking only two motions through. This falls.

AS moved to recorded vote on the individual motions.

Defend democracy, trade unions and the right to protest.

Yes: TH, TK, CT, SB, JT, RM, MM, AG, CA, LS, MB, DM, AO, DH, GS, JO, AC, CB

No: n/a

Abstain: BG, MR

Racial Justice and Migrants Rights

Yes: TH, MR, TK, SB, JT, MM, RM, AG, CA, LS, MB, DM, AO, DH, GS, JO, AC, CB

No: n/a

Abstain: BG, CT

Drugs Policy Reform

Yes: MR, MM, RM, AG, CA, LS, DM, AO, DH, JO, AC, CB

No: TK, GS

Abstain: TH, BG, CT, SB, JT, MB

All motions passed.

BREAK

9. Refounding Momentum

DH noted the proposal for agreement on the refounding process. DH noted the proposal outlined in the paper. DH noted that local groups can make submissions/proposals for Momentum's processes and structures. There will be two assemblies where proposals will be discussed and developed. The NCG can also then amend or veto proposals if necessary. The proposals will then go to an all-member ballot for finalisation. CA noted he is happy to share with this CfS but as of yet, nothing has been discussed yet.

AS moved to a recorded vote.

Should Momentum approve the refounding process as outlined in the document?

Yes: TH, TK, DM, SB, MM, AG, LS, MB, DM, AO, DH, GS, AC, CB

No: n/a

Abstain: BG, CT, JT, CA, GS

This passes.

10. 'See This': Momentum Patreon Proposal

AD noted that content without Momentum branding has the possibility to be shared more widely. AD noted that this separate distribution channel will allow us to test if we can fundraise through this separate stream effectively. AD noted Momentum can use the Patreon platform to set up regular donations. AD noted this is progressing to a launch in the next month or so. CB noted that any money raised from this could be reinvested into the digital media team. AO asked about how connected this will be to Momentum's public brand. AD noted that it will be disclosed on the Patreon page that it is linked to Momentum. JTa noted support.

AS asked for objections, none made.

11. Momentum Football Fans Organising

CB noted the recent news around the Superleague and the ongoing issues within the football industry. CB noted the Manchester Momentum meeting around this topic. CB noted the proposal to form an initial committee to feed into the Campaigns WG. CB noted the importance of football in peoples' lives and how it can help reach out to people who aren't currently involved. AG noted support and noted he would be happy to be involved. DH noted support but noted that Momentum has lots of committees and working groups and risks becoming unsustainable. DH recommended that members should be involved rather than NCG members for capacity reasons. AD noted those involved in Momentum Football may be helpful. TH noted she is happy to be involved but it must be led by fans. TK noted he has concerns around the objectives asked what specifically we want to achieve. CB noted they are not looking to replicate any other groups. AS asked for CB to report back to the OG on any future action.

AS asked for objections, none made.

12. NCG Staff away weekend

DH noted the previous agreement for one in-person meeting a year. DH noted discussion at Officers Group, noted the proposed date of the 4th and 5th of September. DH noted that it is cost-effective to hold this in London.

AS asked for objections, none made.

13. AOB

AS paid thanks to the staff leaving the organisation, thanked them for their hard work for the Organisation. AD noted the deadline for the applications and asked if NCG members can promote on social media.

AD also noted the deadline for the Leo Panitch leadership programme is upcoming, as well as the Future Councillors Programme and asked to promote both of these.