

Meeting of Left Unity National Coordinating Group Sat 19th October

1. Attendance : RA (Hackney), PB (Sheffield), AB (DES), GC (Cambridge), LC (Crouch End), GC (Greenwich/Lewisham)), MC (DES), FD (Liverpool), TC (DES) KE (Medway), SG (Huddersfield), LG (Leicester), NH (Reading), GH (DES), KH (DES), CH (DES), ET (West London), SP (Islington) AM (Leamington Spa), PM (Rugby), SM (Birmingham), JP (Leeds), RR (Waltham Forest), MS (Nottingham), SS (DES), CS (Bristol), TW (DES) MM: Wandsworth,

Observers: PG (Hackney), BS (Bristol) DS (Lambeth) EF (Waltham Forest) MG (Huddersfield) JY (Cambridge)

PM and CH were agreed to chair the meeting

2. Apologies DI (Milton Keynes), BT (DES), Exeter LU, Bromsgrove and Worcestershire LU. Two resolutions had been submitted after the deadline and it was agreed to discuss these.

Agreed we take Tower Hamlets with section on conference, and Leeds, under group development

Agreed observers can speak if there is time after representatives have spoken.

3. Minutes from September NCG were agreed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

5. Manchester Policy Workshops

TC: We have not yet had feedback from all the workshops but the overwhelming feedback was positive and that it was important we get feedback from all the workshops

Discussion

KH: moved we ask convenors to get together to get further dates for nonvoting policy discussions with a view to ensuring that overlap between different policy groups is dealt with; **Agreed**

6. Party Name

KH: Voting Method Supplementary vote system recommended from working group. A paper was distributed It was **agreed** as method to use

TC: Deadline for proposed names for the party should be the same as the deadline for amendments. Nominations for names only through the groups. There will be no nominations on the day. From 16th to the 30th all names will be on the website with 50 words from proposer as to why that name is best. This was **Agreed**

SS: we need to check names against the electoral body that registers such names

7. Draft Conference Standing Orders

Terry Conway suggested an amended version of Unison’s Standing orders but not to allow the sections that are used to stop discussion of contentious issues

Agreed these standing orders will be put to conference in a clearer form and shortened form for all delegates

8. Conference Starting and Finishing time

Royal National Hotel is booked from 9am till 5

Conference registration from 9 am, conference to start at 10am. Additional space is bookable including facilities for a meeting of young people (up to age 25).

We will organise Home stay accommodation in London. Info to go on website and in newsletter **AB and KH** to co-ordinate

Travel Regions are going to try to organise joint travel to make it cheaper. We need to remind members how little admin resources we have.

Agreed a travel fund of £1000 to help those who cannot afford it – appeal for funds for this to go in newsletter and on website

MC asked about an Inclusion fund. **Agreed** this would be an appeal at conference

Access issues at conference from general funds

Live streamed Conference to be live streamed - investigate possibility of comments from those watching on internet **Agreed** link would be posted in advance

Tellers. Volunteers to be recruited at conference

10. Tower Hamlets Motion; **GH** moved the motion:*We note the amount of material that is to be covered in the founding conference and the difficulties arising in allowing for adequate discussion and debate of all aspects of this material. In light of this, and in the interests of bringing about the most constructive founding conference possible, we propose that the conference be extended to span two days.***Not agreed**

11 Election of Standing Orders Committee of 5 people

Agreed the following people

Tom Rampling	Bristol
James Youd	Cambridge
Ray Goodspeed	Waltham Forest
Rachel Archer	Hackney
Caroline Stevenson	Bristol

They will elect their own chair

Agreed the Standing Orders Committee will put a short individual introduction on the website

12 Resolution from Hackney and East London

This NCG/conference recognizes that there are significant differences over the aims and structure of the proposed new party which need to be debated and resolved at the founding conference.

However, we do not believe that an extended debate over three platforms and amendments to those platforms is the most constructive way forward. Any such debate is likely to be protracted, repetitive and alienating for all those who have signed up to none of the platforms.

The debate needs to be focused on the the aims of the party and should take the form of proposed amendments (which could begin 'delete all and replace with...') to the aims section of the document/s which emerge from the constitution policy commission.

Platforms and local groups can of course submit different versions of the aims. However Conference should not waste precious time debating a series of amendments to the platform documents as they have been published on the site. If tendencies or political groups want a different version of the aims they should produce an alternative statement to that effect (as the Left Platform has now done).

Resolution was moved by RA;

AB, KE, KH, PG, CH, MS, AM, GC, GH, TC, ET, GH, RW, FD, PG, MG, DS all contributed to the debate.

The resolution was **not agreed**

13. Membership

BS gave a membership report This was agreed.

AB commented that in the last 2 months 800 people had paid

286 are registered for conference. All but 33 have paid to be founding members. People must be a founding member to be at conference. The deadline is a week before the conference.

People were asked to look in their filters. Some email systems automatically dump emails that are sent to more than 10 people at a time.

A list of founding members and list of conference payees will go out to the branches

16.1 Data protection We need to make sure people are ok with us sharing this information gathered on line

MM people don't understand how little money and few staff (ie None) we have. People need to know.

14 Transitional Arrangements - Resolutions from Islington and Waltham Forest

The current NGC, including the 10 members elected in May should stay in office until such time as a new leadership is elected in line with the decisions taken by the founding conference on November 30.

Islington

We resolve that the current NGC including the members elected in May stays in office until such time as a new leadership is elected following whatever decisions are taken by the founding conference on November 30.

Waltham Forest Left Unity

These motions were moved and **agreed**

15 Safe spaces report

FD reported. There have been cases in Manchester and Nottingham

There has also been a discussion at the workshops and these suggestions will be worked into the main document.

It has become clear that we need to include a section on bullying that does not involve oppressed groups

It is especially important that safe spaces is not used to shut down political disagreements or to further personal incompatibility issues. It is intended to support robust discussion and disagreement

We need to set up a day meeting for those people who have volunteered to work in this process as reconciliators. There is a wealth of talent there and we could produce something of real quality. There is a need also to look after the reconciliators

In working through these issues we will reveal some of the very real problems of life under Austerity and this in turn will feed into our policies.

16 Leeds

A long discussion took place after which the following resolution was passed as follows

This NCG believes

That many political differences do and can exist within left unity nationally and locally

That to split a branch on the basis of political differences or personal incompatibilities rather than on a geographical basis would undermine the left Unity project in Leeds and at a National level

That such a split would prevent LU members hearing every side of the political discussion during the preconference period

The NCG notes that a second group has been formed in Leeds as a result we understand of a breakdown n of relations between members. We agree to send three2 or three members of the NCG to Leeds to discuss with members and supporters as to how this situation has arisen and see whether anything can be done to bring members together.

Agreed. Two of TC. BT and FD to go as soon as practical.

Agreed that where possible two members of NCG go to any reconciliation/ dispute meeting.

17 A finance report was given verbally by JY and will be circulated.

18 Interim NCG the organising group were asked to call another interim NCG if this became necessary as plans for conference progresses

Meeting closed at 5.15.