

NCG meeting

5/6/2021

Minutes

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

Apologies: Deborah Hermanns, Tony Kearns, Rory Maclean, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, John Taylor

Staff: Ollie, Chloe, Rachel, Craig, Andrew

1. Apologies/Matters Arising

GS noted AOB items.

2. Co-chairs Report

AS updated on the trade union network, noted the soft launch. AS noted opportunities to involve activists who aren't active in the Labour Party. AS noted progression of the restructure and consultation with the trade union. GS noted community wealth building event.

3. Officers Report

SB noted the activities of the Officers Group. SB noted the recommendation to local groups to have a Campaigns Officer. SB noted the meeting of the DLO and the proposal of the left conference. SB noted REC elections. SB noted the campaign in Sheffield regarding an elected leader of a Labour Group. SB noted upcoming BDS item. JO asked about the left conference and Momentum's support. SB noted that most resources are going towards Party Conference and TWT. SB noted that we don't have the capacity to organise the conference and it is not a priority.

AD gave an update on the Leo Panitch leadership program and the Future Councillors programme. TH asked about the demographics of the applicants and AD provided the relevant information.

4. Comms Report (Rory)

Item deferred

5. GND Committee Update (Gaya)

GS noted it has been mainly procedural and setting things up. Noted the focus on how to build green policies into local government. CT noted a statement regarding G7 by the trade unions. CT noted she will email the statement around before getting to the next item.

6. CoP26 Coalition climate justice statement to coincide with the G7 meeting

GS outlined CoP26 coalition, noted involvement of left organisations and counter coalition of NGOs. GS noted the statement prepared for the day of the G7 meeting, to highlight countries not tackling climate change. GS noted this statement will be high profile and cover climate justice policies that Momentum members support. GS noted that Momentum would just be required to share and sign upon release. CT noted support for the statement and highlighted another TU statement recently circulated for Momentum to sign. CT suggested if they don't want to agree right away, they could agree for the co-chairs to assess later. AS noted support for the statement, noted there is a point about the point of Momentum signing statements. AS asked about any plans for direct action. GS noted plans from the GND committee for more direct action. MB noted interest from local groups and climate activists in this issue. CT noted the activities of RG7 and CND. CT suggested that staff may be able to advertise bigger actions regarding G7 activities. CT noted the launch of a WG on the just transition by Starmer. CT noted the involvement of right-wing unions in this group.

GS asked for any objections to signing the CoP26 statement, none made.

GS asked for objections for the co-chairs to review the TU statement and sign it in time for the deadline, none made.

7. Groups Handbook approval (Rachel)

RGW noted the work on the group handbook, a guide for group role holders. RGW outlined the contents of the handbook and advice given to local groups. GS noted thanks for the work.

8. Momentum Solidarity with Palestine

SB noted the current situation regarding Palestine and noted previous discussion at the Officers Group. SB noted the generic BDS statement, noted the risks and benefits of signing this statement. SB noted the worldwide response to the violence against the Palestinian people. SB noted the statement from PCS and the wording. SB noted that this statement will clarify Momentum's position. SB noted this supports Momentum's aims on racial justice and TU activity. AS noted support for the statement and noted the activities of the FBU regarding activism. AS noted the importance of raising awareness to the general public and workers. PC noted support, noted that Momentum should assess our practices and equipment to make sure we are BDS compliant. DM noted support noted the actions of the Israeli Labour Party and noted the importance of maintaining a left position on Palestine. SB noted there are many causes we can address but this is important to address now. GS clarified that this is a series of positions regarding our policies rather than a statement.

GS asked for objections, none made.

9. Free speech on Palestine in Schools

SB clarified that this a statement, noted the issue around free speech on Palestine. SB noted the issue of free speech in schools and how the Prevent programme is being used to intimidate children who have voiced support for Palestine. SB noted AS's point about statements but noted conversations with the organisers of the statement and the importance of their work. SB noted that some of the people involved are Momentum officers. PC noted Prevent in schools, noted that Palestine Solidarity Campaign was included in Prevent training sessions. PC noted there are some circumstances where there has been some actions of antisemitism in schools. PC noted teachers have been shying away from discussing issues around Palestine due to the difficulty of the issue. PC noted Momentum should support this to help tackle this issue. AS noted support, noted the broader issue around political education in schools. SB noted further discussions with PC about the NEU could be helpful, noted that the racial justice campaign has

crossover with this issue. PC suggested developing something around a motion for CLPs regarding teaching about Palestine in schools.

GS asked for objections, none made.

10. AOB

GS outlined the paper regarding the decision on motions for the Labour Women's Conference. GS noted a meeting of the Grassroots women's slate met and discussed the options. CLPD has put out a statement following this meeting. GS proposed that Momentum support the four topics put forward by other left groups and the four topics in the trade union section. JO noted the composite motion meetings planned for Friday and Saturday and noted support for the four motions from the GW5. CT noted CLPD fringe meetings outlining motions and conference related events, suggested promoting those via social media. AS asked if this has been run by SA. GS noted SA has been away recently but will coordinate with her in the future.

GS asked if there are any objections, none made.

MM noted that Momentum should be doing more about the NAC? And the REC. AS noted that an email went out yesterday on this. AD noted there are a series of ongoing internal party elections so communications are difficult.

BG noted that the CAC elections are coming up and it is very important to keep the left positions on this.

AD noted that the Labour Party right are pushing for the London regional conference to be in July instead of November, which greatly benefits the right. AD noted that Momentum will quickly move to an application process to pull together a slate of candidates. AD noted that it is almost certain that the left will lose the majority on the London REC. CT noted it's important to get Adrian Weir reelected, as he is a member of the NPF.