

Minutes
NCG meeting
5/9/2021

Participation: Barry Gray, Jackie Owen, Gaya Sriskanthan, Tracey Hylton, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Darran McLaughlin, Matt Buckley, Ana Oppnehiem, Phil Clarke, Shona Jemphrey, Callum Bell, Mish Rahman, Alan Gibbons, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Rory Maclean, Liz Smith, Deborah Hermanns, Mick Moore

Staff: Chloe, Rachel, Andrew

Apologies: Andrew Scattergood, Carol Turner, Tony Kearns, Abbie Clark, Solma Ahmed, Craig Anderson, John Taylor

(Hybrid meeting)

Item 1: Apologies/Matters Arising

N/A

Item 2: Co Chairs Report

GS gave report, noted plans to organise and mobilise ahead of COP26.

Item 3: Racial Justice Programme Update

SB gave an update of the Racial Justice programme. Noted events around migrant rights, deportation resistance and Patients not Passport groups linking with Momentum groups. SB noted in-person event at this years TWT with guest speakers on cross community solidarity. SB noted event on climate change. PC asked about how many campaign participants are Momentum members and SB clarified. RM asked if there would be a black members section developed and what the progress was on this. SB noted this is still the aim, alongside a political education programme, but network is difficult to organise. SB noted that Maya

Goodfellow has agreed to do an AMA on migrant rights. SB noted the aim is to build organically. SB asked for any ideas regarding a community platform. TH noted that the refounding process is consulting the members and we don't want to replicate Labour Party structures. TH noted that having separate liberation strands will depend on refounding and we should consider these issues with our recruitment.

Item 4: Preparations for Labour Party Conference

Good representation at TWT, practical skills sessions for members, a strategy meeting for members. NCG members invited to organise/speak at this session. Also NCG members speaking at various sessions so good level of visibility.

RGW presented a paper on overview of left position at conference, our organising plan in the run up to conference (incl ways for NCG to support), some of the agenda items, and conference decision-making procedures. Noted it's hard to predict if big and difficult decisions will need to be taken ahead of conference but need to be prepared for this.

RGW gave estimated figures on left CLP delegates. We're collecting data on left delegates so we can contact them directly and organise in the run up to conference. Gave estimated support from affiliate delegates. We can assume there will be larger support for left policies than rule changes. Between 90-100 delegates have been identified as potentially persuadable. RGW outlined the scenarios where the left could be successful. Ahead of the conference there will be NEC meetings which will be pivotal as unions tend to vote according to NEC recommendations. RGW noted there will be two online briefings for delegates ahead of conference (the same briefing, different times to increase access). RGW noted this year we'll attempt to contact persuadable delegates in a more concerted way than in previous years. Collective effort to persuade delegates not in organise left to vote with us. Any support from NCG and other activists appreciated in these conversations with delegates. Momentum will produce some public facing guide for delegates on policies and rule changes we're supporting. We'll produce a physical newspaper for the morning of day 1 of Conference. NCG members helping hand this out would be appreciated.

AO asked which policy motions are most popular, within CLPs and TUs, where we think we can most likely win. RGW responded we'll have a better idea a week before conference, but noted the PR and Green Jobs motions have been passed by the biggest number of CLPs. AD noted Labour for New Democracy are putting together a significant operation around the PR motion and a number of factions are supportive.

RGW proposes decision-making process from Friday before conference onwards. We should try to make as many decisions as possible ahead of conference where things are likely/predictable. Final decision on the priorities ballot must be taken by full NCG – but might be a straightforward decision in terms of accommodating the ones we already have. RGW proposes Officers' Group put forward a recommendation, most likely on Friday morning, and the full NCG vote on that, based on the principle that all motions are from the policy primary.

SJ asked if the deadline to register references back with party is 13th September. Momentum will be working, on principle, that delegates must give us warning and discuss what they want to do in good time if they're seeking our support.

The majority of compositing meetings will be Saturday and Sunday evenings. If two similar motions are in competition with each other, Momentum will have to decide whether to support, oppose or not take a decision. RGW suggests if the window for decision is very tight, that decision is taken by the Officers' Group, but if there is time suggests the NCG can vote online. MB proposed the local MM groups and organisations responsible for originally proposing motions in policy primary are also consulted re: compositing re: whether they support or oppose composites. RGW noted NCG members need to be quick to respond to calls for decision-making re: motions. RGW notes according to timetable many of the constitutional issues will be heard Saturday and Sunday.

RM asked if the three year rule applies to policy motions. RGW stated it doesn't, but notes the right wing might revert back to contemporary criterion or

introduce other changes, which would make our ability to get motions through more difficult in the future.

JO asked if we were aware several groups have already been established for left delegates. RGW stated it was beneficial to have regional level delegates groups, we just need to stay coordinated. RGW will follow up with a form for delegates asap. Will try to get people on whatsapp broadcast or admin-only group, so it's easy for delegates to share with others.

Item 5: Labour Party Conference Rule Changes

BG thanked RGW for the report and information provided. BG noted two rule changes- firstly rule change regarding accountability of PLP to Conference. The rule change requires the PLP to report to conference and these decisions could be challenged (such as removing the whip). BG noted 17 CLPs have submitted this rule change. BG noted the second rule change, the "three year rule". This rule change would make an exception for five or more identical rule changes. BG also addressed the issue of the general secretary election. BG noted this may be on the Saturday. BG noted that we should be voting against the election of David Evans. BG noted Momentum should support these rule changes and support a vote against the NEC's recommendation for General Secretary and any measures to ensure that the GS election gets on the Conference ballot. MR seconded this motion.

GS clarified what was being asked. BG clarified. RM noted we aren't quorate and suggested taking an indicative vote to then send back to the Officers. GS agreed. AD noted that it has already been agreed that we will not support the ratification of David Evans. GS confirmed.

GS asked for objections (indicative), none made.

Item 6: All-member Q&A

MB proposed holding an all-member NCG Q&A, previously held one with AG. MB noted significant decisions, regarding membership criteria, refounding process and Conference decisions. MB noted this would be online with a few NCG members. MB noted this would ideally be next week or the week after and he is happy to take the lead.

GS asked for any objections (indicative), none made.

AOB

SJ noted thanks to staff. SB noted thanks.