

NCG Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 3 September 2022

Time: 10:00 – 12:15

Present: Martin Abrams, Samayya Afzal, Craig Andersen, Thirza Amina Asanga-Rae, Cathy Augustine, Aleem Bashir, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Rochelle Charlton-Lainé, Lillian Chasteau, Reederwan Craayenstein, Ben Davies, Ruth Day, Kate Dove, Izella Drake, Nekisa Gholami-Babaahamdy, Kieran Glasssmith, Barry Gray, Sasha Das Gupta, Nyla Ibrahim, Coll McCail, Kathryn Manley, Jackie Owen, Mish Rahman, Hilary Schan, Domanic Smith-Jones, Mohammed Suhail, Samuel Sweek, Imogen Tranchell, Jon Trickett, Carol Turner, Chantel Waring and Lorcan Whitehead.

Apologies: Leila Erin-Jenkins, Esther Hardy, Andrew Hedge, Tony Kearns, Maya Patel, Sarah Marie Shepherd, Sam Tarry and Matt Wrack.

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

Apologies

- LEJ, AH and SMS send their apologies.
- CS (CfS) will join the meeting shortly.

Refounding Momentum – Andrew Dolan

- AD relays the results for the all member ballot for Refounding Momentum. He has [categorised](#) all [17 proposals](#) under three headings:
 1. Proposals that have already been implemented but need to be included in Momentum's Constitution
 2. Proposals that need to be implemented through Momentum's Constitution or supplementary policy documents only, and
 3. Proposals that need to be implemented through Momentum's Constitution or supplementary policy paper and wider organisational delivery.
- AD recommends the Strategy WG incorporates the RM proposals and the WG proposals into a singular planning process.
- IT enquires whether NCG members should be asked to sign up to the purpose and principles of Momentum. AD responds that the very act of acquiring a Momentum membership implies a commitment to its aims. JT says he is unclear whether IT's suggestion is that NCG members should adhere to principles of the organisation, or whether they must unanimously agree to every single decision made by the organisation. This may raise issues for affiliate organisations.
- LW makes three points:
 1. He notes this item has been submitted for agreement, but he is uncertain whether AD wishes for the NCG to agree on the commentary contained in the ['Notes on Refounding Implementation'](#) document or whether he wants them to agree to defer these decisions to the Strategy WG. AD responds that it is the latter.
 2. LW adds that the RM proposals must take precedence over proposals submitted WGs as the former was voted on by members.
 3. LW concludes that if the NCG votes to allow the Strategy WG to lead on the implementation of RM, they must give individual WGs enough time to engage with the proposals so they can begin factoring them into their submission. AD agrees, but notes it may also be possible to implement the proposals in a way that reinforces the priorities of the group.

- JT says if there are any proposals relating to growing Momentum's international links, he would like to be involved. MC, MS and CW say they would like to work with JT on this. AD proposes forming a committee on this.
- HS agrees with AD's recommendation for staff to take forward any constitutional amendments and for all the other processes to go through the relevant WGs. SDG adds that staff are best placed to deliver the RF proposals as they were privy to all the member forums.
- LW says it is important for Momentum to deliver on a convention, despite the resource required.
- LW expresses reservations about replacing roleholder calls with the Members Council. AD suggests reducing the number of roleholder calls but making them more action-focused. Meanwhile, the Members Council can focus on decision-making, strategy and accountability. KG agrees.
- There is general consensus in supporting AD's recommendations.

Don't Pay Campaign – Martin Abrams

- MA says Momentum should offer a statement of solidarity with the Don't Pay UK campaign.
- LW notes the paper was submitted for discussion, but agreement is required.
- SB says Momentum must alert its mass membership of the campaign as it requires numbers to be successful.
- KG says Momentum does not need to take a position on every campaign, instead it should put its resources behind campaigns that are likely to succeed. IT responds that if Momentum does not outwardly support the campaign, people will think the organisation is opposed to it.
- IT adds Momentum should facilitate contact between DPUK and local groups. SDG suggests inviting DPUK organisers to roleholder calls.
- SDG asks if Momentum may be liable to legal action if they encourage members to participate in the campaign, she asks SD to advise on this.
- CM says he is aware of other local campaigns that have sprung up across the UK which are more rooted in community than DPUK. In Scotland, for example, Power to the People has been very successful.
- MC says he is concerned that individuals will have to bear the cost of a bad credit record. AB responds that one non-payment does not affect an individual's credit rating.
- LW says DPUK's strategy is to get one million people to pledge to the campaign, otherwise they will not go ahead.
- CA (CfS) says he participated in a similar campaign regarding the Poll Tax in Scotland and he was eventually made to pay. He proposes that Momentum issue a statement signposting members to Enough is Enough. AD responds that DPUK and EiE are different campaigns: the former focuses on encouraging immediate autonomous actions, while the latter focuses on a coherent political block around concrete objectives, political figures and strategies.
- DSJ the only way to stand up to energy companies is through civil disobedience.
- AD suggests Momentum speak with DPUK organisers as they may not want to publicly associate with the Labour left.
- KD calls for a vote on signposting Momentum members to the DPUK campaign as well as community campaigns in the nations:
 - The motion passes: 25 people vote for, no votes against, no absentions.

US Nuclear Weapons Returning to Britain – Carol Turner

- CT says the return of US nuclear weapons is not known by the British people. Momentum must reaffirm its commitment to a world without nuclear weapons, promote CND's upcoming protest at RAF Lakenheath and encourage their members to attend it.
- She adds the demonstration has been postponed because of the RMT rail strikes so the NCG should agree in principle to support a future action.
- IT says Momentum should encourage members in Suffolk to attend the demonstration.
- SDG says supporting the protest will demonstrate its commitment to anti-imperialist politics. She proposes a piece in the Educator with CT.
- KD calls for a vote on the motion:
 - The motion passes: 22 votes for, no votes against, no abstentions.

Election for Campaigns Working Group Chair – Kieran Glasssmith

- KD asks both candidates to deliver their candidate statements:
 - RCL says she has significant campaign experience including delivering workshops, digital promotional techniques and general campaign consultation.
 - BD relays his experience with LGND where he helped pass two motions at LP conference on a Green Industrial Revolution and a Green New Deal.
- LW says the NCG should support RCL's candidacy as she was directly elected by the membership.
- CA notes the large majority of WGs are chaired by men, including the Equality WG.
- HG launches the poll:
 - RCL receives 12 votes, BD receives 17 votes, BD is elected chair.
- CA (CfS) says that the NCG members should avoid declaring support for candidates.

AOB

- HS says Momentum met with ZS' office about the EiE campaign, and offered support to her office with setting up local groups. They also asked ZS to speak at the L4L rally.
- HS adds Momentum may be partnering with EiE and CWU on a cost-of-living toolkit.
- IT says she wishes to work with BD's on climate justice, expresses concern about the lack of gender balance within the organisation and encourages NCG members to attend protests against the Rwanda flights.
- KD says she will push the issue of gender equality through the Equalities Committee.
- RC says he would be willing to step down as Chair of the Equalities WG. LW says this is not necessary as Momentum's BAME representation is low. CT agrees.