

# **National Coordinating Group (NCG)**

**Saturday 2nd December 2017**

**Action Report (draft)**

**In attendance:** Jon Lansman, John Taylor, Huda Elmi, Mike Byrd, Cecile Wright, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Rida Vaquas, Christine Shawcroft, Helen McDonald, Liz Hames, Leigh Drennan, Tony Kearns, Lorcan Mullen, [ADD BFAWU], Adam Klug, Barry Gray, Sahaya James (Had to leave early)

**Apologies:** Liz Hayden, Nav Mishra, Puru Miah

**Staff:** Santiago Bell-Bradford, Laura Parker, Oliver Hill

## Welcomes, apologies and aims of meeting

### Aims of meeting:

- To develop a shared analysis of the current political context and what this means for Momentum
- To review Momentum's activities over the last quarter
- To agree Momentum's priorities moving forwards
- To develop a positive team culture within the NCG

**Apologies:** Liz Hayden, Nav Mishra, Puru Miah, Sahaya (delivered her apologies in person)

*Apologies noted. Aims agreed.*

## 1. Introduction and welcomes

- Bakers Union (BFAWU) have affiliated to Momentum - noted.
- Introduced the new National Coordinator of Momentum, Laura Parker.

## 2. Notes from the last meeting

- Brief discussion around the election of Richard Lennon as the leader of Scottish Labour. John Taylor moved a motion to formally thank both Martyn Cook and CFS (Campaign for Socialism) for their work during the leadership campaign - unanimously agreed.
- Christine Shawcroft noted that people could print and bring in their own agendas if they were formatted better and shortened. It was agreed that people would bring their own copies of the agenda for future meetings.

## 3. National Coordinator's Report

### 3.1 Labour Party Conference

The key findings of the impact analysis of our conference operation were as follows:

1. 70.4% of respondents said that Momentum had been 'extremely effective' during Conference, a further 25.1% said Momentum had been 'effective'.

2. 59.2% said Momentum's political judgement was 'very good' and 31.8% that it was 'good'.
3. The system for calling people to speak is very unpopular, and perceived to be patronising and unfair. In response to the question 'How do you think Conference could be organised to give the members' a stronger voice?', 63 out of 148 respondents (42%) cited the way people are called to speak as a key problem at Conference. Many of these respondents called for an electronic, randomised system of counting votes and also of picking speakers.
4. The most effective technique used by Momentum was texting, which was strongly supported by 70% of respondents.
5. Despite the importance of emails, the app and texting, the results show that the role of the Yellow Pages in advising Conference delegates was highly valued.

*There was a wide ranging discussion about the Labour Party Conference based on the above update.*

- There was a broad consensus in the discussions that the 2017 Labour Party was a very positive experience for many, and that Momentum did an excellent job of coordinating delegates and supporting its member's keep political priorities.
- In particular there was praise for the ground operations throughout the conference, as well as the methods of communications between Momentum and the conference delegates.
- The Momentum stall was incredibly busy all conference. Acknowledgement in the room that we may need a bigger space next year.
- A brief discussion about what could be improved next year: more support for CLP officers who are involved in supporting delegates, clearer decision making processes during the conference and better lines of communication between Momentum's conference operation and LOTO
- TWT: Adam Klug gave a brief update on TWT, and wanted to extend an offer for NCG to sit in on TWT meetings and input into future discussion. NCG Members interested: **Yannis, CFS and Bakers.**

*Noted*

### **3.2 Momentum Training Network**

Momentum have trained 90 people to deliver sessions on "How the Labour Party Works" and "Persuasive Conversations". Since the programme's completion in September, Momentum trainers have delivered 50 training sessions across the country with many more booked in for the new year. Community Organising training for candidates and activists is currently in its development period with a trial session in Walsall Momentum on Friday 1st December.

*Noted*

### **3.3 Momentum Press and Communications Team**

Since the last NCG meeting the Momentum Press and Communications team have secured sustained, positive coverage for Momentum's various work strands, mitigated attacks by the right-wing press and begun to build a Momentum Communications Network to build skills across the movement.

Before conference we worked closely with outriders and media partners in an effort to place opinion pieces and media appearances that fulfilled the aims of the organising team and moved the argument around party reform to the left

Over conference we secured nearly 100 positive articles and numerous positive broadcast mentions about Momentum's conference operation, including headlines such as "Momentum steals the limelight from Labour Conference" in the FT and "Momentum building in Brighton as grassroots group goes mainstream" in the Guardian.

Since conference we've secured positive coverage about Momentum's birthday, the organisations increase in membership and the launch of the Unseat Jacob Rees Mogg event while also successfully mitigating negative mentions of Momentum.

This has been alongside our regular duties including risk management, member communications, relationship building and running the Unseat campaign, and with a temporarily lowered capacity.

*Noted*

### **3.4 Momentum's Input to the Democracy Review**

Momentum will generate submissions to the Democracy Review through its members and groups and the Member's Council - which is meeting on Saturday December 2nd to generate recommendations for the NCG - who will be able to submit and nominate proposals directly via a digital democracy platform to be launched in January, and will be able to vote for or against all final proposals via Omov ballots.<sup>[1]</sup>

The digital democracy platform will allow individual members, and Momentum groups to nominate one proposal under each theme. Those proposals that achieve a minimum threshold of nominations will be guaranteed consideration in the compositing meetings. NCG panels will then develop composited proposals based on the proposals that have come through the Members' Council and the Digital Democracy review, which will then be put to Omov ballots of Momentum members. Proposals which are successful will be submitted directly to the Review as well as circulated to activists in CLPs.

### **9.1 Communication within the Organisation - John Taylor (Moved forward as it was relevant to the current discussions)**

John outlined that firstly he was dismayed to find out about the appointment of Laura via the media, and that he would have liked for the NCG to have found out first. He also says that members still find it hard to hear back from the office, and that this needs to change.

- Laura agrees, and says that now we have stopped sprinting, and are entering a marathon, we may need to look again at what processes are considered 'core functions'
- Agreement in the room at John's analysis, Liz Hames adds that people look to the NCG members for answers to questions, and thus they need to be informed. Jon says that improvements have been made, but all agree that it will be looked into

*Noted*

## **7. Candidates in Labour Party Elections**

### **7.1 NEC Elections**

Barry led the discussion concerning the NEC elections, focusing on what to expect, on what needs to be done on our end to get a slate organised. No firm timetable was given for the process, but it will take place in early January.

*Passed*

### **7.2 NPF Elections**

Discussion about what to expect from the NPF elections, and how this may tie in with our democracy review. CFS asked for clarification about what our stance is on the NPF. Laura clarifies that we may be both wanting to have representation on the NPF, as well as arguing for it to be drastically changed, if not abolished.

*Passed*

### **7.3 Young Labour**

Ollie moved his paper concerning how Young Labour could be reformed, as well as a discussion from the previous item about our submission to the Democracy Review concerning Young Labour. General agreement with the proposal, though Rida moved that the slates be shortlisted at the summit, then elected by OMOV ballot after. Discussion around this issue with Leigh, Huda, Ollie, Barry and Rida. Rida withdraws her amendment

*Passed*

## **4. Financial Report**

- We expect to close the year with a small surplus. There is still plenty more that needs doing with regards to our accounting and reporting systems, but this will be an immediate priority for the New Year.
- Liz Hames raised pension contributions and maternity/paternity pay for staff, and whether these systems are in place. Laura stated this is an urgent priority for next few weeks.
- Premises: No news on a new premises. TSSA's future space is a possibility
- Broad discussion about fundraising options. Leigh Drennan suggested printed membership cards for those who donate more than a certain amount p/m.
- Discussion on raising pay for staff going forward.

*Noted*

## **5. Timetable for NCG Elections**

- Timetable that was circulated by Jon. Was passed unanimously.
- CFS asked whether or not organisations with NCG representations have to elect their reps within the same time period. This is indeed the case
- Rida wanted clarification around potential membership cut-off dates for the NCG elections. Laura agreed to look into the issue and feedback
- John Taylor raised the idea of extended the terms of NCG members, so they have more time to be effective in their role. The process was discussed, and there was some agreement among NCG members. No further action was taken.

*Passed*

## **6. Momentum Conference**

Considering staff capacity, and the success of TWT, the discussion was around what we do with Momentum's mandated annual conference. It was agreed that the conference should be moved to later in the year, and perhaps in conjunction with existing events.

*Passed*

## **8. Member's Council**

### **8.1 Members' Council Report:**

Paper as circulated and noted, supplemented by contributions from Santiago and Adam

*Agreed*

### **8.2 Motions**

Rida moved the motion the following motion in Sahaya's absence:

*"The NCG should have a discussion about how it is moving forward on the campaigning priorities discussed by the Members Council in September, including democratising Labour (including fighting expulsions), how Momentum works, developing media skills in the membership, and a free movement campaign. It is a concern that a member of Members Council has been informed that they may not attend the Members Council happening in parallel with this meeting, with just over a week's notice (at which point they may have already booked transport or made arrangements to attend), with very little explanation given."*

Laura clarified the situation - the Members Council member in question was not a member of the Labour Party, thus it was not appropriate for him to be feeding into a discussion on reforming the Labour Party Leigh suggested that we note it and move to next business. This was agreed.

*Noted*

## **9. Other Items**

### **9.2 Evaluation of Momentum campaign for Black History Month in 2017 and our strategy for recruiting BAME people into Momentum & Labour.**

Nav was not in attendance to move the motion. Moved to the next meeting

*Postponed to next meeting*

### **9.3 Continuing to Promote Workers' Rights**

Moved by Rida.

*Workers' Rights: Momentum should continue the excellent work it has been doing in building support for industrial disputes such as the McDonald's strike. Labour Party Conference unanimously voted for repealing the most recent Trade Union Act and the anti-union laws passed under the Thatcher and Major governments and for positive workers' rights, including a strong right to strike. This represents a major step forward in Labour Party policy. Momentum should look to promoting and building support for these strong policies on trade union rights on social media and in Labour Party campaigning.*

Laura agrees with the motion and gives a short synopsis of current and new streams of work around workers' rights

- Met with Baker's, looking to move forward with McStrike actions.
- Met with CWU, and we'll produce a video about the postal workers strike, as well as future projects
- CFS suggested we make sure that all comms about always include a section about how to join, and how to be a rep. This was unanimously agreed

*Passed*

### **9.4 Co-opting a New Member onto the NCG**

Jon moved the motion that we Co-opt Emma as a non-voting member on the NCG. All agreed. Rida asked what happens to co-opt members after the NCG elections. Jon says they would have to be co-opted again.

*Passed*