

# NCG Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 13 August 2022

Time: 10:00 – 11:40

Present: Craig Andersen, Cathy Augustine, Aleem Bashir, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Rochelle Charlton-Lainé, Reederwan Craayenstein, Izella Drake, Kieran Glasssmith, Barry Gray, Andrew Hedge, Nyla Ibrahim, Tony Kearns, Maya Patel, Mish Rahman, Hilary Schan, Sarah Marnie Shepherd, Domanic Smith-Jones, Mohammed Suhail, Imogen Tranchell, Jon Trickett, Carol Turner and Lorcan Whitehead.

Apologies: Martin Abrams, Samayya Afzal, Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae, Lillian Chasteau, Ben Davies, Ruth Day, Kate Dove, Leila Erin-Jenkins, Nekisa Gholami-Babaahamdy, Sasha Das Gupta, Esther Hardy, Kathryn Manley, Coll McCail, Jackie Owen, Samuel Sweek, Sam Tarry, Chantel Waring and Matt Wrack.

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Hareem Ghani and Ollie Hill

## Apologies

- SA, BD, RD, KD, LEJ, KM, CM, JO and SW send their apologies.

## Powers, duties and responsibilities of the NCG – Imogen Tranchell

- IT wants the NCG to discuss the paper entitled 'Proposals to clarify the powers, duties and responsibilities of different parts of the NCG' because all constitutional matters must be discussed by the NCG.
- IT notes that the OG established a Strategy WG, she asks Momentum to define the role of said WG. HS responds that the Strategy WG is merely an organisational group to bring together and assess proposals from the different WGs, it is not a decision-making body nor does it hold a veto power.
- IT also wants to know what Momentum is doing to implement the Refounding Momentum (RM) proposals. AD responds that there were three categories of proposals:
  1. The first set of proposals have already been put into place (e.g. the electoral system for the NCG)
  2. The second category refers to guidelines and new sections of the constitutional commitment and aims – this will need to be included in a revised constitution and will not require extensive staff time.
  3. The third category refers to the bi-annual Momentum convention, the member council and regional organising forums. The convention does not have to take place this year, but the NCG will need to decide on a timetable.
- IT suggests setting up a RM WG. SB agrees and notes one of the key RM proposals focused on liberation assemblies.
- CA (CfS) says local groups in Scotland are CfS groups, not Momentum groups. It is important for both organisations to formalise their relationship so they can build a strategy on how to work together in the region. He adds that Momentum must look at its safeguarding policy as a matter of priority.
- DSM asks if the regional meetings will be open to non-Momentum members. AD responds that forums will take place at a regional level for members, as well as non-members. AD says Momentum should trail forums in areas where there is a demand political opportunity for political organising e.g. JD's campaign in the North East.
- HS proposes that AD does a presentation on RM for the subsequent NCG to allow NCG members to be fully informed. AD agrees.

- IT returns to the original agenda item and asks SMT to define the difference between committees and WGs: does the former have a different status of decision making than the WGs. OH says that in general, unless groups have decision-making powers delegated to them, then neither group has the power to make decisions unilaterally.
- HS calls for a vote on the paper on defining the powers, duties and responsibilities of the NCG:
  - The motion passes unanimously (19 votes in favour, no abstentions and no votes against).
- SB calls for a vote on setting up a short-term WG for RM. HS responds this was not formally on the agenda, she requires further information on RM and there should be more NCG members in attendance for the vote.

#### Organising communities against the cost of living crisis – Reederwan Craayenstein

- RC withdraws this paper so he can develop it further.

#### Campaigns working group – Kieran Glasssmith

- KG says the Campaigns WG should be reconstituted to focus on two key strands:
  1. Cooperating with allies, including affiliates, trade unions, and left factions to coordinate support for them, and;
  2. Leading Momentum's own initiatives e.g. Labour4Labour.
- IT says the Eviction Resistance Campaign (ERC) was her pathway into Momentum and the Labour Party. The ERC can be a useful hub for building, coordinating and supporting activist development. KG says the focus of this item is on how to proceed with the Campaigns WG now that the ERC has ended.
- SB adds there has not been proper engagement with the people who participated with the ERC, and it seems like an oversight for Momentum not to retain these members as they have engaged with Momentum's work previously. KG agrees.
- AH adds that retaining members is important, this can be done through:
  1. Setting up an arrears process like the Labour Party, and;
  2. NCG members calling Momentum members in arrears to encourage them to remain.
- LW asks what Momentum is doing for the LS and YL elections, and where this work is situated. KG responds that all internal elections fall under the remit of the LP Organising WG. AD adds that Momentum's GOTV campaign is underway. LW asks AD to produce a short written report on the GOTV campaign for NCG members. AD agrees.
- HS calls for a vote on reconstituting the remit of the campaigns WG:
  - The motion passes unanimously (19 votes in favour, no abstentions and no votes against).

#### Creating a way for members to fund local groups – Kieran Glasssmith

- KG this item will allow Momentum members easier access to finances for campaigns, without having to go through the national organisation. AD notes that Momentum will need to moderate the impact on its central finances.
- LW notes that local groups require substantial support to use the money effectively, the NCG needs to consider staff resources.
- IT says Momentum has no way of mapping local members which is hampering the organisation's ability to build its local groups and fund them properly.
- HS calls for a vote on creating a way for members to fund local groups:
  - The motion passes (16 votes in favour, no abstentions and no votes against).

AOB

- AD provides an update on L4L launching on the week commencing 15 August 2022:
  - The core actions include passing a motion at local CLPs to support the strikes, use Momentum's digital lobbying tool to pressure Labour MPs to support the strikes, and issuing resources on strike solidarity meetings.
  - There will be a launch call on Thursday 18 August 2022 which will include Dawn Butler, Sam Tarry and Jon Trickett.
- AD says the purpose of this campaign is not to build a broad-based campaign around strikes, as EiE and COLA are leading on this. Momentum's goal is to get members engaged with TU issues, but direct their energy towards the LP.
- AH asks if Momentum is platforming its NEC candidates during the L4L launch event. AD responds Momentum are willing to extend invites to JB, GB, YD and MR though the focus should remain on the LP and TUs.
- IT notes Momentum does not have a strategy to engage members for the L4L campaign. HS responds that the campaign has not gone live yet, but an extensive member mobilisation plan does exist.
- KG says the general agreement is for the Campaigns WG to be involved with L4L.

Meeting Ends