

NCG Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 30 July 2022

Time: 10:00 – 12:40

Present: Martin Abrams, Samayya Afzal, Craig Andersen, Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae, Cathy Augustine, Aleem Bashir, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Lillian Chasteau, Reederwan Craayenstein, Ruth Day, Ben Davies, Kate Dove, Izella Drake, Leila Erin-Jenkins, Nekisa Gholami-Babaahamdy, Kieran Glasssmith, Barry Gray, Andrew Hedge, Nyla Ibrahim, Coll McCail, Kathryn Manley, Jackie Owen, Maya Patel, Mish Rahman, Hilary Schan, Sarah Marnie Shepherd, Domanic Smith-Jones, Mohammed Suhail, Imogen Tranchell, Carol Turner, Chantel Waring and Lorcan Whitehead.

Apologies: Rochelle Charlton-Lainé, Sasha Das Gupta, Esther Hardy, Tony Kearns, Samuel Sweek, Sam Tarry, Jon Trickett and Matt Wrack.

Staff: Andrew Dolan, Hareem Ghani, Ollie Hill and Rachel Godfrey Wood

Apologies

- Apologies from TK, RCL and SS.
- LER will have to miss a portion of the meeting because of the local Labour re-selection campaign.
- BD is running late.
- IT says the paper on defining the NCG's power should be brought to the NCG for a final decision. KD says IT should submit it as an item for the subsequent NCG meeting.

Report on preparation for Labour conference – Rachel Godfrey Wood

- RGW delivers a presentation on preparations for the LP conference.
- KG asks when Momentum will begin contacting CLPs about delegates for conference.
- HS asks how Momentum can facilitate networking between the left delegates during conference. She also enquires about NCG presence at conference. RGW responds that in-person briefings were poorly attended in 2018 and 2019 because the conference calendar is heavily congested.
- RC stresses the NCG must begin organising before conference to ensure a left victory.
- JO notes that a WhatsApp group worked well at last year's LP conference. RGW says Momentum prioritises direct communication and relies on WLG, CfS and other groups to put together group chats to avoid duplication.
- CT says that LCND previously hosted 'drop-in' sessions for delegates at nearby cafes during times when they were likely to slip out of for refreshments. HS supports this.
- RGW says Momentum has previously produced leaflets on vote recommendations which received positive feedback.

Mobilising in support of TU at Labour conference – Andrew Dolan

- AD says Momentum wants to prioritise the industrial struggle in the lead up to LP conference as it presents an opportunity for Momentum to build a coalition with trade unions and mobilise members. This will entail:
 1. drafting a template motion which instructs the front bench to attend pickets that can be shared with CLPs;
 2. deploying a digital lobbying tool so constituents can contact their representative MPs to support workers;
 3. conducting research on which MPs are sponsored by trade unions so Momentum members can doorstep MPs or attend constituent surgeries to apply pressure;

4. using mailing lists to funnel people into WhatsApp group to coordinate picket visits, and;
 5. encouraging members to use South Momentum's resources on solidarity strike meetings.
- RC says this plan requires substantial resources, Momentum must focus on raising its profile, recruiting members and raising funds. AD responds that these strikes present an opportunity to galvanise members after a long time. HS adds Momentum is putting together local resource packs to bring new members.
 - RD asks if Momentum will be using this campaign as an opportunity to target candidates standing for MP selections to create dividing lines between right-wing and left-wing candidates. They also note it is important to galvanise areas with high student populations by working with LS and YL. BG agrees.
 - HS extends her thanks to Momentum staff for producing this project plan.
 - CM says Momentum must be cautious of supporting MPs who have previously received Momentum's endorsement but failed to deliver for their constituents and/or the organisation.

Report on NEC campaign launch and Ankunda Matsiko's campaign – Andrew Dolan and Reederwan Craayenstein

- AD provides an update on the GOTV plans for the NEC elections, spearheaded by Momentum's Communication Team.
- Momentum is contesting three sets of elections: LS, NEC and YL.
- The primary audience will be the left base who will be targeted via Facebook adverts, mass mail outs and text messaging after ballots open.
- Momentum has also produced eight videos prior to the election to allow the Communications Team to be as responsive as possible during the election.
- Momentum will focus this election on workers' solidarity, racism within the party and democracy to communicate the importance of the NEC to members.
- The Communications Team is working on press coverage for the elections, they have also set up websites for each slate, and developed a postcode finder.
- Momentum will also be advising candidates to vote in accordance with their region.
- JO enquires about the preference vote as WLG is putting out an endorsement for the Grassroots Five instead of the Grassroots Four, this is likely to cause confusion among members. AD responds that Momentum will attempt to communicate the difference. RGW adds that this will only be an issue in regions where organisations are backing NWI for first preference, which is North London, Scotland and Yorkshire. Meanwhile, in other regions, the first preference will be consistent but there may be some differences in second, third and fourth preferences. The importance is to equalise the first preference so Momentum should prioritise communication for Wales and Scotland.
- IT asks if Momentum has been informed about the delay with the ballot, AD responds that the Labour Party have stated there are problems with membership data but there is no information beyond that.
- CA (from CfS) asks when the preferences email will be scheduled to go out. AD replies it will be Wednesday 3 August 2022. CA says the first preference for CLPD will be NWI so Momentum should refrain from advising members on how to vote in Scotland. A joint statement between CLPD and Momentum will cause issues for CfS. AD says Momentum should consider issuing a statement about the two options for voters: the Grassroots Five or the Grassroots Four.
- RC asks if Momentum can mobilise GMB, Unison and Unite to support AM's candidacy for BAME rep. Alternatively, they should avoid getting involved to prevent another stitch

up. AD says that in the current political candidate it is unlikely that GMB and Unison will support a left-wing candidate. They will likely support CW.

- SB says RC raises an important point: what is the long-term planning that is happening to protect the interests of BAME people in the party. She believes Momentum should begin connecting with the black sections in TUs.
- DSM says it is important for Momentum to endorse liberation positions e.g. BAME rep. This will mainstream liberation.
- CA says Momentum's TU Group should work with the Equalities Group to ensure CW does not get elected in the next election.

NEC election endorsements – Barry Gray

- BG says there are two items to consider:
 1. The first is the candidates Momentum is supporting for NEC, and
 2. The second is on a joint left political statement (regardless of the outcome of the first vote).
- A discussion was held and a vote was taken on whether Momentum should support Grassroots Five instead of Four:
 - The motion falls (6 votes in favour, 19 votes against and 4 abstentions).
- A discussion was held and a vote was taken on whether the left should issue a joint political statement:
 - The motion passes (16 votes in favour, 3 against, 4 abstention).

Campaigns working group – Kieran Glasssmith

- KG introduces the agenda item.
- IT asks if the remaining agenda items can be brought to the subsequent NC. This is echoed by other NCG members.
- CT asks if there is urgency with the KG's paper, KG responds no. SB suggests KG speak to Momentum staff members, namely FO and TW, ahead of the next NCG meeting as they can further inform the motion.
- KD also notes that SDG is not present to introduce her agenda item.
- The NCG agrees to defer the remaining items to the next NCG meeting.

AOB

- How When2Meet works – Andrew Dolan (2 minutes)
 - AD will forward an email to NCG members.
- Labour conference meetup – Kieran Glasssmith (2 minutes)
 - KG asks if people would like to set up a social meet up at the conference, and if so, to email him. KD volunteers.
- Momentum email addresses – Domanic Smith-Jones (1 minutes)
 - DSJ says he will send an email to NCG members about emails.

Meeting Ends