

Full NCG

10/4/2021

Minutes

Participation: Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Alan Gibbons, Barry Gray, Callum Bell, Gaya Sriskanthan, Liz Smith, Andrew Scattergood, Jackie Owen, Solma Ahmed, Darran McLaughlin, John Taylor, Ana Oppenheim, Jon Trickett, Mish Rahman, Phil Clarke, Tony Kearns, Tracey Hylton, Craig Anderson, Abbie Clark

Staff: Chloe Koffman, Ollie Hill, Andrew Dolan, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Craig Lloyd

Apologies: Deborah Hermanns, Rory Maclean, Matt Wrack, Puru Miah, Sonali Bhattacharyya (partial), Carol Turner (partial), Shona Jemphrey (partial)

1. Apologies/Matters Arising

GS reflected on the previous month and noted missteps from the Labour leadership. GS noted the launch of the strategy document, with support from MPs. GS noted the policy primary and the participation from campaigns, groups and members in meetings and panel discussions. GS noted the successful motions.

GS noted the AOB item.

2. Co-chairs Report

GS noted activities of the GND committee. AS noted presence at DLO-facilitated meetings and noted positives coming out of the discussions. AS noted that the trade union network will have an upcoming meeting with key activists.

3. Officers Group Report

GS noted activities of the OG over the past month, including the policy primary motions. GS noted the decision to name the leadership development programme after Leo Panitch, after consultation with this family. GS noted decision to sign the #KilltheBill statement and to participate in the Organising for Power programme.

4. Campaigns Report (Darran)

DM noted the activities of the Campaigns SG, including the housing campaign. DM noted focus on larger, commercial landlords. DM noted restrictions on protest have delayed events but activists are still promoting the campaign. DM noted the possibility of press coverage. DM noted the possibility of other days of action in May. DM noted the work of the volunteers.

5. Comms Report (Andrew S)

AS noted the activities of the Comms SG, noted the proactive nature of the work that the Comms team have been doing. AS noted the successful launch of the strategy document and the launch of the policy primary. AS noted focus on the #KilltheBill campaign and noted the difficulty of following the timeline. AS noted the video with Bell Ribeiro-Addy which was well received. AS noted upcoming videos with activists and MPs.

AG noted the need for upcoming discussion around the local election results. JO noted issues with the voting system for the policy primary.

6. Green New Deal Report (Gaya)

GS gave an update on the activities of the GND committee. GS noted that two of the eight primary motions were on climate change. GS noted that the steering committee composition will be brought back to the NCG. GS noted the effort to engage with unions and the Labour Party conference. GS noted that they would be working on an onboarding process for members and activists.

7. Rule Changes for 2021 Conference (Rachel)

AD noted the work of the Rule Changes WG and staff to develop a set of rule changes to put forward to Conference. AD noted the proposed rule changes. RGW noted that it will be difficult to get the rule changes through Conference but this is part of a long-term strategy. SA noted support and pressure from members regarding rule changes, particularly about the election of the General Secretary. RGW noted possible outcomes of pushing for a rule change regarding the General Secretary.

BG noted the rule change regarding the removal of the whip. BG also noted the General Secretary rule changes and noted that under this change, the NEC would have to decide what powers are delegated to the GS and this would be reported back to Conference. DM noted support for the STV rule change and noted there could be support from the soft left. RGW noted that these need to be out of the door by the end of the month and they can be tweaked until then. BG noted this could be launched after the local elections.

GS asked for objections, none made.

8. Labour's Future (Jon Tr)

JT provided a presentation on Labour strategy.

9. Proposal to endorse two additional motions for Labour Conference (Ana)

GS noted the allowance for the NCG to add two motions in the run up to Conference. GS noted high engagement with the policies primaries but gaps in the policy need to be addressed. AO noted that these motions can respond to current events. AO noted the proposal is to assign a working group to work on two proposed motions regarding one on the right to protest and one on racial justice and immigration. MR noted recent discussion following an incident of anti-traveller racism and noted that we should reach out to Labour Against Islamophobia for collaboration. SB noted support and it is important Momentum is on the front foot. SB noted that racial justice needs its own motion. SJ noted that it would be useful to have something around

food security. TH noted the difficult situation regarding equalities and noted the importance of emphasising that the working-class is a diverse group. TH noted that trade union rights are very important but the trade unions will put motions forward and Momentum should support. TH noted that racial justice should be one of the two motions. TH noted that the Policing Bill will go through Parliament before Conference in September.

SA noted support for one motion around freedom of speech and democracy and one around racial justice and Islamophobia. SA suggested reaching out to LARAF for collaboration on the wording. SA noted support. AS suggested proposing the trade unions rights motion. AS noted that current trade union laws currently restrict activism and workplace organisation significantly. CB noted support for AS's proposal, noted that a lot of the other demands cannot be achieved without trade union power. CB noted support for a racial justice motion. AO noted the need for focus in the two motions, noted the link between the right to protest and the right to strike. GS suggested a WG to come up with a shortlist of motions which could be agreed via email. PC noted agreement with AO, noted union wording could be put in with the policing bill motion.

GS noted the proposal to produce a maximum of three motions to be voted on and consult with other left groups for Momentum to take forward to Conference. GS suggested that the Policy Primary WG lead on this but other NCG members can join.

GS asked for objections, none made.

10. Local Campaign Funding Pot (Sonali)

SB noted the membership sub-group have been working on this proposal for local groups to access funding pots for projects. SB noted the success of the refounding process and those groups would be able to access this. SB noted this is a pilot project and would be monitored. Groups will be able to apply and considered against the Momentum strategy doc.

MR noted a similar NEC committee which produces many good initiatives. MR noted support. GS noted support. SB noted thanks to AD. AD noted there is a proposal to do some match fundraising which could be beneficial. AD noted the risk assessments will be made before local delegates make decisions. JTa asked where the funding pot will come from. SB noted the plan is to have 50% come from match funds.

GS asked for objections, none made.

11. Open letter on the Nordic Model (sex work) (Ana)

AO outlined the campaign for the Nordic Model, noted a petition has come out against this-signed by a broad coalition of the left. AO noted that the Nordic model will not solve this issues facing sex workers today and continue to place them in danger. AO proposed signing the statement and noted that it doesn't commit us to any other policy, just to opposing the model. SB noted thanks to AO, noted support for the proposal and ties in with the work in preparation for women's conference. BG noted the Nordic Model does have significant support on the left and we should consider whether or not Momentum should take a view. BG noted support for Momentum not taking sides and instead have a discussion. AO noted this is not taking a moral stance on sex work itself but noted that sex workers and unions are speaking out to say this affects their safety. AO noted people must be able to report abuse without fear of legal repercussions. SJ noted support and noted support for an educational event about the different types of models of decriminalisation. AO noted an upcoming event to discuss this in the next couple of weeks. GS proposed a vote.

The proposal was carried.

12. AOB

AD noted We Own It have got in touch about an event for the integrated care systems and NCG members are welcome to attend.