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CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 1

Standing orders committee report for Left Unity Founding Conference

Code of conduct for Lefty Unity Founding Conference

Refer to standing orders committee:

1. for advice on standing orders including procedural motions and in case of complaints;
2. for order of debate;

Furthermore, SOC recommends that conference attendees:

3. should respect authority of the chair during session (except in case of vote of no confidence);
4. ensure that debate and discussion should be respectful (for further information on this see safe spaces policy and standing orders);
5. should refer to conference arrangements committee for logistics and access issues arising;
6. in the event that due to access and time restrictions motions need to be referred to other bodies SOC will advise.

The current Standing Orders Committee (SOC) is composed of:-

Tom Ramplin (Bristol) Elected Chairperson of SOC

Rachel Archer (Hackney) Elected Deputy Chairperson of SOC

Caroline Stevenson (Bristol)

Ray Goodspeed (Waltham Forest)

James Youd (Cambridge)

We considered all amendments and motions that were received by Saturday 16th November.

We agreed on an agenda for the day, which was to go as follows:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) SOC report and recommendations to conference. Conference must also agree chairs as recommended by conference arrangements committee.
- 3) Election of tellers

- 4) Safe Spaces Policy. SOC recommends policy to be taken as a straight vote. Either ratified or sent back to be remitted to NC to work out interim policy. 3 mins (moved by representative from the Safe Spaces Policy commission)
- 5) Amendments from Coventry and Leamington Spa regarding election of new NCG. If amendments pass then a new NCG would need to be elected by the end of the day. We decided that a preemptive message would be communicated to membership, that anyone who would like to nominate themselves for the new NCG (if passes) then could do so by 28/11/13) 3 minutes from each mover of amendments and two 3 minute speeches against. SOC will recommend, however, in advance to Coventry and Leamington Spa to composite. If they agree we will adapt timings and speeches against accordingly. We will also produce document in advance recommending how to carry out said election. **15 minutes**

Aims

4.1 Section 2 of constitution moved from Internal Democracy Commission. 4 mins to move aims as is.

Lambeth procedural motion to be moved from the floor. 2 mins

Camden 'resolution' needs to be taken as procedural to be moved from floor 2 mins

Huddersfield amendment has been ruled as procedural motions so they will have to appeal to the chair from the floor.

Amendments to aims:

Please note: if platforms were unable to verify that 10 of their signatories were founding members by Saturday 23rd of November then their platforms will not be heard.

4.2 Platform 9 ¾ 3 mins (point 4 ruled out of order as it would commit the organisation to an open ended financial commitment.) SOC recommend it is moved formally.

4.3 Left Party Platform (3 mins) + Camden amendment (2 mins) + Manchester (2 mins to move both)

Socialist Platform (3 mins)

Class Struggle (3 mins)

Communist Platform (3 mins)

Republic Platform (3 mins)

Hackney/Tower Hamlets (3 mins)

20 minutes discussion.

All platforms get 2 mins summary + Camden + Manchester 1 min summary at the end.

Vote on platforms.

4.4 Leicester amendment. 2 mins. Vote. Added to whichever platform wins.

As each platform is voted for it becomes the substantive motion. Called in order of signed support.

Break at 12 for 10 mins.

Party Name

- 5 Selection of party name

'Left Party' 2 mins (Crouch End)

'Lefty Unity Party' 2 mins (Rugby)

'Left Unity' 2 mins (Manchester South and Central), (Northampton Left Unity)

'Democratic Voice' 2 mins (Huddersfield)

To be conducted using the Supplementary Vote system.

12.45 finish

1.30 resume

Constitution

We were keen to reflect the concerns of many members and representations that have been made to us regarding the danger that this section is rushed or too difficult to follow, or both.

While it is undeniable that many of those attending will not find debates on the constitution compelling, it is nonetheless clearly recognised that these issues are vital to the future success of the "Left Unity" project. They are also more urgent than considerations of detailed policy and electoral strategy. We have therefore allocated 2 hours to this part of the agenda.

Please note that the success of this section of the agenda depends on the self-discipline of members, in terms of a) keeping to time limits b) not insisting on the full time allocation to move simple and clear amendments, c) willingness to move motions formally (ie without speaking) if the meaning of the amendment is self-evident and a minor matter, and most importantly d) willingness **before** the conference to get together with branches that have moved very similar motions to present a unified, composite motion. The Standing Orders Committee members are willing to assist this process as much as they are able, and will look more kindly on such motions.

Furthermore, discussion are being held to determine if as many as possible of the amendments can be ACCEPTED by the Internal Democracy and Constitution Commission, provided that they are satisfied that the amendments are matters of "tidying up" or otherwise uncontroversial. If delegates feel that such amendments should NOT be accepted, their comments can be feelings can be made known at the conference. In this event, the accepted amendment would be classed as an INTERIM measure, remitted to the National Committee and more proposals brought to a later conference.

Many of the constitutional issues have been extensively discussed in the last few months, and the fine detail of these discussions cannot sensibly be repeated at length at a conference of this nature. The **decisions** are the important matters at this stage.

Agenda

It has been decided to start with a general introduction to the draft constitution from the Internal Democracy and Constitution Commission (IDCC), followed by a discussion divided into 4 main subjects. This may, if time allows, be followed by a "sweeping up operation" of those amendments considered to be less vital or less controversial. While every attempt will be made to vote on each amendment, this cannot be guaranteed. If time is short there may only be time for formal moving of amendments. Some amendments may fall due to lack of time have to be remitted.

In each section the amendments to be included are itemised.

Intro from IDCC – 5 minutes

1. Method of changing the constitution in the future (c 10 mins)

Section 21 West London and Harringey amendment. These two branches need to sort out who is to move.

2 mins to move and three other speakers if necessary. 1 minute response from the IDCC.

Vote.

2. Gender representation (c.25 mins)

3 mins to move IDCC.

Section 4 amendment from Loughborough

S.4 amendment from Leamington Spa.

S.7 amendment from Crouch End (together with the parts of their s.12 amendment which specifically refer to this issue)

2 mins for each mover. 8 minutes open discussion. 1 min IDCC to respond. Vote.

3. The National or regional structures and the composition of representative national/regional bodies. (c35 minutes)

5 mins IDCC

s.8c amendments from Islington (excluding the part specific to gender)

s.12 amendment from West London

s.12 amendment from Crouch End (can Crouch End and West London possibly composite re this issue?) EXCL. adding a Media officer which is accepted by IDCC.

s.13 amendment from Crouch End re Executive committee(moved with s.12 amend.)

s.12 amendment from Lambeth

s.12 amendment from Lewisham/Greenwich (could this resolution possibly be remitted to National Council in order to work on the detailed system??)

2 mins for each mover. 10 mins open discussion. 2 minute response from IDCC. Vote.

4. The rights of individual members (including age limits), branches, sections, platforms, caucuses etc. (c.35 minutes).

5 mins IDCC

s.5 amendment from Rugby Amendments re individual members submitting resolutions to conferences.

s.7a, 7c and s.3f and s.12d Islington Amendment on 'sections' and also including the issue of age limit.

s.7b amendment from Sheffield

s7b ii - amendment from Cardiff

s.7 amendment from Lambeth (can Lambeth talk to IDCC re this being accepted)

s.9 and s.12 and s.21 amendments from Tower Hamlets (all re groups of 20 members having right to submit motions etc. S.7 amendment has been withdrawn). All TH amendments moved together.

All movers 2 mins (16mins (max) in total). 10 mins open discussion. 2 min response from IDCC. Vote.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

Please note the following specific cases

s.8 amendment from West London/Waltham Forest (please sort out between you) re Northern Ireland.

s.4 Wigan amendment on the dangers of London-centric organising (asked to remit as the principle has already been accepted but the Wigan wording is both prescriptive in some parts and too vague in others)

s.16 re what to do with salaries of MPs etc over the median wage. Can Islington, West London, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets please negotiate a way out of this complexity! If not they may all fall.

These Amendments will be discussed if there is time. They may have to be moved formally or, if time is very short, be remitted.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOC IS PROPOSING THAT RESOLUTIONS AT THIS CONFERENCE REMITTED FOR ANY REASON, OR NOT CALLED FOR LACK OF TIME, WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE TWO THIRDS MAJORITY RULE AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE WHICH CONSIDERS THEM, EVEN IF THAT PROPOSED RULE IS NOT AMENDED AT THIS CONFERENCE.

NB

Appendix 3 Coventry (and Leamington Spa) Amendment re New elections of the 10 NCG members at founding conference is to be discussed first thing in the morning for logistical reasons (organizing nominations, voting etc).

ACCEPTED MOTIONS

The following Amendments have been **ACCEPTED** by the movers of the draft Constitution. They will not be moved or discussed at the conference.

[Please note that if any founding member at the conference objects to any of these amendments being accepted, then SOC are proposing that the affected clause/amendment will remain provisional until next conference and the two thirds rule will not apply in votes on that matter at that conference.]

s.4 Cardiff re publishing minutes of executive meetings likely to be accepted by IDCC. Hence also s.13 Cardiff amendment (re rights of ALL members to attend Executive Committees) also accepted (alongside Islington s.13)

s.6e Rugby amendment re size of branches reduced from 10 to 5.

S.6 Cardiff, regarding joining where you work or live.

s.7c amendment from Manchester on age limits and rights of young members

s.7b amendment from Hackney re platforms campaigning against policy.

s.8 Islington amendment – ONLY the part relating to gender of delegates (replacing [one man and one woman] with [at least one of whom must be female] Also accepted - follow on amendment to 9d i. on same issue.

s.8 heading and 8d and 8e from Cardiff (and all related amendments regarding the national status of Scotland and Wales). (9a, 9e, 12j,)

s.12d Islington Amendment on role of special sections to organize aspects of work (provided amendment to delete 7a iii is passed)

s.12 National Office Holders and spokespeople ONLY section re Media Officer.

s.13 Islington re members attending Executive meetings (see 4a Cardiff)

s.14 Huddersfield re having a “re-open nomination” option for all internal elections.

s.15 Tower Hamlets (re recording votes, and minimum and maximum wages for “Left Unity” staff.

s.16a West London ONLY re possible suspension of LU members elected to public office for not following the rules policies etc of LU – change [will] to [may]

S.16c West London regarding deletion of 16c) vi regarding Elected members resigning if they are no longer LU members.

s.16c re adding new point vi regarding payment from lobbyists etc.

s.17 Tower Hamlets on Expenses

The timings add up to 2 hours.

Any motions that have not been discussed or voted on in time may be either moved and voted on without debate or remitted, depending on the time available. Composite motions will be given priority.

Debate due to finish at 3.30

Priority Campaigns

We agreed that we would partition this into the following sections. We have attempted as much as is possible to open out space in the priority campaigns and electoral strategy sections to dedicate as much time as possible to open discussions with regard to current and future activity.

7.1 Austerity & NHS

Southwark motion 2 mins

West London motion 2 mins

Sheffield amendment 2 mins

Loughborough amendment 2 mins

Islington & West London composited motion 2 min

Discussion 10 mins

(Max 20 mins)

7.2 TU and work

Sheffield motion 2 mins

Lambeth amendment 2 mins

Birmingham amendment 2 mins

West London motion 2 mins

Manchester motion 2 mins

21 hour working week 2 mins (motion from Hackney arguing that this was out of order was deemed procedural so will have to be challenged from the floor)

Discussion 10 mins

(Max 24 mins)

7.3 Housing

Waltham Forest motion 2 mins

Loughborough amendment 2mins

Birmingham amendment 2 mins

Discussion 10 mins

(Max 16 mins)

7.4 Climate Change & Internationalism

Glasgow motion 2 mins

Cardiff amendment 2 mins

West London amendment 2 mins

Southwark motion 2 mins

Wigan amendment 2 mins

(Proposers of motion in Climate change, Internationalism & Housing sections to be encouraged to move formally where possible to support space for open discussion.)

The following motions have been ruled out of order:-

- Glasgow Edward Snowden motion referred to policy conference.
- West London 'Branch Activity' ruled out of order as was judged neither a campaign priority nor constitutional.
- West London 'Party Organisation' rules out of order as fails to meet agreed agenda topics and to be replication of constitutional clause.

As above, any motions that have not been discussed or voted on in time may be either moved and voted on without debate or remitted, depending on the time available. Composite motions will be given priority.

Electoral Strategy

8) Crouch End motion 2 mins

Huddersfield & West London composited amendment 2 mins

Discussion 10 min

In case of over run see priority campaigns section for guidance.

Debate due to finish at 17.00

In the event that any queries or appeals occur with regard to the above the standing orders committee may be contacted by email at standingorders@leftunity.org and we shall be in attendance on the day of conference to assist with the resolution of any issues which may arise.

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 2

Safe Spaces Policy

1 Left Unity wants to develop a safe and vibrant left and socialist organisation. Fighting for liberation and against oppressions and discrimination should be at the heart our organisation. This policy is aimed at the political realities facing people in the age of enforced austerity. We are there to struggle together

“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting our time.

But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

People will come to our meetings angry at injustice and worried by personal circumstances. We want to hear their case and feelings in their own words. We want everyone who comes to our meetings to be welcome, to speak and to be listened to and heeded. We want free and open speech.

2 Left Unity understands that oppression and violence are built into our society.

3 Left Unity is a collaboration of a huge diversity of people who have signed up to a common project of creating a new political party ‘left of Labour.’ This will inevitably bring together people who have been conditioned by the oppressive society to treat each other unequally, without full awareness of the other’s needs and sometimes disrespectfully. For example, racism can be an issue when trying to organise black and white people to work together; sexism an issue when men and woman come together in a common endeavour, and, ablism when those with impairments and those without try and work together. Snobbery and discrimination are real factors when different sections of working people work together.

4 One of the tasks of our new party will be moving our behaviours closer to our principles and beliefs, but this will not happen without ‘struggle’. Struggle here means engaging directly in trying to address these issues.

- Well chaired meetings are essential to democracy and to keeping members safe,
- Accessible meeting places are essential to the right to take part.

Left Unity commits itself to actively oppose all forms of bullying, discrimination and oppression within its organisation and campaigns. We oppose the oppressive actions and attitudes and not the person; “Respect the person; challenge their behaviour.” A person’s behaviour may be problematic, but each person deserves respect.

This policy is intended to help develop and facilitate wide ranging and robust political debate for all our members.

5 Background

We live in a world beset with problems. Bad behaviour towards each other is part of this society. It benefits our rulers to have us split on lines of sex race gender sexual orientation and much more

The great evils are inherent and foundational to capitalism and are increasing with its crisis.

6 Impairments.

Discrimination against and neglect of the interests of people with visible and invisible impairments have been a feature of capitalism but this has intensified to a terrible level by this government's policies.

7 Carers

Discrimination against those with caring responsibilities is long standing but made much worse by this government where 75% of cuts hit single parent families.

8 Violence against Women

Two women a week are killed by their male partners and many more are abused in gender related violence against women and girls. Men are also affected yet the scale of violence against women is qualitatively and significantly different. That is the world in which we as a party will operate.

Sexual violence is a feature of life in many countries, not least in the UK. Our movement is not immune to it. Left Unity will be implacable in its opposition to both sexual violence and victim blaming. Women are vital to our movement and by vehemently and ostensibly proclaiming our stance on this will we keep women safer and effect real education on this matter.

Men too especially as children can be victims of such violence.

When necessary we will take physical steps to ensure the safety of women as happened during the Egyptian revolution.

9 Children

The poverty inflicted on children and the sexual abuses of children are real and present issues. Power structures have supported and extended this abuse.

Damage to children is built in to the current benefits and low wage system, where many of our children go hungry.

We will stand firmly against any external policies (or those affecting the internal life of the party) that make life worse for children or..

10 Class denigration

The media and education systems denigrate and dismiss the talents of working class people day in and day out. It is our responsibility to reflect the power working people and their communities, and develop a vehicle for working people's struggles.

Whilst we cannot be immune to problems inherent in capitalist society, we intend to create an organisation committed to consciously and publicly overcoming these issues within our organisation, as well as in society at large.

The inspiration for this Safe Spaces policy comes from different organisations and groups; we thank them for it. Left Unity applies this approach to all our disparate membership.

As a party, as an organisation we aim to defeat these great social ills.

11 Caucuses

We will accept the formation of caucuses of any "liberation" group, for black people, people with impairments, LGBT people and women as well as for young people at whatever level of the organisation such groups want to organise.

We recognise people's rights to freedom of religion and belief. We would not, however, expect the party to be used for recruiting or proselytising for any religion or belief

12 Law

We cannot and will not set ourselves up as being above or beyond the law. When transgressions occur that are within the reach and scope of the legal system, such issues may be referred to law unless the victim decides otherwise

We recognise that law in this capitalist system is often discriminatory and ineffective in defending the oppressed, and some people are at particular risk from law enforcement and the Criminal Justice system. However, good intentions alone cannot outweigh the force of oppression and discrimination in the society within which we operate. Institutions ranging from the Catholic Church to left political parties have been seen to perpetuate or excuse abuse by operating outside of the legal system.

13 Meetings

13a Venues

- We will aim for all meetings to be in accessible buildings and such access needs as members require will be made available to the very best of our ability.
- We realise sometimes children will be present at our meetings, and we will aim to provide childcare or assistance with child-minding fees in all meetings.
 - Where possible meetings will be held at times that recognise members caring responsibilities.

13b Conduct of meetings

This safe space policy is designed to ensure that meetings take place in a considerate and relevant manner, without participants being undermined for discriminatory reasons.

- I. A well chaired meeting is essential to keep everyone safe promote discussion and to progress business... All members are asked to respect the chair and all members chairing meetings are required to be inclusive and democratic.
- II. Give each person the time and space to speak. Listen and don't prejudge them.
- III. In large groups, or for groups using facilitation: use the recognised hand signals to indicate you wish to speak. These hand signals will be clarified at the start of each discussion.
- IV. Members organising for the party will be expected to behave decently toward each other and try to consider other people's needs (as would be normal in a well unionised workplace). Venom should be reserved as far as possible for those inflicting real harm on working class communities or individual working class communities
- V. Tolerance of other habits and norms will be expected - for example, The Youth and elders might make more noise!
- VI. Transgressions will not be ignored, nor situations where transgressions occur.
- VII. Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable and will be challenged.
- VIII. Respect should be give to each other's physical (and emotional) boundaries.
- IX. Members are asked to try to be aware of the positions and privileges we may be conveying, including racial, class and gender privilege. Be will try to aware of the language we use in discussion and how we relate to others
- X. If a member who has to fight a particular oppression in this society, requests that you change your use of language, be respectful and change your use of language. Do feel free to ask for clarification on this.
- XI. Left Unity endeavours as much as is feasible to ensure that meeting spaces are as accessible as possible to the widest range of people.
- XII. Where it is possible, there will be a supervised quiet/safe space room available at every event.
- XIII. If there has not been an access break in the previous 90 minutes, or if the atmosphere of a meeting has become counter-productive to reasoned discussion, then an access break of no less than 10 minutes may be taken by everyone.

- XIV. Conferences, training events and workshops are alcohol- and illicit drug-free. There shall be no consumption of alcohol in the venue during the specified conference, training event or workshop times.

14 Power structures

- We recognise that some offences and violence have occurred within unaccountable structures of political parties. We will therefore attempt to monitor all power structure developments and ensure effective local and national democracy.

15 Sex and Power Relationships

- I. People's sex and personal lives are nothing to do with the party, unless position within the party is used to secure inappropriate or abusive relationships. We will expect members to keep to rules on sexual conduct within the meetings of the organisation that are normal within the well unionised working environment.
- II. There should be no use of political position, power, resources or political pressure to help secure relationships.
- III. Responsibility to be shown towards the youth. Young members will do as they choose in time honoured fashion however it is particularly important that our youth are safe in Left Unity. This document will be referred to a youth caucus for further comment.

16 Representation in disputes

Once Left Unity is fully established, each new member joining the organisation should be offered a longer serving member as a 'rep'. The purpose of the 'rep' is to ensure that the new member becomes well acquainted with the workings of the organisation and to act as a point of contact on matters of personal safety and the democratic workings of the party.

E.g. 'if a member tells the 'rep' that a meeting place is inaccessible then it's the reps responsibility to work with organisers to rearrange the venue', the onus therefore is on the organisation not the individual.

17 Disputes

When a dispute occurs, the aim of the 'reps' should be to attempt reconciliation except

- a) In matters where it should be so it will be referred to the law with the complainant given maximum support available.
- b) Where the offence is very grave within our movement; e.g. associating with known fascists to the extent that the security of activists is compromised. In such matters the presumption of reconciliation will not exist.
- c) Where the offence to one member is so great that both being present in a meeting is intolerable.
- d) Complaints/Reconciliation should initially be at branch level and informal (a separate document and procedure on conflict resolution will be produced).
- e) Formal proceedings should be used if this has not been effective
- f) A national safe spaces group will be elected to hear cases that cannot be resolved locally

18 What to do if there is a problem

If you feel unsafe in one of our meetings, conferences or other spaces due to someone else's behaviour you are encouraged to raise the matter as quickly as possible. Seek a resolution. Ask for help if needs be.

If you continue to feel unsafe you or a friend should contact a safer spaces volunteer on.....

The safer spaces team will initiate a process to deal with the behaviour. There is no guarantee that we will easily find effective solutions to these problems but left unity is committed to support and promote the safety of members from all kinds of oppression and discrimination.

Left Unity will attempt, within the limits of its resources, to keep to levels of security and confidentiality of documents as is normal in a unionised workplace. Confidential matters will not be the subject of chit chat and papers will be safely stored transported and filed. The papers will not be used for any other purpose. Secret complaints though cannot be accepted; the complaint can be kept within a small number of people agreed by both parties

19 Online discussions

We hope to create a space where we can robustly disagree with each other in productive and mutually respectful ways.

Our aim here is to foster a constructive and open conversation on the left about where we go from here. We aim to moderate comments with a light touch.

Personal abuse or excessively abrasive posting can act to kill discussion and debate, creating a toxic space, where many people will be put off from commenting. Sexist, racist, oppressive comments, or comments otherwise inappropriate within the remit of the safe spaces policy, may be deleted or edited, when necessary. Those who are 'repeat offenders' may be removed from participation.

Moderation policy

We expect moderation of online discussions to be light touch. Equally we expect contributors to show respect for each other and for any oppressed groups. Serious cases where people do not show mutual respect and use the online situation to abuse can be referred to the safe spaces procedures

See reconciliation and resolution policy.

It's not the policies or the procedures that keep people safe; it's implementing the politics behind them, day by day. These safe spaces policies and procedures though, support us all in doing so.

It is essential action is swift, impartial and seen to be so, recognising the need to support all members.

There has never been a system yet set up that has not been used more against oppressed groups than by them, so supporting both sides through a transparent system is crucial. This procedure will develop over time, as lessons are learned and integrated into the system.

We must not pretend we can make everything better or provide retribution or revenge. We will though, demonstrate respect, care and concern. Our stated aim is reconciliation

Speedy intervention stops bad practice and bullying developing and becoming systemic; the simpler the intervention the better; one shout of "order" from the floor of a meeting can stop bad practice in its tracks, with little damage done to all.

20 How do I enact the policy?

1. You should feel free to speak up for yourself without fear, and to support others in doing so for them. When an incident occurs, an offended member should raise this immediately with the individual or structure concerned. If the individual or structure recognises offence has been given inadvertently, an apology should be given, note taken of the cause of the offence, and the matter closed.
2. If you feel unsafe in one of our meetings conferences or other spaces due to somebody else's behaviour, you are encouraged to raise the matter as quickly as possible. Seek a resolution. Ask for help if needs be.
3. If you continue to feel unsafe you or a friend should contact a Safer Spaces volunteer on <phone number/e-mail>. The Safer Spaces team will initiate a process to deal with the behaviour. There is no guarantee that we will easily find effective solutions to these problems, but Left Unity is committed to support and promote the safety of members from all kinds of oppression and discrimination.
4. If you wish your complaint will be kept confidential and discussed within a limited number of people. Secret complaints are not manageable.

21 Procedures

Complaints not involving violence or sexual abuse will be dealt with through the Conflict Reconciliation procedure, and both/all parties will be encouraged to communicate their concerns in constructive ways – with mediation if required – with a view to restoring the ability to work together effectively in a Space Safe for all concerned. If the issue is more serious, or impacts on

more than one individual, the complainant may decide to raise the complaint at Branch level. If so, the following happens;

1. Offended member complains directly or via Rep. Complaints should normally be made within three months of an incident; however, in case of serial incidents, or violent or sexual abuse, this requirement should be waived.
2. Written or dictated and agreed accounts requested, with witness accounts within 1 week of complaint being received. These documents to be treated confidentiality.
3. Conciliation process starts. (Or the matter is referred to law).
4. Conciliators should then be approached and meeting with each person separately with conciliators should be arranged.
5. The parties must be given a chance "vent" or personally explain their case safely with reps. This is to demonstrate that the complaint is being taken seriously. Notes should be taken and each person's summaries agreed with them.
6. This process should be completed within 2 weeks of being initiated.
7. Decisions; is it within our remit? If the complaint relates to violence or sexual abuse our advice should be to go to the police, but the decision is the complainants.
8. Left Unity understands that the law is far from perfect. Involving the law has greater impact on a complainant from one of the oppressed groups. If the law is involved Left Unity will continue to support members within its limited resources through the process.
9. Reps may also need to be looked after In case of serious violent or sexual abuse particularly, but potentially in any situation.
10. Reconciliation meetings should take place, within 2 weeks of completion and agreement of accounts of the incident(s). Each party will be supported by their rep., speaking for themselves or through their rep.
11. Conciliators must make notes and discuss possibilities for reconciliation whilst trying not to re-open wounds. Conciliators send the reports to the two people for comment within 1 week of the meetings with the parties to the complaint. Conciliators should aim to be impartial

The parties to the complaint will be expected to respond to these proposals for conciliation within 1 week of receiving them.

12. If accepted by both and no further action required, Report complaint to be closed
13. A short pro-forma to review the proceedings (not the issues) will be circulated; results sent to national committee.
14. Branches to send depersonalised annual reports of all incidents and outcomes to national committee.
15. If not accepted, the matter moves to **resolution**. Reconciliation teams to send a report to the branch (or to a special committee of the branch if one has previously been set up). It can't be set up just to deal with the case. Advice: Such a committee should be set up once the branch has more than 20 activists, the committee will hear first presentations; appeal is to the full branch. (Taking the situation outside the special committee or bringing to open discussion is akin to gossip and must NOT be tolerated. Members of the committee may though consult in confidence and without identifying the situation, branch or persons involved. A record of the consultation must be made).
16. The reconciliation team report will be considered or, if they wish, each party to the complaint or their rep, may make representations (written or verbal) to the branch or the designated committee.

The options open to the committee are

- a) Support
- b) Not Support

At this stage the disputes resolution procedure as set out in the constitution should be referred to.

22. Sanctions against the person complained about are;

- 1 Warning (to in force for 6 months, an upheld complaint of repetition of the incident within this time period to result in suspension). Warnings shall be in force pending appeal.
- 2 Suspension (for a period not less than 2 months, not longer than 6 months, an upheld complaint of repetition of the incident within this time period may result in Expulsion). Suspension shall be in effect from the failure of an appeal, if one is made.
- 3 Another sanction acceptable to both parties
- 4 Expulsion. Expulsion shall take effect from failure of final appeal.

The process will be dealt with as expeditiously as the situation allows and in accordance with agreed time limits..

Anybody who has been named as a perpetrator of violent and serious abuses will also be offered a 'rep' They will not enter meetings or post messages while the process is on-going

Your group should elect or agree the appointment of 'reps' for this policy. Each member on joining should be given the email of that 'rep'.

You will be offered confidentiality for all complaints and given the opportunity to nominate trusted members of the party to mediate for you in any process that follows (though you are also welcome to speak for yourself directly if you prefer).

Complaints involving physical violence, rape, sexual assault or sexual harassment will be dealt with through a survivor-led process, and need not involve any one who the survivor(s) have not nominated as their representative

23 Appeals

1. The Appeal process may be initiated by either party to the complaint.
2. Local Appeal should be normal in the first instance, unless in the case of serious accusations relating to violence or sexual misconduct, when the choice may be made by the person appealing to go straight to a national appeal, or where the dispute was first heard by the branch, and so a national appeal is the person's only recourse.
3. Different people from those who heard the cases initially must hear the appeal. Reports for both sides circulated with the reconciliation report and in the case of national appeals any branch appeal minutes circulated.
4. Appeal meetings must take place within 1 month of the first hearing. The two parties or their reps have the right make a presentation to the Appeal meeting.
5. In the case of a national appeal, first to a complaints committee with delegated powers to resolve the dispute. The complaints committee will elected at the first meeting after annual conference The Appeal meeting will vote on whether to uphold the appeal or not.
6. Final appeal in the case of Expulsion only is to the next national conference. Expulsion will take effect from the date of final appeal. Conference will vote on upholding the previous decision or not.

7. The appeals committee, in the case of National Appeals, or cases relating to serious violent or sexual misconduct shall be required to report on the political lessons to be learned
8. At the end of the proceeding only an agreed minimal record be kept in national records in a closed file.
9. Review of the process; A short pro-forma to review the proceedings (not the issues) will be circulated; results sent to national committee.

24 Commentary

- a. We are all victims of society's conditioning, misinformation and hurts, but we are also good people trying to reach for something better.
- b. We need to acknowledge the oppression of human being is endemic in capitalism, and to admit the fact that we will be unwarily acting out these roles towards one another, but we can change.
- c. Change happens more easily when the people concerned do not feel blamed or judged as this tends to trigger defensive behaviours instead.

We need to ask the following questions when there has been an incident

- d. What identities the people concerned feel they have? (Disabled, woman, working class etc)
- e. Who has the more powerful role in relation to the other?
- f. What behaviours caused the 'hurt' or offence?
- g. What made these behaviours unacceptable within the LU group? (e.g. is swearing unacceptable or just a cultural/class difference?)
- h. What did the person accused of such behaviours intend by their behaviour?
- i. What affect did it have on the victim?
- j. What would the complainant like people to know about how their oppression works?
- k. Is there any need to change the way the Left Unity group is organised to stop these things happening again?
- l. What have the people concerned learned from the process?
- m. Is there any learning which might be useful for a wider discussion on our policies?"

Bullying

In both discussions and actions around this document it has become clear than we need to develop a policy on Bullying, as distinct from oppression based on particular characteristics. It is hoped that in workshops on this document further discussion on this can be developed

This document will link into and supplement the constitution of Left Unity

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 3

National Council Transitional Arrangements (taken from Constitution Appendix 3)

- a) Upon the adoption of this constitution at the party's founding conference, the existing Left Unity National Coordinating Group shall take on the role of Transitional National Council of the new party. This body shall operate until the next National Conference, which shall take place within four months of the founding conference, when it shall dissolve and Clause 10 of the constitution will come fully into operation.
- b) The Transitional National Council will appoint, from its own number (or in the case of the Standing Orders Committee, from the membership at large), such acting national officers and temporary standing committees as are legally required by the Electoral Commission and as it may deem necessary for the efficient administration of the party. These will include Acting National Secretary, Acting Treasurer, and Acting Nominating Officer and members of

Conference Arrangements and Standing Orders Committees, who shall remain in post only until the end of the next National Conference.

- c) The Transitional National Council will organise the election by regional ballot of 40 regional representatives to the incoming National Council, apportioned to the different nations and regions in a manner as proportional to the relative membership of the party as possible, and the election by national ballot of the National Officers and members of the Standing Orders, Disputes and Appeals Committees.

42. Coventry Amendment (and Leamington Spa)

Add new sentence at end of section

[For this transitional period, the ten directly elected posts on the existing NCG will be opened for re-election or otherwise at the Founding Conference today, with nominations allowed from the floor in the lunch break, and voted on during the afternoon.]

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 4

Aims:

4. Section 2 of constitution moved from Internal Democracy Commission.

The aims of Left Unity are:

- a) to unite the diverse strands of radical and socialist politics in the UK including worker's organisations and trade unions; ordinary people, grass root organisations and co-operatives rooted in our neighbourhoods and communities; individuals and communities facing poverty, discrimination and social oppression because of gender, ethnicity, age, disability, sexuality, unemployment or under-employment; environmental and green campaigners; campaigners for freedom and democracy; all those who seek to authentically voice and represent the interests of ordinary working people
- b) to win a mandate to govern and introduce radical and fundamental changes in British society based on our belief in the benefits of cooperation and community ownership instead of the chaotic competition of capitalism; universal human rights, internationalism and peace; social, political and economic equality for all in the fullest sense, without which true democracy and mutual respect cannot flourish; a democratically planned economy that is environmentally sustainable, within which all enterprises, whether privately owned, cooperatives or under public ownership operate in ways that promote the needs of the people and wider society; an inclusive welfare state which operates on the principle that each will contribute to society according to their ability to do so, and society will in return meet their needs.
- c) to above all promote grass roots democracy in the understanding that fundamental and radical change can only come with the support and active involvement of the majority of people and that the way we organise today is a pointer to the kind of society we want to see in the future

Lambeth

The platforms should be taken as platforms of the organisation but not as the aims of the organisation.

Camden

Resolution:

That a vote or votes on the submissions for the 'Aims' section of the constitution should not be put at this conference.

Huddersfield

1. Amendment to Republican Socialist platform:

"This conference believes the statement from the Republican Socialist Platform will not serve to build an inclusive party of the radical left. Delete all and move to next business."

Republican socialist platform

1. The global financial and economic crisis since 2008 has been transformed by governments imposing austerity policies into a massive redistribution of income and wealth from working people to the rich and powerful.

2. This has led to a 'crisis of democracy' as people have protested against the lack of democracy in their governments. Democratic uprisings and protests have impacted on authoritarian and liberal regimes alike. Since Iceland in 2009, democratic movements spread from Tunisia and Egypt right across the Middle East, and onto Russia and more recently Syria and Turkey. There have also been the Occupy protests in Spain and America and elsewhere. Meanwhile, in Greece the banks have imposed austerity policies on the people rendering Greek 'democracy' more or less irrelevant.

3. The UK is not a democracy. The country is governed by an oligarchy which rules in the name of the Crown through the constitutional laws of the 'Crown-in-Parliament'. This involves the hegemony of the Crown over Parliament and the people of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The so-called Glorious Revolution was the beginning of an historic compromise of Crown and Parliament forged between 1688 and 1707. This was never intended as a popular democracy. Despite subsequent democratic reforms, a largely unaccountable bureaucracy, with more and more centralised control, has ensured that political power remains concentrated in the institutions of the Crown, governing "from above".

4. The contradiction between this lack of popular democracy and the official ideology of liberal parliamentarianism has been regularly highlighted by corrupt practices and exposed by protests and popular struggles, most notably over the poll tax and the Iraq war. During the economic and financial crisis, support was freely given by Labour to City institutions while austerity was imposed by the Crown. The subsequent Coalition package of cuts and privatisation was never endorsed by the electorate but cobbled together after the 2010 general election.

5. Today, the public is increasingly disillusioned with 'politics' and alienated by corruption, a lack of democracy and a lack of public accountability. However, people do not necessarily draw radical conclusions from this. The Tory right and UKIP point to Europe as the source of Britain's failing democracy.

6. A progressive resolution of the 'democratic deficit' requires the building of a mass movement for radical democratic reform. The anti-poll tax movement and the mass opposition to the Iraq war contained the seeds of such a movement. In Scotland, opposition to the poll tax fed into demands for a Scottish parliament. But in England, both movements failed to generalise beyond these particular issues into a 'permanent' democratic movement. In 2011, the Occupy movement re-awakened the democratic impulse from which emerged demands for a new constitution or 'Agreement of the People'.

7. Crucially, the Labour left and Trotskyist parties in the UK have failed to champion the cause of fundamental democratic change. They have occasionally paid lip service to the 'democratic deficit' seemingly unaware of the direct economic and social damage this has inflicted on the lives of working people. In essence, Labourism does not fight for republican democracy aiming, instead, to secure reforms by accommodation with the Crown. By not fighting for republican democracy, the Trotskyists have been a mirror image of Labourism, posing against it a demand for total 'socialist revolution' in theory while in their practice not going beyond defending the welfare state.

8. We need a different kind of party to the traditional 'parties' of the left. Such a party would recognise the central importance of the struggle for democracy in mobilising all oppressed sections of society into a mass movement for radical change, a new democratic constitution, and a social republic. This party, drawing on the republican and socialist traditions going back to the Levellers and Diggers and inspired by the militant struggles of the Chartists and Suffragettes, would seek to build and provide leadership for a broad democratic movement, thus becoming a republican socialist party.

2. Amendment to Communist platform:

"This conference believes the statement from the Communist Platform will not serve to build an inclusive party of the radical left. Delete all and move to next business."

Communist platform

- 2) 1. The [Left Unity] Party is a socialist party. It seeks to bring about the end of capitalism and its replacement by the rule of the working class. Our ultimate aim is a society based on the principle of 'from each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs'. A moneyless, classless, stateless society within which each individual can develop their fullest individuality.
- 3) 2. Under capitalism, production is predominantly carried out in order to make a profit for the few, regardless of the needs of society or damage to the environment. Neither capitalism nor its state apparatus can be made to work in the interests of the mass of the population. The rule of the working class requires a state to defend itself, but a state that is withering away, a semi state.
- 4) 3 Socialism means the fullest political, social and economic democracy. It means a society in which the wealth and the means of production are no longer in private hands but are owned in common. Everyone will have the right to participate in deciding how the wealth of society is used and how production is planned to meet the needs of all and to protect the natural world on which we depend. We reject the idea that the undemocratic regimes that existed in the former Soviet Union and other countries were socialist, or represented either the political rule of the working class, or some kind of step on the road to socialism.
- 5) 4. The [Left Unity] Party opposes all oppression and discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, nationality, ethnicity, disability, religion or sexual orientation and aims to create a society in which such oppression and discrimination no longer exist.
- 6) 5. Socialism has to be international. The interests of the working class are basically the same everywhere The [Left Unity] Party opposes all imperialist wars and military interventions. The [Left Unity] Party rejects the idea that there is a national solution to the problems of capitalism. It stands for the maximum solidarity and cooperation between the working class in Britain and elsewhere. It will work with others across Europe for the overthrow of the constitution of the European Union and the creation of a united socialist Europe under democratic working class rule.
- 7) 6. The [Left Unity] Party aims to win support from the working class and all those who want to bring about the socialist transformation of society, which can only be accomplished by the working class itself acting democratically as the majority in society. This means that the organisations of the working class must be democratically, not bureaucratically organised.
- 8) 7. The [Left Unity] Party aims to win political power to end capitalism, not to manage it. It will not participate in governmental coalitions with capitalist parties at national or local level.
- 9) 8. As long as the working class is not able to win political power for itself the [Left Unity] Party will participate in and seek to lead campaigns to defend and radically extend all past gains e.g., living standards and democratic rights. But it recognises that all gains can only be partial and temporary so long as capitalism survives.
- 10) 9. The [Left Unity] Party will use both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary means to build support for its goals of sweeping away the capitalist state and the socialist transformation of society.
- 10 All elected representatives will be accountable to the party membership and will receive no payment above the average wage of a skilled worker (the exact level to be determined by the party conference) plus legitimate expenses.

3. Amendment to Class Struggle platform:

"This conference believes the statement from the Class Struggle Platform will not serve to build an inclusive party of the radical left. Delete all and move to next business."

Class struggle platform

1. Campaign for mass strike action to bring down the Coalition. The TUC moderates have done next to nothing to mobilise millions of union members against austerity. They spend more time with hunting their own best activists than leading a fight back. By contrast the TUC lefts have tried to organise coordinated one-day legal strikes over pensions, but these fell apart as Unison accepted a deal and the lefts failed to appeal to Unison members over the heads of their right wing leaders. Last year the TUC launched a consultation on the practicalities of a general strike. Our reply whenever we have been asked has been yes but still they do nothing. It is plain that to make this happen we will have to fight from the grassroots up, for strikes and campaigns this autumn to link up, to defy the union laws and combine our strength in a joint indefinite national strike against austerity.

2. Campaign for a rank and file movement in the unions. We should launch a fight for a democratic, nationwide movement within the trade unions to break the control of the vastly overpaid general secretaries and the officials that can delay and call off our struggles without consulting us. We need to spread the militant defence of jobs and services, put all unions under rank and file control, pay all officials the average wage of the workers they represent, make all officials accountable and recallable. Our watchword should be: with the union leaders where possible, without them where necessary.

3. Campaign for democratic mass people's assemblies in every town and city. The tremendous response to the People's Assembly and the large turnouts at regional assemblies show the mood is there to bring together all the anti-austerity campaigns into an active force that can practically unite action on a local, regional and national basis. We want to make them lasting bodies, able to make democratic decisions through majority voting and then carry them out. We will try to draw in delegates from as many campaigns, estates, workplaces, schools and colleges and we can.

4. Campaign to smash the EDL and defend Muslims from pogroms and fascist violence. The EDL, BNP and other fascist groups try to divide the working class by stirring up hatred and carrying out violent attacks against Muslims, black and Asian people, LGBT people, and the left. We should back the formation of united campaigns in every area with the aim of denying the fascists any platform to spread their views or to incite hatred and violence. We will work with militant antifascist groups, trade unionists, Muslims and youth to form self-defence groups to defend our meetings, demonstrations mosques and communities, to stop EDL hate marches and resist police attacks on anti-fascist and anti-racist protests.

5. International solidarity against austerity, unemployment, racism and war. Across Europe and around the world millions of people like us are fighting the effects of the crisis and the attempts of the capitalists to make ordinary people pay to save their system. New parties have been formed over the last decade to the left of the Labour and Socialist parties that will not break from neo-liberalism. In Greece, France, and many other countries, they are fighting back and debating what a programme for socialism means in the 21st century. We will work with them in immediate practical acts of solidarity, especially with those facing the most severe attacks like in Greece. And we will propose and try to build a new international organisation of the working class. We will fight all wars and 'interventions' planned by our rulers, we will support the Arab revolutions and the Palestinians, we will try to get all the troops and bases out of the Middle East and Central Asia. We will take solidarity action with movements for democracy and social justice, against imperialist occupation and with national liberation movements.

6. Campaign to draw tens of thousands into a new mass party. Our founding conference is scheduled for November 2013. The huge groundswell of support for Ken Loach's first appeal for this new party – which drew nearly 10,000 backers in just a few weeks – is a clear sign that large numbers are ready to rally to an alternative. But it will not be possible for our new initiative to rally scores of thousands, or to draw up a detailed party programme, on such a short timescale.

That means we should deepen and extend the process of policy commissions that we launched in June, continue it beyond November, and above all try to bring many thousands of activists and campaigners beyond our current ranks into the process of drawing up proposals for policy and action and then debating them out. So we address our call to campaigners against the Bedroom Tax; trade unionists; disabled people campaigning against ATOS and benefit cuts; socialists; women resisting domestic violence, the culture of rape and abuse, pay discrimination and poverty; anti-racist activists confronting the EDL; Muslims resisting racist attacks; movements against war and in solidarity with revolutions in Europe and the Middle East; students fighting fees, course closures and sell-offs; unemployed activists.

We appeal to all to come together in big local gatherings to help form this new party and shape its policy, in an atmosphere of democracy, solidarity and taking action together. In this way we will draw thousands into the creation of our fuller programme: economic policies, our relation to the trade unions, our approach to elections, policies on benefits and welfare, Scotland, Ireland, the EU, environmental destruction, deepening democracy and resisting repression, our attitude to new left parties in Europe, women's, LGBT, black and youth liberation. Above all we will be able to discuss with thousands how we can develop a strategy for taking real power into the hands of the people, forming a working class government, defeating capitalism and creating a world free of poverty, exploitation, oppression and war.

4.2 Platform 9 ¾

- 1) That we proceed to have a debate about the aims and values of the new party/organisation but that it is premature to vote at the founding conference for one of the existing platforms.
- 2) That we should conduct debate in a civilised manner and in good humour.
- 3) That the party/organisation should be a nice party that people enjoy being in.
- 4) That we thank Ken Loach and give him a cake on his birthday for the rest of his life.

4.3 HACKNEY/THLU STATEMENT

Introduction: The Ken Loach appeal launched in association with his film *The Spirit of 45* and calling for a new left party has resulted in over 8000 responses nationally. The film informs us that in 1945 the Labour Party pledged to put an end to the social evils of disease, idleness (mass unemployment), ignorance, squalor (slum housing) and want (poverty) and, despite the legacy of wartime debts, achieved significant reforms. Britain today, along with the rest of Europe and North America, is far wealthier in human and technological resources than it was in 1945. Yet as a result of over 30 years of so-called free-market policies, culminating in a chronic economic and financial crisis since 2007, all those evils have returned.

Our most urgent task is to defend and reclaim the gains won by the labour movement during more than a century of struggles. We believe that there is no prospect of the Labour Party today doing that effectively. Elsewhere in Europe left parties such as Syriza in Greece are winning mass support for resistance to austerity. In Britain we also need to create a new Left Party founded on the following political principles and policy commitments:

1. On the Immediate Economic Crisis.

- We are against austerity programmes which make the mass of working people, the old, the young and the sick, pay for a systemic crisis of capitalism.
- We are for policies to restore full employment through measures such as reduced working hours for all; spending on public housing, infrastructure and services; and the public ownership of, and democratic collective control over, basic utilities, transport systems and the financial sector.

2. On Public Services

- We are against the creeping privatisation of the NHS and Education, the sell-off of the Royal Mail and the marketization of the public sector as a whole.

- We are for free provision of education (from nurseries to adult and higher education), the arts and all forms of healthcare.
- 3. On The Environment**
- We are against an economic system which prioritises short-term profit over the future of the planet, and which is responsible for accelerated climate change and ecological crisis.
 - We are for sustainable development, an end to energy and transport policies which contribute to global warming and for an agricultural system which is committed to animal welfare and environmental protection.
- 4. On Employment**
- We are against the casualization of employment conditions and laws which restrict the right of workers to organise effectively and take industrial action.
 - We are for the 'living wage' as a minimum for all, an extension of employment rights for all workers and support for workers' cooperatives.
- 5. On Tax and Welfare**
- We are against cuts in benefits and measures such as the bedroom tax, changes to disability allowance and cuts in legal aid, hurting the poorest.
 - We are for a tax and welfare system based on the principles of social justice, universal benefits and steeply progressive and effective taxation.
- 6. On Equalities**
- We are against all forms of discrimination and oppression whether on the basis of gender, race, religion, sexuality, (dis)ability or national identity.
 - We are for an inclusive society with equal citizenship rights for all, including asylum-seekers and refugees, and support for all those in need.
- 7. On Internationalism**
- We are against fascism, war, imperialism and an international economic system dominated by the wealthy and militarily powerful nations.
 - We are for the right of national self-determination for oppressed nationalities such as the Kurds and Palestinians and solidarity with all those resisting austerity and oppression. We are for 'fair trade' and recognise the necessity for global solutions to global problems such as climate change.
- 8. On Anti-Capitalism**
- We are against a system whose benefits go disproportionately to 1% of the population and which is responsible for devastating economic and ecological crises across the planet.
 - We are ultimately for a radical social transformation based on the principle of 'people not profit' and drawing on the best of the cooperative, radical democratic, feminist, green, and socialist traditions (although we may disagree on how such a transformation can eventually be achieved).
- 9. On a New Party**
- We are against the bureaucratic centralism, corruption and sexism to be found in existing political parties of the right and left.
 - We are for a mass, democratic and inclusive party which unites campaigners and trade union activists, supports collective direct action and self-organisation, and has close links with similar parties or movements resisting austerity and 'freemarket' policies across Europe and elsewhere.

4.4 Left Party Platform

1. The party stands for equality and justice. It is socialist, feminist, environmentalist and against all forms of discrimination. We stand against capitalism, imperialism, war, racism, Islamophobia and fascism. Our goal is to transform society: to achieve the full democratisation of state and political institutions, society and the economy, by and for the people.
2. Our immediate tasks are to oppose austerity policies designed to destroy the social and economic gains working people have made over many decades; to oppose the scapegoating which accompanies them; to defend the welfare state and those worst affected by the onslaught; to fight to take back into public ownership those industries and utilities privatised over the last three decades; to fight to restore workers' rights; and to advance alternative social and economic policies, redistributing wealth to the working class.
3. We are *socialist* because our vision of society is one where the meeting of human needs is paramount, not one which is driven by the quest for private profit and the enrichment of a few. The natural wealth, productive resources and social means of existence will be owned in common and democratically run by and for the people as a whole, rather than being owned and controlled by a small minority to enrich themselves. The reversal of the gains made in this direction after 1945 has been catastrophic and underlines the urgency of halting and reversing the neo-liberal onslaught.
4. We are *feminist* because our vision of society is one without the gender oppression and exploitation which blights the lives of women and girls and makes full human emancipation impossible. We specify our feminism because historical experience shows that the full liberation of women does not automatically follow the nationalisation of productive forces or the reordering of the economy. We fight to advance this goal in the current political context, against the increasing divergence between men's and women's incomes, against the increasing poverty among women, against the 'double burden' of waged work and unshared domestic labour, and against the increasing violence against women in society and in personal relationships, which is exacerbated by the economic crisis.
5. We are *environmentalist* because our vision of society is one which recognises that if humankind is to survive, it has to establish a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world – of which it is part and on which it depends. We recognise that an economy based on achieving maximum profits at the lowest cost in the shortest possible time is destroying our planet. The current operation of industry and economy is totally incompatible with the maintenance of the ecosystem through the growing loss of bio and agro diversity, the depletion of resources and increasing climate change. The future of the planet can only be secured through a sustainable, low carbon industrial base designed to meet people's needs on a global basis.
6. We are *opposed to all forms of discrimination*, whether on the basis of class, gender, race, impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, religion, age or politics. The current economic onslaught disproportionately affects already disadvantaged groups and we oppose their persecution and oppression. We support the free development, opportunity and expression of all, without impinging on the rights of others, and the introduction of legislation and social provision to make this intention a reality. No society is just and equal while some people remain without the support needed to achieve their full potential.
7. We work for and support strong, effective, democratic trade unions to fight for better wages and salaries, for improved living standards, for better working conditions and stronger, more favourable, contracts of employment. We believe that the strength of the union is the people in the workplace; that what each person does at work matters – to make the job better, to make the service provided more effective, to persuade workers to combine for greater strength.
8. Our political practice is democratic, diverse and inclusive, organising amongst working class communities with no interests apart from theirs, committed to open dialogue and new ways of working; to the mutual respect and tolerance of differences of analysis; to the rejection of the corruption of conventional political structures and their reproduction of the gender domination of capitalist society. We recognise that economic transformation does not automatically bring an end to

discrimination and injustice and that these sites of struggle must be developed and won, openly and together.

9. We will campaign, mobilise and support struggles on a day to day basis, recognising the need for self-organisation in working class communities. We recognise that support for our party and its electoral success will only advance to the extent that it is genuinely representative of working class communities, has no interests separate from theirs, and is an organic part of the campaigns and movements which they generate and support. We will engage in the national and local electoral processes, offering voters a left alternative – where any elected representatives will take an average wage – while understanding that elections are not the only arena or even the most important arena in which political struggles are fought.

10. We are an *internationalist* party. There are no national solutions to the problems that humanity faces. Capitalism is an international system, highly organised and globalised and its defeat requires not only international solidarity but the linking up and coordination of struggles across Europe and the world. We will work with left organisations and movements in Europe and internationally such as the new European left parties currently organised in the European Left Party, including Syriza, Bloco de Esquerda, Izquierda Unida, Die Linke, Front de Gauche and others, to build coordination, strategic links and common actions to advance that struggle. We will also seek to learn from the experience of those parties in Latin America which have challenged and rejected neo-liberal economic policies and are establishing a social and economic alternative in the interests of the majority of their peoples. We stand against war and military intervention, against the exploitation of other countries for economic gain, and for a drastic reduction of military expenditure for the benefit of social spending, and for a foreign policy based on peace and equality.

Camden amendment

Paragraph 3: First sentence; delete 'vision of society is one' and replace with 'aim is to end capitalism. We will pursue a society'. Second sentence; Delete 'productive resources and social means of existence' and replace with 'and the means of production, distribution and exchange'.

Paragraph 4:

Delete all after 'reordering the economy.'

Paragraph 5: First sentence; delete 'our vision of society is one which recognises' and replace with 'we recognise'. Second sentence; delete 'We recognise that'.

Paragraph 6:

Third sentence; delete 'the free development, opportunity and expression of all, without impinging on the rights of others, and'.

Paragraph 7: First sentence; insert 'full employment' after 'democratic trade unions to fight for'.

Paragraph 8: Delete all after 'new ways of working' in the first sentence and add the amended sentence to the beginning of the existing paragraph 9 to create a new Paragraph 8. After 'We will engage in' delete 'the national and local electoral processes' and insert 'elections'. After 'any elected representatives will take an average wage' insert 'and be accountable to the party membership'.

Insert new Paragraph 9; 'We aim to win political power, not to manage it.

We will not participate in governmental coalitions with capitalist parties at a local or national level.'

Paragraph 10: Third sentence; after 'We will work with left organizations and movements in Europe and internationally' delete 'such as the new European left parties ... to advance that struggle' and replace with 'that share our aims'. Fourth sentence; delete 'peoples' and replace with 'people'. Fifth sentence; delete 'war and military intervention' and replace with 'imperialist wars and military interventions'.

The resulting statement of aims would read thus:

1. The party stands for equality and justice. It is socialist, feminist, environmentalist and against all forms of discrimination. We stand against capitalism, imperialism, war, racism, Islamophobia and fascism. Our goal is to transform society: to achieve the full democratisation of state and political institutions, society and the economy, by and for the people.

2. Our immediate tasks are to oppose austerity policies designed to destroy the social and economic gains working people have made over many decades; to oppose the scapegoating which accompanies them; to defend the welfare state and those worst affected by the onslaught; to fight to take back into public ownership those industries and utilities privatised over the last three decades; to fight to restore workers' rights; and to advance alternative social and economic policies, redistributing wealth to the working class.

3. We are socialist because our aim is to end capitalism. We will pursue a society where the meeting of human needs is paramount, not one which is driven by the quest for private profit and the enrichment of a few. The natural wealth and the means of production, distribution and exchange will be owned in common and democratically run by and for the people as a whole, rather than being owned and controlled by a small minority to enrich themselves. The reversal of the gains made in this direction after 1945 has been catastrophic and underlines the urgency of halting and reversing the neo-liberal onslaught.

4. We are feminist because our vision of society is one without the gender oppression and exploitation which blights the lives of women and girls and makes full human emancipation impossible. We specify our feminism because historical experience shows that the full liberation of women does not automatically follow the nationalisation of productive forces or the reordering of the economy.

5. We are environmentalist because we recognise that if humankind is to survive, it has to establish a sustainable relationship with the rest of the natural world – of which it is part and on which it depends. An economy based on achieving maximum profits at the lowest cost in the shortest possible time is destroying our planet. The current operation of industry and economy is totally incompatible with the maintenance of the ecosystem through the growing loss of bio and agro diversity, the depletion of resources and increasing climate change. The future of the planet can only be secured through a sustainable, low carbon industrial base designed to meet people's needs on a global basis.

6. We are opposed to all forms of discrimination, whether on the basis of class, gender, race, impairment, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, religion, age or politics. The current economic onslaught disproportionately affects already disadvantaged groups and we oppose their persecution and oppression. We support the introduction of legislation and social provision to make this intention a reality. No society is just and equal while some people remain without the support needed to achieve their full potential.

7. We work for and support strong, effective, democratic trade unions to fight for full employment, better wages and salaries, for improved living standards, for better working conditions and stronger, more favourable, contracts of employment. We believe that the strength of the union is the people in the workplace; that what each person does at work matters – to make the job better, to make the service provided more effective, to persuade workers to combine for greater strength.

8. Our political practice is democratic, diverse and inclusive, organizing amongst working class communities with no interests apart from theirs, committed to open dialogue and new ways of working. We will campaign, mobilise and support struggles on a day to day basis, recognising the need for self-organisation in working class communities. We recognise that support for our party and its electoral success will only advance to the extent that it is genuinely representative of working class communities, has no interests separate from theirs, and is an organic part of the campaigns and movements which they generate and support. We will engage in elections, offering voters a left alternative – where any elected representatives will take an average wage and be accountable to the party membership – while understanding that elections are not the only arena or even the most important arena in which political struggles are fought.

10. We are an internationalist party. There are no national solutions to the problems that humanity faces. Capitalism is an international system, highly organised and globalised and its defeat requires not only international solidarity but the linking up and coordination of struggles across Europe and the world. We will work with left organisations and movements in Europe and internationally that share

our aims. We will also seek to learn from the experience of those parties in Latin America which have challenged and rejected neo-liberal economic policies and are establishing a social and economic alternative in the interests of the majority of their peoples. We stand against imperialist wars and military interventions, against the exploitation of other countries for economic gain, and for a drastic reduction of military expenditure for the benefit of social spending, and for a foreign policy based on peace and equality.

Manchester amendment

AMENDMENT TO LEFT PARTY PLATFORM STATEMENT OF AIMS (paragraph on trade unions)*

Add to the end of paragraph 7: "Going on strike (including mass/general strikes), occupying workplaces and solidarity between workers (in different unions and/or workplaces) can be effective tactics in winning individual disputes and changing society."

AMENDMENT TO LEFT PARTY PLATFORM STATEMENT OF AIMS (new paragraph)

Add new paragraph (11): "In line with the party being a broad socialist party, it should reflect a wide variety of views in our literature and on our website and forum. Our members will include:

a) reformists in favour of gradual change towards socialism and revolutionaries who believe some sort of (preferably peaceful) socialist revolution is necessary while supporting such reforms in the short term (and of course those who don't know how socialism can/will be achieved).

b) those who believe in change through elections and/or extra-parliamentary activity. Those who want to join the party but only take part in one of those types of activity would be welcome.

4.5 Socialist platform

1. The [Left Unity] Party is a socialist party. Its aim is to bring about the end of capitalism and its replacement by socialism.
2. Under capitalism, production is carried out solely to make a profit for the few, regardless of the needs of society or damage to the environment. Capitalism does not and cannot be made to work in the interests of the majority. Its state and institutions will have to be replaced by ones that act in the interests of the majority.
3. Socialism means complete political, social and economic democracy. It requires a fundamental breach with capitalism. It means a society in which the wealth and the means of production are no longer in private hands but are owned in common. Everyone will have the right to participate in deciding how the wealth of society is used and how production is planned to meet the needs of all and to protect the natural world on which we depend. We reject the idea that undemocratic regimes that existed in the former Soviet Union and other countries were socialist.
4. The [Left Unity] Party opposes all oppression and discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, nationality, ethnicity, disability, religion or sexual orientation and aims to create a society in which such oppression and discrimination no longer exist.
5. Socialism has to be international. The interests of the working class are the same everywhere. The [Left Unity] Party opposes all imperialist wars and military interventions. It rejects the idea that there is a national solution to the problems of capitalism. It stands for the maximum solidarity and cooperation between the working class in Britain and elsewhere. It will work with others across Europe to replace the European Union with a voluntary European federation of socialist societies.
6. The [Left Unity] Party aims to win support from the working class and all those who want to bring about the socialist transformation of society, which can only be accomplished by the working class itself acting democratically as the majority in society.

7. The [Left Unity] Party aims to win political power to end capitalism, not to manage it. It will not participate in governmental coalitions with capitalist parties at national or local level.
8. So long as the working class is not able to win political power for itself the [Left Unity] Party will participate in working-class campaigns to defend all past gains and to improve living standards and democratic rights. But it recognises that any reforms will only be partial and temporary so long as capitalism continues.
9. The [Left Unity] Party will use both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary means to build support for its ultimate goal - the socialist transformation of society.
10. All elected representatives will be accountable to the party membership and will receive no payment above the average wage of a skilled worker (the exact level to be determined by the party conference) plus legitimate expenses.

Leicester amendment

We wish to amend the Aims Section (2) of the Draft Final Constitution with an additional 4th clause. Should this be replaced by another version of Aims in the course of debate, we wish this clause to be taken as an amendment to the replacement.

(d) to organise and campaign in ways that recognise and promote alternative and new forms of popular political culture that are creative and educational, that can move and empower people through hopes of a better and realisable future, and that delight, inspire and provoke thought.

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 5

Selection of Party Name

'Left Party' 2 mins

Left Party reflects the move forward from the discussion about a party to founding a party. It benefits from simplicity and states directly what we are and what we are building. Having 'party' in the name makes it clear that we are a political party and not a movement or a campaign.

Crouch End LU

'Lefty Unity Party' 2 mins

As it is difficult to register a Party name which includes the word 'socialist' with the Electoral Commission, we looked elsewhere. We felt 'Left Unity' had started to resonate, and accurately described what we were all about, but thought we would appear more serious and permanent with 'Party' added.

Rugby Left Unity

'Democratic Voice' 2 mins

- 11) Taps into popular disgust with corrupt political system, an alternative voice to establishment austerity policies
- 12) Outward looking: not just appealing to existing left
- 13) Brands us as a movement, not just a party
- 14) States our aim: to democratise economy, all aspects of society
- 15) Electorally friendly, no negative baggage or trigger-words

Huddersfield LU

'Left Unity' 2 mins

LU has name recognition (over 10,000 signed the appeal), we want to unite most of the left (not be another of the "57 varieties" of left-wing organisation), the word "party" is unpopular particularly among young people, and with no obvious drawbacks, Left Unity should be kept as our name.

Manchester South and Central Left Unity

The members of this branch signed up to be part of the Left Unity movement, therefore resolves that the name of Left Unity should be kept.

Northampton Left Unity

To be conducted using the Supplementary Vote system.

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 6

Constitution

(sections 1 and 2 voted separately)

3) MEMBERSHIP

Membership of [Left Unity] shall be open to any individual without regard to disability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation who:

- a) commits to further the aims of [Left Unity]
- b) agrees to abide by the democratically decided rules and constitution of [Left Unity]
- c) pays any membership subscription agreed by National Conference
- d) supports [Left Unity] candidates in elections
- e) is not a member of an organisation deemed incompatible with membership of [Left Unity] by National Conference or National Council
- f) is at least thirteen years old
- g) abides the principles and guidelines of behaviour set out in the Safer Spaces policy (Appendix 1)

1. Islington Amendment

Delete point 3f

4) STRUCTURE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- a) The minutes of all meetings of branches, regional and national committees or other party bodies will be published and made available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.
- b) No member may hold a nationally elected post within the party for more than three consecutive years, following which s/he may not stand for election to that post for two years.
- c) The term of all elected posts within the party shall be one year, from Annual Conference to Annual Conference. All party bodies have the right to recall the elected delegates, officers and spokespersons accountable to them.
- d) As part of our overall commitment to gender equality, at least 50% of those elected to regional and national party bodies should be women.

- e) Care will be taken in when deciding the venue of all national meetings that they take place in geographic locations that are conveniently accessible and a London-centric approach is avoided.
- f) Members are expected to adhere to the principles and guidelines set out in the Safer Spaces policy (Appendix 1)

2.Wigan Amendment

Delete

Clause e. beginning [Care will be taken....] and insert: Care will be taken to not only 'feminise' the party and make it a welcome environment for all the especially oppressed, but also need to 'nationalise' it, i.e. make it a truly national party and remove the tendency to London centrality by better enfranchising and empowering those members living in the North, South West and Midlands, whatever their background.

This shall be done by positively discriminating in favour of those areas: moving national meetings around the country so that only one in five meetings at most takes place in London, and the others take place, in cities like Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds/Sheffield, Manchester/Liverpool, Newcastle, Leicester, etc

Also, by situating any national office in Birmingham and by various other measures commonly agreed, including, by using Skype/video conferencing so as to counter the possibility of the domination of any possible London (or other big city) 'elite'.

3.Cardiff Amendment

In paragraph 4a delete [and] and insert after "national committees" [the Executive Committee] then re-punctuate.

Paragraph 4a will then read "The minutes of all meetings of branches, regional, national committees, the Executive Committee or other party bodies will be published and made available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms."

4 Loughborough Amendment

Amendment 4d) Delete all and insert [As part of our overall commitment to gender equality, at least 40% of those elected to regional and national party bodies should be women and 40% men.]

5.Leamington Spa Amendment

Delete point d).

5) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Individual members will have the following opportunities to participate in decision making in Left Unity:

- as a member of a branch that can propose resolutions to regional bodies, National Conference and national committees
- through attending and participating in National Conferences
- through electing representatives from the branch to regional bodies, elected regional members of national committees, national individual office-holders and the principal spokespeople for the party
- through standing for election for the above

- through participation in on-line forums and postal consultative exercises in e-democracy organised to strengthen the participation of Left Unity of members who, for a range of reasons, including geographical isolation, disabilities, caring responsibilities, may not be able to attend all meetings
- As members of sections and caucuses individuals can join together with other members to propose motions to regional and national bodies and nominate individuals for elected individual positions at a national level

6. Rugby Amendment

Add extra point [g) by submitting resolutions to conferences provided they are a) seconded and b) resubmitted to an appropriate delegate body between conferences if they are not reached at the conference.]

6) BRANCHES

- a) Branches bring together members and supporters of Left Unity along area, constituency and ward lines. Decisions to split or merge branches will be made by the groups themselves, subject to approval by the National Council
- b) Regional committees or the National Council may create branches according to need or where none exist
- c) Individual members will normally be part of the branch based on the geographical area in which they live. In some cases however, an individual member may find it more appropriate to be part of a branch based on where s/he works or studies – but this should be agreed with the branch covering the area where the member lives and that which s/he wishes to join
- d) Members can only be a voting member of one branch
- e) A branch must contain at least 10 members
- f) Branches will manage their affairs in accordance with the national rules of Left Unity. Branches should normally meet monthly
- g) Branches may elect representatives to regional bodies and nominate candidates for any of the elected national committees or positions
- h) Branches will operate their own accounts and can raise money to fund local activities as they see fit in addition to the monies received from national level
- i) Branches shall produce their own Standing Orders, reflecting their specific method of operation and local circumstances; however, local arrangements must not conflict with the provisions of the Model Standing Orders in Appendix 2.

7. Cardiff Amendment

In paragraph 6c after “studies” in line three delete all from “but – “join” in line five and re-punctuate.

Paragraph 6c will then read “Individual members will normally be part of the branch based on the geographical area in which they live. In some cases however, an individual member may find it more appropriate to be part of a branch based on where s/he works or studies.”

8. Rugby Amendment

6e) delete [at least 10 members] and insert [at least 5 members – to be reviewed in the light of the development of Left Unity and no later than 18 months from the founding conference]

7. SECTIONS AND CAUCUSES

Members of LU have the right to form and organise in Sections if agreed by the National Council (subject to confirmation at the next convenient Annual Conference) and caucuses.

a) Sections

- i. Sections can be set up to encourage the self-organisation of party members who suffer from specific discrimination to enable them to have a collective voice within Left Unity, to take a lead in the party on these issues and to organise collectively in campaigns against oppression
- ii. The National Council will create sectional structures to represent the following oppressed groups:
 - I. LGBT members section
 - II. Black and Ethnic Minority members section
 - III. Disabled members section
- iii. Sections can also be set up to bring together party members who have distinct interests (such as housing, ecology or education) or who are members of the same trade union. Such sections can help to bring together members who are active in campaigns in order to intervene more effectively, co-ordinate activity, promote the party's policies and feedback experience into the party.
- iv. Sections should submit their terms of reference to the National Council (or regional committee if regionally based) for approval prior to their formal launch. These should state who is eligible to join the section, the activities it intends to undertake and how the internal democracy of the network will operate. Sections will submit written reports to National Council/Regional Councils on their activity at least twice a year

b) Caucuses

- i. Members have the right to organise in political caucuses. As a pluralist party, we recognise that a range of political points of view is a healthy source of debate and new ideas.
- ii. All caucuses should be open – their meetings, aims and objectives should be available to all other party members. The guiding assumption and principle for the activities and existence of caucuses in LU is that they will not be permanent factions but they exist to promote certain specific concepts, ideas or policies
- iii. Caucuses have a right to be heard, to organise meetings, to produce literature, to distribute materials at LU meetings and, in general, to try to influence and/or change party policy, but must not do so in the name of LU or any of its constituent bodies
- iv. Caucuses may not organise public campaigns against the overall aims or policy of the party
- v. If a member of a caucus stands for any elected position they will declare their membership in the interests of transparency and to promote informed choices

c) Youth and Student sections

- i. Subject to the approval of National Conference, [Left Unity] shall establish youth and student groups in local constituencies, in schools and in colleges and universities. Membership of the party's youth section shall be open to all members between the ages of 14 and 26 and of its student section to all members who are full or part-time students in any educational establishment.
- ii. Members of local youth and student groups shall establish their own national sections and determine their own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.

9.Crouch End Amendment

7a) ii – Add new point iv. Women members

10.Islington Amendment

7a) iii delete all. (see also amendment to 12d)

7c) i – delete [between the ages of 14 and] and replace with [up to the age of 26]

11. Manchester South and Central Amendment

7c) i – delete [between the ages of 14 and 26] and insert [from 13 to under 27]

Add new point 7c) iii - All members of the youth groups regardless of age should have the right to speak freely on any subject. The voice of the young people is important and should be heard. They should also have the power to vote on issues within LU providing they are full paying members.

12. Hackney Amendment

7b) iv – delete the words [or policy]

13. Sheffield Amendment

Delete 7b) point iv completely.

14. Cardiff Amendment

7b) ii – Delete sentence [The guiding assumption.....their ideas and policies]

15. Tower Hamlets Amendment

Replace in instances the word [caucus] with [platform] and replace in all instances the word [section] with [caucus]

16. Lambeth Amendment

7a) i and ii – replace the word [section] with [caucus]

7a) iii and iv to be replaced by new 7b) Sections i and ii. Delete [also] in line one.

New 7c) to replace old 7b) – Same wording but the word [caucus] to be replaced throughout with [tendency]

New 7d) to replace the old 7c) Delete [youth and student sections] with [youth caucus and student sections] and then the same wording.

8) ENGLISH, REGIONAL, SCOTTISH AND WELSH STRUCTURES

- a) National committees will be created for Scotland and Wales, comprised of elected representatives of the branches in those nations
- b) In recognition of the different political contexts and to better deal with issues specific to these countries, members in Scotland and Wales have the right to draw up their own constitutional rules and organisational structures that adhere to the principles set out in (4) of the constitution and the Code of Conduct for elected representatives set out in Clauses 15 and 16, subject to approval by National Conference/National Council
- c) In England, regional committees of representatives from branches will be organised for the following English regions London, South East, North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern, South West. Each branch will be entitled to send two delegates with speaking and voting rights (one male and one female) and as many observers as wish to come. Expenses of delegates to be met from regional funds, local observers from branch funds
- d) The role of English regional, Welsh and Scottish committees will be co-ordinating and prioritising campaigning and organisational activities, assisting in the creation and building of branches and encouraging political education

- e) If 50 individuals from Northern Ireland apply to join LU the NC will bring appropriate proposals for organisational and constitutional changes to Annual Conference

17. West London Amendment (and Waltham Forest)

Delete section 8 e) "If 50 individuals from Northern Ireland apply to join LU the NC will bring appropriate proposals for organisational and constitutional changes to Annual Conference".

18. Islington Amendment

8c) delete first sentence beginning [in England, regional committees...] and replace with [in England, regional committees of representatives from branches will be created by the national council where a majority of branches in that region ask for this to happen]

In 8c) Where it reads ["Each branch will be entitled to send two delegates with speaking and voting rights (one male and one female) and as many observers as wish to come] - replace [one male and one female] with [at least one of whom must be female]

19. Cardiff Amendment

Heading to be re-worded as [8 English, Scottish, Welsh and Regional Structures]

8d) delete [Welsh and Scottish] in the first line.

Insert new 8e) – [The role of the Welsh and Scottish committees will be to develop and agree policy within the remit of the devolved powers of the Welsh Assembly and the Scottish Parliament so long as they do not contradict the aims of Left Unity as stated in the constitution and as subsequently understood by national conference. These two committees will also have the role of co-ordinating and prioritising campaigning and organisational activities, assisting in the creation and building of branches and encouraging political education] (if passed – see 9a))

9) NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- a) The national conferences of Left Unity are the supreme policy making body. Each National Conference shall take place within 13 months of the previous one. No conference is bound by the decisions of a previous conference
- b) The National Council may call a Special National Conference on a vote of 2/3 present and voting at a quorate meeting, or if, over a three month period, 25 % of branches pass a resolution or 25 % of members sign a petition calling for a special conference. In this event the NC will organise it as quickly as practically possible but with a minimum of one months notice
- c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2,000 members the provisions in 7 (d) will come into force
- d) National delegate conference
 - i. Conference shall be organised on a delegate basis from branches, with the size of delegations based on two delegates per ten members or part thereof, or on such other proportion of branch membership as shall be decided from time to time by Conference.
 - ii. The party's national youth and student sections shall be entitled to send delegates to National Conference on a basis that shall be determined from time to time by Conference.
 - iii. All party members are entitled to attend National Conference as visitors. Party visitors can participate in debates but will not have voting rights.
- e) The National Council, branches and Regional/Scottish/Welsh committees have the right to propose motions that if passed by the National Conference will become policy.
- f) Individual members of LU will have the right to submit motions, so long as 20 full members have signed their support, or such a number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference

- g) Sub-committees or working parties established by conference motion may be charged to submit proposals directly to National Conference
- h) Sections may send one motion and one amendment to National Conference.
- i) A Conference Arrangements Committee, which shall consist of four members elected at each National Conference, plus the National Secretary, will be responsible for all aspects of the organisation of the following National Conference except the organisation and timing of its agenda, which is the responsibility of the Standing Orders Committee.

20. Cardiff Amendment (if amendment to section 8 is successful)

9a) first sentence to read "The national conferences of Left Unity are the supreme policy making body other than where 8e above applies."

9e) Insert [national] between [Regional/] and [Scottish]

21. Islington Amendment

9d) i - Insert in **bold [at least one of whom shall be a woman]** between [thereof] and [or on such other...]

22. Tower Hamlets Amendment

Delete 9f) completely.

10) DIRECT DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION, THE INTERNET AND E-CONFERENCES

- a) Left Unity is committed to using IT, and in particular the internet, to enhance its democratic processes. Therefore, the National Council, or such sub-committee that it may establish to deal with these issues, shall regularly review this area and present a report to Annual Conference, with proposals, on developing the use of IT
- b) The National Council shall organise E-conferences on specific single issues or questions as it decides or when requested by 25% of branches in the course of a three month period. These shall take place on a forum to be organised by the NC with online debate and voting, restricted via password protection to subs-paying LU members
- c) Provision will be made for voting in all elections to be conducted by internet voting, but members may choose to receive postal votes instead
- d) All discussion and debate will be expected to be respectful and adhere to the standards of behaviour set out in the Safer Spaces policy (Appendix 1)

11) STANDING COMMITTEES

- a) All members of specialist national committees will be nominated by branches and directly elected by the members in national elections
- b) The following national committees of Left Unity with specialist roles will exist:
 - i. Disputes Committee
 - ii. Appeals Committee
 - iii. Standing Orders Committee
- c) The National Council will form *ad hoc* sub-committees and working groups as it sees fit to deal with specialist areas of work. These will be advertised and members encouraged to get involved and contribute, as far as possible, and be open to participation by the wider membership. All agendas and minutes to be published
- d) The quorum for all national committees will be 55% of the elected members. All standing committees will meet at least 3 times per year

12) NATIONAL COUNCIL

- a) Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference:
 - i. 40 regional representatives
 - ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members
 - iii. 2 nationally elected principal speakers
 - iv. 5 nationally elected office holders
- b) The National Council shall meet at least 6 times a year and 55% of members must be present to form a quorum (not including unfilled positions or places in the calculation). Chairing to be rotational.
- c) All branches, regional committees and sections shall have the right to send motions and amendments to National Council.
- d) The National Council may establish sub-committees and working parties as necessary to look in detail at specific areas of policy development, to develop campaign proposals and to organise events. Sub-committees and working parties do not have to consist of members of the National Council, but are accountable to it. Sub-committees and working parties should report to the National Council. The minutes of sub-committee and working group meetings should be forwarded to the National Council for information and available upon request to any full party member
- e) All full members of the party are entitled to attend National Council meetings as observers.
- f) The National Council shall adopt its own standing orders, subject to approval by National Conference.
- g) The term of office for all members of the National Council will be 1 year.
- h) The National Council may create new National Officer posts, nominate spokespeople on particular issues and temporarily co-opt from within its own membership or the membership at large to fill them, subject to confirmation by National conference and thereafter elected by a national ballot of all members.
- i) In the event of a vacancy occurring for any position within the National Council the Executive Committee will take immediate steps to organise the election of a replacement

Regional representatives

- j) A total of 40 regional representatives, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference, will be members of National Council, representing the following regions (coterminous with regions for elections for the European Parliament):
 - i. Electoral region 1 - London
 - ii. Electoral region 2 - North East
 - iii. Electoral region 3 - North West
 - iv. Electoral region 4 - Yorkshire and Humber
 - v. Electoral region 5 - East Midlands
 - vi. Electoral region 6 - West Midlands
 - vii. Electoral region 7 - Eastern
 - viii. Electoral region 8 - South West
 - ix. Electoral region 9 - South East
 - x. Electoral Region 10 - Scotland
 - xi. Electoral region 11 - Wales
- k) It is the responsibility of the National Council, subject to the approval of each Annual Conference, to ensure the distribution of the number of representatives on the National Council for each region will be, as far as possible, proportional to the distribution of

membership of LU in England, Wales and Scotland, excepting that:

- i. each region shall have a minimum of two representatives
 - ii. the calculation of distribution of regional seats will be based on the previous year's membership figures
- l) individual Regional Members of the National Council shall be elected by a postal or e-ballot of all members in each region, organised by the respective Regional Committee, in liaison with the national Nominating Officer, or by the National Council if no Regional Committee exists
- m) Nominations for regional representatives on the National Council to be made by branches within that region. Nominations for individual post-holders to be made by branches, regional bodies or by 20 members, or such a number as may be decided from time to time, who have signed a nomination form
- n) Regional representative members of the National Council will provide written reports of NC meetings, report back regularly to their Regional Committee and as far as reasonably practicable, be available to report personally to each branch in their region on at least an annual basis, or at the request of any of those branches.

Representatives of sections

- o) Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members may elect representatives to the National Council on such a basis as national Conference may from time to time determine
- p) Representatives of sections on the National Council will provide written reports of NC meetings to their sections and a written report to Annual Conference detailing the work of the section for that year

National Office holders and spokespeople

- a) National officers will be elected annually by national ballot. National officers will be responsible for implementing the decisions of National/Special Conferences and the National Council. The national officers and spokespeople will be accountable to the National Council and National Conference, providing regular reports of their areas of responsibility
- b) The number and responsibilities of National Officers will be as follows, or as may be determined from time to time by the National Conference:
 - i. **Principal Spokespeople** - one male, one female, acting as leading spokespeople for the party at a national level
 - ii. **National Secretary** (with responsibility for party organisation, preparation of agenda's, dealing with external correspondence and communications, liaising with Regional Committees, minutes and records and any other duties decided by National Council from time to time)
 - iii. **National Membership and Communications** (with responsibility for membership, data protection and internal communications)
 - iv. **Nominating Officer/Elections Co-ordinator**; responsible for drawing up and implementing procedures for the democratic selection of party candidates for public office and other internal election processes, and for the overall co-ordination of national election campaigns. For the technical purpose of registration with the Electoral Commission only, this post holder will be designated party leader.
 - v. **National Treasurer**; responsible for keeping details of party income and expenditure, preparation of quarterly financial reports to be sent to all National Council members and Branch Secretaries, and presentation of audited accounts to National Conference and the Electoral Commission
- c) The positions of National Secretary, National Membership and Communications Officer, Nominating Officer/Elections Co-ordinator and National Treasurer are all open for job-share. However, if a job share is operating, although both may attend, only one of the two sharing post-holders may act as a voting/speaking member at any one meeting of the National Council

23. Islington Amendment (if amendment to delete 7a iii is agreed)

12d) Add after first sentence : [Such groups can help to bring together members who are active in the same areas in order to intervene more effectively, co-ordinate activity, promote the party's policies and feed back experience into the party]

24. West London Amendment

12a) Add extra point [(v) 10 nationally elected non-office holders]

25. Cardiff Amendment

12j) Insert [and national] after [regional] in line one and insert [and nations] after [regions] in line three.

12j) Insert [national] before j)x and also before j)xi

26. Lambeth Amendment

12a) i – Delete [40 regional representatives] and replace with [1 branch representative per 10 members elected by branch.]

12a) iii – regarding 2 nationally elected principal speakers. Delete completely and renumber subsequent sections.

12j) to 12n) regarding regional representatives. Delete completely.

27. Crouch End Amendment

12a) ii - Add at end [women]

12a) iii – Delete [2] and insert [4]

12a) add new point [v. 15 nationally elected council members]

12b) Delete [6] and insert [4]. Delete [55%] and insert [one third]

12o) Add [women] to list of sections

National office holders and spokespeople section b) i – delete [one male and one female] and replace with [two male and two female]

Section b) Add point [vi. Media Officer: responsible for media strategy.

Section c) line one. Add [Media Officer] to list of officers.

28. Tower Hamlets Amendment

12m) Delete second sentence and insert [Nominations for individual post holders to be made by branches or regional bodies.] ie deleting reference to 20 members.

29. Lewisham and Greenwich Amendment

g) Insert at beginning of section [elections for members of the National Council shall be by Single Transferable Vote and will incorporate an additional vote for female candidates to facilitate 50% representation on the NC by women and]

13. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity
- b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople and 10 regional representatives of the National Council, chosen by the other regional representatives and representatives of Sections
- c) All members of the party are entitled to attend Executive Committee meetings as non-speaking observers
- d) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to any member upon request.

- e) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.
- f) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.

30. Islington Amendment

13c) Delete completely

31. Cardiff Amendment (if amendment to 4a) is successful)

Delete 13c)

32. Crouch End Amendment

13b) Delete all and insert [The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders /spokespeople, one rep from each region, the representatives of the sections and ten from the nationally elected council members.]

14) NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR INTERNAL POSITIONS WITHIN LU

- a. Voting in elections for regional representatives on the NC, individual post-holders and spokespeople on the NC and members of national committees with specialist roles will be conducted using electronic voting systems via the internet, except that all members will have the right to opt out of this system and will instead receive a postal ballot
- b. Only members residing in the relevant region/Scotland/Wales will have the right to vote for regional representatives on the NC. All other positions will be elected in national elections
- c. All candidates must be either nominated by a branch, regional body or 20 members, or such a number determined from time to time by National Conference, signing a nomination form
- d. Every candidate will be entitled to supply a statement of no more than 500 words (or such limits as deemed practicable by the Nominating Officer) saying:
 - i. which branch they belong to
 - ii. which positions in LU they do or have held
 - iii. whether they are members of a caucus and if so, which

These statements will accompany printed ballot papers and in the event of online voting be prominently available. All candidates will be expected to also provide contact details so that members may ask them questions prior to voting. The Nominating Officer (or members delegated by him/her as appropriate) will organise hustings opportunities, whether on-line or in person.

- e. On the ballot papers for principal speakers there will be a 'Re-Open Nominations option'
- f. If insufficient male or female candidates are nominated for positions requiring 50% gender representation, nominations will be re-opened once only, with an appeal for male or female candidates, as appropriate, to come forward. Pending the by-election, the female/male candidate, as appropriate, with the second highest vote will sit as an acting representative on the National Council. If no further male/female nominations, as appropriate, are received then the acting representative will be deemed to be elected for that year.

33.Huddersfield Amendment

14e) Delete [principal speakers] and replace with [all internal elections]

15) ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES & LEADERS

The following safeguards to ensure transparency and accountability will apply to all members of the National Council and other party bodies:

- a) Any member of Left Unity has the right to observe meetings of any national committee or sub-committee/working group the NC but not speaking or voting rights. The dates and agendas of all meetings will therefore be made available in good time prior to any meetings
- b) All minutes of national committees and working groups will be published within a week
- c) If 25% of branches or 3 Regional Councils/National Committees, in the course of a three month period, request the recall of a national office holder, a member of the Executive Committee, a member of National Council or a member of a Standing committee or subcommittee, the member concerned shall step down and the National Council shall organise a new election. The previous incumbent may appeal to National Conference and/or stand again if s/he so wishes.
- d) A national office holder, national spokesperson or Executive Committee member may be recalled by the National Council. A recalled member has the right of appeal to National Conference.
- e) Regional officers can be recalled at a special aggregate meeting of all members in the region. A meeting to recall a regional officer must be called if requested in motions submitted by 25% of branches in the region in the course of a three month period.
- f) Branch officers and delegates can be recalled at a branch meeting specially called for the purpose.

34. Tower Hamlets Amendment

15b) Add new sentence [A record of the votes cast by each delegate or official shall also be circulated internally]

Add new 15g. [Employees of Left Unity shall be paid a minimum of the London Living Wage pro rata.]
Add new 15h. [Officials and representatives within Left Unity shall be paid a maximum of the national median wage pro rata (plus London Weighting where appropriate). Where they are employed part-time and have partial employment outside of Left Unity, their total pay should not exceed this amount, with the remaining surplus being donated to Left Unity.]

16) ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONDUCT OF MEMBERS ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE

- a) All Left Unity members elected or serving in any form of public body (eg, local councillor, Member of Parliament, Member of the European Parliament, holder of an elected trades union position etc) will adhere to the nationally agreed policies, priorities and principles of LU. Failure to abide by these principles and rules, or to engage in any behaviour which brings the Party into disrepute, will incur suspension pending the deliberations of the Party disciplinary procedure.
- b) No member may stand as an official 'LU Candidate' without undergoing a democratic selection process at local, regional or national levels, as determined from time to time by the National Conference and supervised by the national Nominating Officer
- c) Candidates for LU will agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct:
 - i. In cases where an elected position require the post is carried out on a full time basis, Left Unity members will only draw a maximum of the median national wage (plus legitimate expenses, including London Weighting) – donating 20% of the surplus to Left Unity and 80% returned to public funds.
 - ii. Where an elected position is a full time job Left Unity members will take on no other paid employment.

- iii. No Left Unity member will be allowed to continue in any single externally elected position for limited terms as follows:
 - MPs and MEPs - 2 terms/maximum of 10 years
 - Local councillor, MWA, MSP - 3 terms/maximum 12 years
- iv. After a gap of 1 term of office members may again seek nomination to stand as a candidate.
- v. All Left Unity members serving in elected positions must provide regular report backs at the agreed appropriate, local, regional, or national level, to Left Unity.
- vi. All Left Unity members holding elected positions won as Left Unity candidates are expected to resign their elected position immediately that they either resign from Left Unity or are expelled from left Unity.

35. Islington Amendment

16c) i – Delete all and insert [In cases where an elected position requires the post is carried out on a full-time basis, Left Unity members will only draw for themselves a maximum of the median national wage (plus legitimate expenses, including London Weighting)]

36. West London Amendment

16a) delete [holder of an elected trade union position etc.] In last sentence, delete [will incur suspension] and replace with [may incur suspension]

Delete 16c) i to iv. Replace with

[In cases where an elected position requires the post is carried out on a full time basis, Left Unity members will only draw the maximum of the median national wage (plus legitimate expenses, including London Weighting) – donating the surplus to Left Unity.]

Delete 16c) section vi completely.

37. Lambeth Amendment

16c) i - Delete all after [London Weighting)] and add [donating the surplus to Left Unity.]

Add new point vii. [No elected Left Unity member may take any payment from NGOs, lobbyists, or the private sector either in cash or in the form of gifts.]

38. Tower Hamlets Amendment

16c) i – Delete all after [80%] and add [to campaign groups or NGOs that reflect the aims and values of Left Unity, as approved by the National Council.]

17) FINANCE

- a) The following general principles regarding finance will apply:
 - i. All monies received by or on behalf of Left Unity shall be applied to further the aim of Left Unity and for no other purpose.
 - ii. Any bank accounts opened for Left Unity shall be in the name of the Left Unity
 - iii. Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and at least one other nominated member of the National Council
 - iv. Accounts to be independently audited every year

- v. Left Unity will pay reasonable out of pocket expenses including travel, childcare and meal costs to members or members of national committees. The payments must be recorded and paid on presentation of receipts that justify the expense
 - vi. Notwithstanding any requirement by the Electoral Commission or other external authority for an independent external audit, the party's accounts will be independently audited, in conjunction with any finance standing committee National Conference may establish from time to time.
- b) The following principles regarding **subscriptions** will apply:
- i. No-one will be excluded through lack of money.
 - ii. Subscriptions will be fair and equitable.
 - iii. Subscriptions will be set at a level that will enable all members to participate in activities.
 - iv. The level of subscription set will enable the national organisation to carry out its functions efficiently, as determined by the National Conference.
- c) Any member who is more than three months in arrears without contacting their branch treasurer will be deemed to have resigned
- d) The rate of membership subscriptions will be determined by National Conference from time to time:
- e) Income will be divided between the national organisation and local/regional activities according to the following formula, subject to review and agreement of national conference from time to time:
- i. national office = 75%
 - ii. region = 5%
 - iii. branch = 20%
- f) In the case of members not attached to a particular branch will be divided between the national organisation and local/regional activities according to the following formula:
- i. national office = 90%
 - ii. region = 10%

Finance and Audit Committee

- g) The finances of LU will be overseen by the Finance and Audit Committee which shall be comprised of the National Treasurer, three members nominated by the National Council and three members chosen by national conference.
- h) The Finance and Audit Committee will present a written report to Annual Conference alongside and the accounts.

Party assets

- i) All heritable and moveable property of the party shall be vested in Trustees so authorised by the National Council, ("the Trustees") representing and acting for the whole of the members of the party. No personal liability shall attach to any Trustee except to the extent of such funds of the party as may be actually received by him or her.
- j) The National Council shall have power to authorise the Trustees and the Trustees, when so authorised, may a) hold, purchase or take on lease any land or buildings, sell, exchange, borrow on the security of, lease or build upon the land and alter and pull down buildings and again rebuild; and b) grant security over the heritable property of the party and obtain advances of money for the purposes of the party and upon such terms as to interest and repayment of principal as the committee may determine.

39. Tower Hamlets Amendment

17a) v. Regarding out of pocket expenses. Add at end [An itemised report of all expenses shall be published quarterly.]

18) DISPUTES COMMITTEE

- a) A Disputes Committee shall be elected annually by national ballot. This committee will consist of seven people, but shall include no members of the National Council. Its role will be to investigate disputes and complaints about the behaviour of individual party members referred to it by Regional Councils or the National Council, who will be expected to have endeavoured to resolve the specific disputes or complaints before referring them on.
- b) If an individual member, or group of members, have a complaint against another member, involving an alleged failure to abide by an aspect of the constitution or the guidelines on personal behaviour set out in Appendix 1 (Safer Spaces Policy), the first recourse will be to seek reconciliation and representation through the informal stage of the Safer Spaces Policy
- c) If after all informal attempts at reconciliation are exhausted, the relevant branch should attempt to resolve the issue. Should a branch fail to resolve the issue or consider disciplinary action necessary, it should refer the matter in writing to the Regional Committee for consideration. If the Regional Committee decides that there is a case to answer, it will refer the matter to the Disputes Committee. Should the Regional Council decide not refer the matter to the Disputes Committee, the complainant may refer the matter in writing to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee decides that there is a case to answer, it will refer the matter to the Disputes Committee.
- d) The Disputes Committee may form a sub-committee of at least 3 members to consider any one case.
- e) The Disputes Committee shall adopt its own Procedures and Standing orders, subject to approval and amendment from time to time by National Conference
- f) The National Council may refuse anyone membership (or decide an existing member no longer meets the criteria for membership listed in (3) or take other disciplinary action against an individual member. Such action may only be taken as a result of an investigation by, and recommendation from, the Disputes Committee, which must be explained in writing to the member (or potential member) concerned.
- g) The individual concerned has a right to appeal to the Appeals Committee.

19) APPEALS COMMITTEE

- a) An Appeals Committee shall be elected annually by national ballot. This committee is the last stage in any disputes resolution procedure and its decisions are final.
- b) The Appeal Committee will consist of seven people, but shall include no members of the National Council or Disputes Committee. Its role will be to hear appeals from members against disciplinary action taken against them by a Regional Council or the National Council as a result of an investigation by, and recommendation from the Disputes Committee. The Appeals Committee may form a sub-committee of at least 3 members to consider any one case.

- c) The Appeals Committee shall adopt its own Procedures and Standing orders, subject to approval and amendment from time to time by National Conference.

20) STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

- a) A Standing Orders Committee will be elected each year by the national membership. This committee will deal with the organisation and arrangements of the Annual Conference and the timing and running of conference agenda, including sending out a prioritised motion or resolution ballot form to each local group, and facilitating the compositing of motions where appropriate
- b) The Standing orders Committee shall be made up of 10 people but including no members of the NC
- c) The minutes of all meetings shall be published and any member may attend as an observer without speaking rights
- d) The Standing Orders Committee will maintain a set of Procedures & Standing Orders for conducting the business of National Conference that may be amended from time to time by National Conference.
- e) Between National Conferences, the Standing Orders Committee shall be the final authority on the interpretation and application of the party's constitution and procedures.

21) ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to this Constitution must be proposed to a National Conference by the NC, branches or a motion signed by no less than 20 members, or any other figure decided by Annual Conference from time to time. Any change must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting. The proposed changes must be made public and included in the notice posted announcing the Conference in good time to allow proper consultation.

40. West London Amendment (and Haringey)

Delete [Any change must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting] and replace with [Any change must be agreed by a simple majority of those members present and voting.]

41. Tower Hamlets Amendment

Insert [or] before [branches]

Delete [or a motion signed by no less than 20 members, or any other figure decided by Annual Conference from time to time.]

APPENDICES TO THE RULES

APPENDIX 1 - SAFER SPACES POLICY

See Conference Booklet section 2

APPENDIX 2 - MODEL STANDING ORDERS

These model standing orders are designed to provide a framework for well-ordered party meetings. Party branches may want to adopt local standing orders to reflect their specific method of operation; however, local arrangements must not conflict with the provisions of these model rules.

1. The Annual General Meeting of [*name of local party*] shall be held each year in [*month*]. A formal notice of the annual meeting shall be sent by the secretary to all party members entitled to attend at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
2. Ordinary meetings shall be held on the following regular basis [*i.e. the first Tuesday of each month*]. Formal notice of all meetings shall be sent out by the secretary to all those entitled to attend at least seven days prior to the meeting. Such notice shall as far as possible include an indication of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
3. Meetings shall commence at [*time*]. Business meetings shall not be held if a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the appointed time; always provided that in special circumstances members present may agree to transact pressing business subject to the ratification of the proceedings by the next quorate meeting. Meetings shall close two hours from the notified starting time, except that a particular meeting may be temporarily extended for a specified period with the support of two-thirds of the members present.
4. The quorum for business meetings of [*name of local party*] shall be 25% of those members entitled to vote in attendance, or a fixed number agreed with the Regional Committee. The proceedings and resolutions of any quorate meeting shall not be held to be invalid simply through the accidental failure to give notice of the meeting to, or the non receipt of such notice by, any person entitled to attend.
5. All members of [*name of local party*] living or registered as electors within the area covered by it shall be entitled to attend meetings and to vote, as well as any members living elsewhere whose membership of the local party has been agreed with the Regional Committee. Other members, potential members and supporters, may attend but shall not vote. When an annual or special meeting is not held for any reason or is abandoned without completing the business on the agenda, such meeting must be reconvened in order for any necessary outstanding business to be transacted. Only those eligible to participate in the meeting as first convened, whether or not held, shall be entitled to participate in any further reconvened meeting.
6. The following officers will be elected to manage the day-to-day business of the branch: Chair and vice-chair (unless a system of rotation is used within the branch; Secretary; Treasurer and any other positions deemed necessary by the branch
7. The elected chair of this body shall preside at all meetings (except where otherwise provided for in the standing orders of the branch in the form of a system of 'rotating' chairs). In the absence of the chair the vice-chair shall preside, but in the absence of both the secretary or other officer shall call on those present to elect a member to take the chair of the meeting. Should the office holder arrive once a member has been elected to preside in her or his place then she or he may claim, if they wish, the right to preside at the meeting once the current item of business has been disposed of. At the annual meeting the chair shall preside until a successor is elected. The new chair shall take over the conduct of the meeting forthwith and proceed to the election of other officers and further business.
8. The prime function of party meetings is to provide members, delegates and supporters with the opportunity to participate in party activities through social contact, political debate and policy discussion; to assist in the political self education of members and to further for the party's objectives in the area through campaigning and the promotion of links with sympathetic individuals and bodies within the wider community. Party meetings shall be drawn up to give due priority not only to organisational matters, but to the introduction of new members and/ or delegates, the discussion of resolutions, party policy items and other matters of interest to party members and the receipt of reports from public representatives.
9. Original motions for the general meetings of [*name of local party*] must be received by the secretary in writing not less than 7 days prior to the meeting for which they are intended. Motions for discussion shall be made available to those entitled to attend with the notice and agenda of the relevant meeting, except for emergency motions which must be sent in writing to the secretary as soon as the nature of the emergency allows before the commencement of the meeting. Emergency business may be accepted by the majority of the meeting on the recommendation of the chair who shall interpret the term 'emergency' in a bona fide manner. Amendments to motions may be proposed without notice as they arise in the course of discussion
10. No motion shall be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved and seconded. Speakers shall address the chair and shall only speak once on any motion except by permission of the

chair, providing that the mover of a motion or an amendment may reply to the discussion without introducing new matter for debate; such reply shall close the discussion. No speaker shall be allowed more than five minutes, unless agreed by the meeting to be 'further heard' for a specified period. Amendments to any motion may be moved and seconded from the floor of the meeting but shall be handed to the secretary in writing. Amendments shall be taken in order with one amendment being disposed of before another is moved. If an amendment is carried, the amended resolution becomes a motion to which further amendments may be moved.

11. A motion of 'next business' shall not be taken until the mover and seconder of a motion have been heard. Any motion 'of next business', 'that the vote be taken', 'to adjourn', 'of no-confidence in the chair' shall be moved, seconded and put to the vote without discussion; after such a vote the chair need not accept a further procedural motion for a period of 20 minutes.
12. No motion to rescind a resolution of this body shall be valid within three months from the date on which the resolution was carried. Notice of rescinding motion must be given in writing and made available to those entitled to attend the relevant meeting in line with rule 8 above.
13. Voting shall be by show of hands except where the constitution of the party provides for a ballot vote or where this body decides otherwise. In the event of there being an equality of votes on any matter decided by a show of hands, the chair may give a casting vote provided that s/he has not used an ordinary vote. If the chair does not wish to give a casting vote, the motion is not carried.
14. The election of officers and/ or representatives of [*name of local party*] shall be by secret paper ballot using STV if necessary. Any gender quotas laid down in the party constitution which apply to this body shall be incorporated in the arrangements for the secret ballot. Ballot votes shall be held at meetings to select candidates and where otherwise provided for in the party constitution; and where requested by any member supported by at least two others. In the event of a tie on a secret paper ballot the chair shall not have a casting vote. Where appropriate, the ballot shall be retaken and in the event of a continual tie lots may be drawn. In a preferential ballot the tie shall be broken by establishing which candidate had the highest number of first preference votes or took the earliest lead on transfers.
15. Any breach of or question to the rules or standing orders may be raised by a member rising to a point of order. The chair's ruling on any point arising from the rules or standing orders is final unless challenged by not less than three members; such a challenge shall be put to the meeting without discussion and shall only be carried with the support of two-thirds of the members present.
16. Party meetings and events shall be conducted in a friendly and orderly manner and organised in such a way as to maximise participation from members. No member shall be precluded from attendance because they cannot gain access to the meeting place for any reason. Physical or verbal harassment, bullying or intimidation of any member is unacceptable as is any form of discrimination on the basis of gender, sexuality, disability or race. Smoking is not permitted at [*name of local party*] meetings. Any member acting in an unruly or disruptive manner, in contravention of the standing orders, may be removed from the meeting by action of the chair. The chair shall put such a motion to the meeting, which to be carried shall require the support of two-thirds of those present and voting.
17. [*Name of local party*] accepts the principle of minimum quotas for women at all levels of representation within the party and shall take steps to ensure that 50 per cent of any delegation shall be women and, where only one delegate is appointed, a woman shall hold the position at least every other year.
18. No alterations shall be made to the rules and standing orders of [*name of local party*] except at an annual or special meeting called for this purpose and carried with the support of two-thirds of the members present and the general provisions of the constitution and rules of [*Left Unity*] shall apply to it

APPENDIX 3 - NATIONAL COUNCIL TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- a) Upon the adoption of this constitution at the party's founding conference, the existing Left Unity National Coordinating Group shall take on the role of Transitional National Council of the new party. This body shall operate until the next National Conference, which shall take

place within four months of the founding conference, when it shall dissolve and Clause 10 of the constitution will come fully into operation.

- b) The Transitional National Council will appoint, from its own number (or in the case of the Standing Orders Committee, from the membership at large), such acting national officers and temporary standing committees as are legally required by the Electoral Commission and as it may deem necessary for the efficient administration of the party. These will include Acting National Secretary, Acting Treasurer, and Acting Nominating Officer and members of Conference Arrangements and Standing Orders Committees, who shall remain in post only until the end of the next National Conference.
- c) The Transitional National Council will organise the election by regional ballot of 40 regional representatives to the incoming National Council, apportioned to the different nations and regions in a manner as proportional to the relative membership of the party as possible, and the election by national ballot of the National Officers and members of the Standing Orders, Disputes and Appeals Committees.

42.Coventry Amendment (and Leamington Spa)

Add new sentence at end of section

[For this transitional period, the ten directly elected posts on the existing NCG will be opened for re-election or otherwise at the Founding Conference today, with nominations allowed from the floor in the lunch break, and voted on during the afternoon.]

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 7

Priority campaigning

Austerity & the NHS

1: An Action Programme for Left Unity

A programme for resistance

Over the year ahead we will campaign for:

- The TUC and the unions to organise the midweek day of action they promised in Bournemouth and make it a full-scale one-day general strike, to use this mass mobilisation to initiate industrial and direct action up to and including an all-out political mass strike to force the abandonment and reversal all the cuts and the privatisations.
- Solidarity with all wages struggles in the private and public sectors, for an increase in pay to compensate fully for the loss of real wages over the past year, fully indexed against inflation. Stand against zero hours contracts. Raise the minimum wage, pension and social security payments to a level everyone can decently live on.
- A programme of essential public works – including a huge building programme of socially-owned housing, schools, nurseries and local health clinics, providing accessibility for the disabled, phasing out nuclear power and laying the foundations of a sustainable energy and transport policy. No one should be denied work while such crying needs confront us. This programme must be carried through under workers and users' control and funded by taxing the wealth and the profits of the banks and big corporations.
- Halt and reverse the cuts and privatisations in health, education and welfare. Repeal Lansley's Act; bring all foundation hospitals back into a fully nationally controlled system. Abolish the academies and free schools, nationalise the public schools, restore EMA at a living level, abolish tuition fees, reinstitute maintenance grants and cancel the student loan debt.

- Halt the attacks on women's jobs, services and rights; defend and extend high quality childcare provision for all; fight for access to jobs, pay and conditions fully equal to men; strengthen zero tolerance of domestic violence and rape.
- Fight all expressions of homophobia, transphobia, and the bullying, physical and mental violence, it leads to; illegalise all discrimination and grant full and equal civil rights, including marriage.
- End police harassment against ethnic minorities. End stop and search. For the right of all refugees and migrant workers to come, live and work here with full citizenship rights.
- Solidarity with Muslims and other ethnic minorities against abuse and violence; stop the marches of the EDL and other fascist groups by mass mobilisations and by organising militant self-defence of communities and meeting places.
- Make our struggle international – for solidarity actions with those in other countries, like Greece, fighting austerity, unemployment and racism.
- Oppose all attempts to take Britain into new wars and invasions on false humanitarian or human rights pretexts; but mobilise material support for all those fighting for freedom in Syria, Egypt, Palestine, etc.
- Fight for the defiance and repeal of all the anti-union laws, and the restoration of legal aid.
- Fight for the right of the Scottish people to decide for independence or not, free from any threats or intimidation, and should they do so the immediate recognition and implementation of their decision.

Southwark Left Unity

2: Austerity

Left Unity is an anti-austerity party. We will support and build national, regional and local campaigns against cuts and privatisation of our NHS, our public services and our welfare state.

West London Left Unity

Amendment to Austerity motion

Add "and our publicly funded education system" so that it reads "Left Unity is an anti-austerity party. We will support and build national, regional and local campaigns against cuts and privatisation of our NHS, our public services, our welfare state and our publicly funded education system."

Loughborough Left Unity

Amendment to Austerity motion

Replace the second sentence so that it reads:

"Left Unity is an anti-austerity party. We will campaign to unite the existing anti-cuts campaigns and campaigns against privatisation of our NHS, our public services and our welfare state."

Sheffield Left Unity

3 Defend the NHS

The spirited demonstration in Manchester on September 29 showed yet again that defence of the NHS is a very popular cause and central to mobilizing against austerity more generally.

Left Unity branches will support local campaigns to defend Health Services. We should take part in a non-sectarian way We should develop and encourage local support for such campaigns

We should encourage local campaigns to understand the need for a national movement against cuts and privatisation of the NHS

We welcome the commitment of Labour to repeal the Health and Social Care Act if they are elected but note that the key purchaser- provider split which led to the privatisation of clinical services was introduced under Blair's government, while contracting out of support services goes even further back than that.

Left Unity commits itself to campaigning to defend the NHS and restoring it fully to the public sector.

Islington Left Unity & West London Left Unity (Two motions composited)

Trade Unions & Work

4: For a Left Unity Trade Union Strategy

Left Unity needs to clarify its relationship to organised labour, work within the grassroots of the trade union movement, and develop policies that links the crisis of working class representation to the development of a rank and file trade unionism. Following the Founding Conference, we agree to call a national meeting of Left Unity trade union activists to help develop policies and strategies on how to organise, producing material to distribute in workplaces and branches, and begin the development of a rank and file newspaper that can help build networks of readers and supporters inside the trade union movement.'

Sheffield Left Unity

Amendment to 'For a Left Unity Trade Union Strategy' motion.

Add the following

Further we agree that national trade union fractions (meetings of Left Unity members in the different unions) should discuss and agree on building rank and file initiatives in the different unions. This could be achieved either through participation in existing initiatives or through the development of new ones, according to our trade union members views. We would agree also that this activity should be discussed in the branches where the promotion of local trade union work can be discussed, facilitated and supported.

Birmingham Left Unity

Amendment to 'For a Left Unity Trade Union Strategy' motion.

Change the second paragraph to read:

Following the Founding Conference, we agree to call a national meeting of Left Unity trade union activists to help develop policies and strategies on how to organise and build trade unions and win support for Left Unity across trade unions, in workplaces and branches.

West London Left Unity

Amendment to 'For a Left Unity Trade Union Strategy' motion.

To be inserted between paragraph 1 and 2.

"The [Left Unity] party orients to the rank and file of the trade unions above privileging any relationship with left wing officials, because we recognise that union leaders, lefts as well as right-wingers, are prone to compromise and call off action at the decisive moment. A working class party must always be free to criticise leaders when this happens and direct its agitation and advice directly to the union members under attack.

We will organise caucuses of [LU] party members in each union, in each region and nationally, to coordinate our activities. We will co-operate with union activists from other political traditions and none, who want to build a fighting and democratic organisation in the unions. We promote as the aims of such an organisation:

7. The revival of workplace organisation: regular meetings and bulletins, unionisation drives, recruitment of new stewards and convenors;
8. Workers' control of all disputes: mass meetings and directly elected strike committees to decide on when to ballot and their wording, duration and frequency of strikes, negotiation stance and full and immediate reporting back on all talks;
9. Official action where possible, unofficial action where necessary: full official backing for all actions endorsed by the workforce, including actions that break the anti-union laws.
10. Transform the unions: stand in elections on a fighting programme of action but also a programme of democratic reforms: regular election and recallability of all officials, sovereignty of conference, average pay for all officials;
11. Political trade unionism: democratise the union link and fight for political strike action against austerity and to bring the government down."

Lambeth Left Unity

5: Trade Unions

Left Unity members are encouraged to join a trade union. Trade union members are also encouraged to take part in Trades Councils.

West London Left Unity

6: Zero-hour contracts

To launch a 'Left Unity' national campaign that aims to work with groups inside and outside the workplace to:

- Develop a high profile identity linking together all groups affected by this restructuring of the workforce – zero hours workers, agency workers, low paid workers, benefit claimants, young people and un-unionised workers
- Campaign for "training" and "apprenticeships" to be at the level of a living wage
- Campaign for a boycott and an end to workfare
- Produce campaigning materials made available to all branches
- Lobby/target employers to change their employment practices
- Support the unionisation of workers in the private and the public sector

Manchester Central/Manchester South Left Unity

7: Campaign for a 21 hour week

As a reduction in the working week and the redistribution of work among the unemployed and underemployed are vital for the physical, social and psychological health of our societies, and a ready answer to the crisis facing us, Left Unity adopts the transition to a 21 hour week with no loss of pay as a goal and campaign priority.

To this end Left Unity will:

- j) Form a working group to develop plans and proposals for campaigning for a 21 hour week.
- k) Aim to publish regular articles on the subject from members in different areas of employment and life
- l) Write to unions, professional bodies, academics and campaign groups proposing the organisation of a conference in 2014 to launch a national campaign for a shorter working week.

Southwark Left Unity

Housing

8: Housing

One campaigning priority relates to housing. As well as campaigning against housing benefit cuts and the bedroom tax (the latter only affects those in social housing), there are other points taken up.

Specifically:

- 1) Increased production of social, cooperative and public housing to be done by the public sector and not-for-profit social housing sector; there is clearly significant need for social housing which is not being met.
- 2) Reintroduction of rent controls: rents in private housing are rising out of proportion to incomes (which we know are stagnant or falling). A maximum increase can be introduced for which property owners and managers need to demonstrate their necessity in the context of repairing and refitting the rented property.
- 3) Protections for the rights of short-term tenants in both public and private housing with respect to length of rental contract and termination of tenancy must be increased. We should call for democratic control of housing policy by tenants on housing estates.
- 4) Condition of rental properties with respect to safety and health: properties must have access to adequate heating, running water and electricity. The properties must be consistent with health and safety codes.

Waltham Forest Left Unity

Amendment to the motion on housing.

Add list item 5) to list.

"5) Reduce the carbon footprint of all housing stock and improve energy efficiency"

Loughborough Left Unity

Amendment to the motion on housing.

This will be point 4 -

Local authorities should be responsible for regular inspection and approval of all rented properties with a grading given in relation to facilities provided, state of repairs and heat insulation.

Birmingham Left Unity

Climate change & Internationalism

9: Internationalism

1. Left Unity is committed to maintaining and deepening the unity of the working class in Britain.
2. Left Unity welcomes its growing membership in Scotland and Wales. Left Unity will do everything it can to encourage members in Scotland and Wales to play a full part in building a party based on the principles of class solidarity, socialism, internationalism and human freedom.
3. Left Unity will not support Scottish or Welsh nationalism, nor will it content itself with the United Kingdom and the quasi-democratic status quo. However, individual members will be free to campaign both for and against Scottish independence in advance of the 2014 referendum.

4. Left Unity recognizes that to effectively fightback against the austerity Tory-Lib Dem government and a crisis-ridden capitalism requires an international strategy that takes the European Union as its starting point.

5. Left Unity will support and seek to take a lead in all moves towards organising the working class on an all-EU basis.

Glasgow Left Unity

Amendment to: Internationalism

Paragraph 3: Delete from 'Left Unity' to 'However' and re-punctuate.

Paragraph 3 will then read "Individual members will be free to campaign both for and against Scottish independence in advance of the 2014 referendum."

Cardiff Left Unity

Amendment to: Internationalism

Delete paragraph 3

In paragraph 4, delete "that takes the European Union as its starting point."

In paragraph 5, delete "on an all EU basis" and replace with "in Europe and internationally"

West London Left Unity

10: Climate change

Conference notes that:

The recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is comprised of climate scientists from around the world, is another wake up call on this issue. The report confirms and extends on its previous report in 2007 which concluded that the carbon content of the atmosphere continues to rise as a result of human activity. That as a result of this global temperatures continue to rise, the ice sheets continue to melt, the seas continue to rise, the glaciers continue to retreat, water becomes more scarce, the deserts continue to expand, the acidification of the oceans continues apace. At the same time weather patterns are disrupted resulting in extreme events including hurricanes (Katrina and Sandy for example), floods, droughts and fires which devastate whole regions of the globe and disrupt food production.

Conference therefore resolves:

- a) To include this as one of LU's campaigning priorities
- b) To support the Campaign Against Climate Change and its trade union committee.
- c) To support the campaign against hydraulic fracking which is not only threatening local communities but is introducing a whole new generation of fossil fuels into the energy system.

Southwark Left Unity

Amendment to Motion on Climate Change

Delete b) & c) and insert

b) To support the Campaign against Climate Change and its trade union committee. In particular to promote the proposals of the One Million Climate Jobs Report as the starting point for an alternative economic, and environmentally sustainable strategy which provides an answer to both increasing

unemployment, austerity and economic stagnation on the one hand, and the growing threat of irreversible and catastrophic climate change on the other.

c) To actively support the campaign to resist and ultimately legislatively ban all forms of extreme energy such as fracking for shale gas, coal bed methane extraction and underground coal gasification, all of which threaten to introduce a whole new generation of fossil fuels into the energy system, as well being hugely environmentally damaging in their own right. In so doing, to conterpose the proposals of the One Million Climate Jobs report, as well as the development of renewables/energy conservation in general, as a much better alternative, even if the latter was not the case and they were "100% safe with knobs on".

Wigan Left Unity

B: Party Organisation

~~Inevitably our constitution and organisation will need to be reviewed in the light of our experience as a new organisation. This should take place at our next annual conference.~~

~~West London Left Unity~~

Ruled out of order as not pertinent to priority campaign debate and potentially repetition of constitutional clause.

F: Branch Activity

~~Left Unity Branches should aim to produce regular newsletters for distribution to less active members and the public.~~

~~Branches should aim to hold periodic public or open meetings~~

~~Branch meetings should make a point of taking regular reports and discussion on local campaigns and encouraging members to get involved.~~

~~West London Left Unity~~

Ruled out of order as not pertinent to priority campaign debate and potentially unconstitutional.

L: Edward Snowden

~~This Founding Conference of Left Unity supports the actions of Edward Snowden and others in revealing the extent of efforts of the US NSA and GCHQ to monitor the online activities of much of the world's population.~~

~~This conference believes that the activity of GCHQ and the NSA is in effect a conspiracy to extract as much material as possible from internet traffic with the principle aim of acting against the working class and the oppressed throughout the world. The mouthpieces of the spooks use the catchall "terrorism" to justify their activities, but clearly the ruling class is far more worried about workers and others organising against repressive regimes and savage attacks on living standards.~~

~~This Conference resolves to send a message of support to Edward Snowden and to join the fight for him to be offered asylum and safe haven from the torturers and killers of the US military and security agencies.~~

~~This Conference also resolves to campaign for the closure of GCHQ as a dangerous anti-working class institution with a world wide reach. In addition this Conference is in favour of GCHQ's archives being opened for public inspection and investigation.~~

~~Glasgow Left Unity~~

Referred to spring policy conference.

CONFERENCE BOOKLET SECTION 8

Electoral Strategy

Electoral support for a new left party will only advance to the extent that it is genuinely representative of working class communities, has no interests separate from theirs, and is an organic part of the campaigns and movements which they generate and support. It will engage in the European, national and local electoral processes as appropriate, offering voters a left alternative, while understanding that elections are not the only arena or even the most important arena in which political struggles are fought.

Candidates should only be fielded where a political base of support exists within the community and where the human and financial resources exist to make a genuine and locally representative campaign viable.

Crouch End Left Unity

Amendment to electoral strategy motion (Amendments in italics, standard font shows original motion, line shows deletion)

Electoral support for a new left party will only advance to the extent that it is genuinely representative of working class communities, has no interests separate from theirs, and is an organic part of the campaigns and movements which they generate and support. It will engage in ~~the European, national and local~~ electoral processes as appropriate, offering voters a left alternative, while understanding that elections are not the only arena or even the most important arena in which political struggles are fought.

Mindful of this, this conference calls upon the incoming leadership (or whatever term we are using for this) to establish a committee to be tasked with liaising with local Left Unity structures with a remit to, though not exclusively limited to:

- *Liaise with local structures in order to assess the viability of an electoral campaign in their area;*
- *Identifying, in conjunction with the wider membership, possible key target constituencies;*
- *Facilitate a discussion between the wider membership on which elections we should, in the short to medium term, engage in;*
- *Assist local structures in building up their electoral capacity;*
- *Take a national view of state of our organisation and made recommendations as to how local structures can assist and reinforce each other in terms of electoral work with a view to ensuring that we maximise our resources;*
- *Carry out a skills audit of our membership with a view to identifying those who have prior experience of elections in order to facilitate the passing on of these skills to the wider membership through a co-ordinated training program;*
- *Begin the process of drafting materials such as canvass sheets for national use.*

This conference, furthermore, calls upon all local Left Unity structures to begin the process of building their electoral capacity. Such work may include, but not exclusively:

- *Identifying possible target constituencies at Local Government level;*
- *Identifying potential election candidates;*
- *Building the public profile of Party activists;*
- *Beginning the process of obtaining electoral registers and other relevant data;*
- *Devising local campaigns which both raise our profile and ensure we remain rooted within,*

and relevant to, local communities.

This conference accepts that candidates should only be fielded where a political base of support exists within the community and where the human and financial resources exist to make a genuine and locally representative campaign viable

Huddersfield Left Unity & West London Left Unity

Left Unity

We would like to see Left Unity develop strategies which, in the long term, help contribute to there being One Party of the Left which can reach out to all the strands of radical and socialist politics in the UK. This will entail

- a) Discussing methods of involvement including affiliation, whilst not cutting across the principle of OMOV
- b) Taking the lead in opening discussions with the major players on the left, including the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), the CPB, Respect and the Alliance for Green Socialism to avoid electoral clashes and move towards electoral pacts – with the initial aim of creating the largest ever left challenge in the 2015 General Election
- c) Seeing it as a priority to initiate debate across the left about building One Party of the Left

Rugby Left Unity

Amendment to Left Unity motion

Delete the whole point b)

Sheffield Left Unity

APPENDIX

Standing Orders for LU conferences

1. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1.1 The Standing Orders Committee shall be present at the Conference but shall take no part in its proceedings and shall comprise

1.2 Five members as elected as set out in the

constitution for all conferences beyond the founding conference

1.3 For the founding conference five members as elected by the National Coordinating Group

1.4 The functions of the Standing Orders Committee shall be as contained in these Rules

2. CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

2.2 Before a National Conference, the National Coordinating Group/National Council shall adopt and publish within a detailed timetable enabling the following steps to be taken not later than the time stated:

2.3 Procedure: Weeks before the first day of Conference

2.3.1 Submission of motions: x weeks

2.3.2 Publication of preliminary agenda: x weeks

2.3.3 Submission of amendments: x weeks

2.3.4 Publication of final agenda: x weeks

3. CONFERENCE QUORUM AND PROCEDURE

3.1 The quorum of the National Conference shall be one-third of the members registered to attend and vote.

3.2 There will be no quorum for the founding conference

3.3 Each local group or Platform (10 or more members) may submit motions. Local groups may submit amendments to motions and amendments to the proposed constitution.

4. APPLICATION OF STANDING ORDERS

4.1 These Standing Orders shall apply to all meetings of the National Conference and

Special Conferences

5. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

5.1 The members of the Standing Orders Committee shall hold office from the end of one National Conference until the end of the next National Conference.

5.2 At its first meeting after it takes office, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson from amongst its members.

5.3 The functions of the Committee shall, subject to these Standing Orders, be to:

5.3.1 ensure that [Left Unity's] Rules and Standing Orders relating to the business of Conferences are observed, and notify the [National Coordinating Group/National Council] of any violation that may be brought to the Committee's notice.

5.3.2 draw up the preliminary agenda and final agenda of Conference business, and the proposed hours of business, to be circulated in accordance with the timetable stated in the Constitution.

5.3.3 determine the order in which the business of Conference shall be conducted, subject to the approval of Conference

5.3.4 consider all motions and amendments submitted for consideration by Conference and, for the purpose of enabling Conference to transact its business effectively the Committee shall:

5.3.4.1 decide whether such motions and amendments have been submitted in accordance with the Constitution

5.3.4.2 group together motions and amendments relating to the same subject, decide the order in which they should be considered and whether they should be debated and voted on separately or debated together and voted on sequentially

5.3.4.3 Facilitate the compositing of motions and amendments by enabling discussion between the movers of motions and amendments; refer to another representative body within [Left Unity] a motion or amendment which in the opinion of the Committee should properly be considered there; the mover shall be informed of the reason for so doing

5.3.4.4 have power to do all such other things as may be necessary to give effect to these Standing Orders.

5.4 Any decisions of the Committee which are to be reported to Conference shall be announced by the Chairperson of the Committee and shall be subject to ratification by Conference.

6. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS-PRE-CONFERENCE

PROCEDURE

6.1 Motions, amendments and other appropriate business may be proposed for the Conference by the bodies set out in the constitution.

6.2 Motions and amendments shall be sent to the [National Coordinating Group/National Secretary] in order that the Standing Orders Committee may consider them for inclusion in the preliminary agenda.

6.3 The date and time by which motions and amendments to be considered for the Conference shall be received by the [National Coordinating Group/National Secretary] shall be stated in the timetable to be published in advance of the conference.

7 CONDUCT OF CONFERENCES

7.1 The National Conference shall meet in public session, except that by direction of the [National Coordinating Group] or by resolution of the Conference the whole or any part of a Conference may be held in private. The only persons permitted to attend a private session of a Conference shall be paid-up members of [Left Unity] who are registered to attend the conference.

7.2 The agenda for the National Conference shall be arranged so that the first session of the Conference shall be in public, subject to Rule 7.1 above.

7.3 Apart from the members of [Left Unity] who are registered for the Conference, no other person shall speak except by permission of the Conference.

7.4 Any questions of procedure or order raised during a Conference shall be decided by the

7.5 Chair of that session of the conference whose ruling shall be final and binding.

7.6 Upon the Chair rising during a Conference session, any person then addressing

7.7 Conference shall resume her/his seat and no other person shall rise to speak until the Chair authorises proceedings to continue.

7.8 The Chair may call attention to continued irrelevance, tedious repetition, unbecoming

language, or any breach of order on the part of a member and may direct such a member to discontinue his or her speech.

7.9 The Chair shall have power to call any person to order who is causing a disturbance in any session of Conference and if that person refuses to obey the Chair, she/he shall be named by the

Chair, shall forthwith leave the Conference Hall, and shall take no further part in the proceedings of that Conference.

8 VOTING

8.1 The method of voting shall be by a show of hands of the registered members of [Left Unity] present.

9 TELLERS

9.1 Conference shall appoint members to act as tellers for the duration of the Conference.

10 WITHDRAWALS OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

10.1 A motion or amendment which is shown on the final agenda may not be withdrawn without the consent of the Standing Orders Committee, whose decision shall be reported to Conference.

11 MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS NOT ON AGENDA

11.1 A motion or amendment which is not shown on the final agenda may not be considered by Conference without the prior approval of Conference, which shall be governed by the following rules:

11.2 Such motion or amendment shall be in writing, signed by the local group or platform on whose behalf it is submitted and shall be sent to the Standing Orders Committee at least five working days before the commencement of Conference, except if it relates to events which take place thereafter.

11.4 If the Standing Orders Committee gives its approval to the motion or amendment being considered, copies of the motion or amendment shall be made available for delegates at least one hour before Conference is asked to decide whether to consent to the matter being considered.

11.5 An emergency motion will not be given priority over other motions and amendments on the agenda except where the Standing Orders Committee decide that the purpose of the motion in question would be frustrated if it were not dealt with at an earlier session of the Conference.

12 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

The following procedural motions may be moved at any time without previous notice on the agenda:

12.1 that the question be now put, provided that:

.1 the Chair may advise
Conference not to accept

this motion if in her/his opinion the matter has not been sufficiently discussed

.2 if the motion is carried, it shall take effect at once subject only to any right of reply under these Standing Orders.

12.2 that the Conference proceed to the next business

12.3 that the debate be adjourned

12.4 that the Conference (or any part thereof) be held in private session provided that:

12.5 a motion under Rules 12.1, 12. 2, and 12.3 shall be immediately put to the vote without discussion and no amendment shall be allowed

12.6 the Chair may at her/his discretion permit a motion under Rule 12.4 to be discussed and amendments moved.

12.7 no motion under Rules 12.2 or 12.3 shall be moved by a person who has spoken on the motion or amendment in question.

13 AMENDMENTS TO A MOTION

13.1 When an amendment to a motion is moved, no further amendment may be moved until the first one is disposed of, subject to Rule 16.

13.2 When an amendment is defeated, a further amendment may be moved to the original motion.

13.3 When an amendment to a motion is carried, the motion, as so amended, shall become the substantive motion, to which a further amendment may be moved.

13.4 A member registered for the conference shall not move more than one amendment to any one motion, nor shall the mover of a motion move any amendment to such motion.

14 LIMIT OF SPEECHES

14.1 The mover of a motion or an amendment shall not be allowed to speak for more than five minutes and each succeeding speaker for not more than three minutes, except where the Standing Orders Committee have decided otherwise.

14.2 No person shall speak more than once on a question, except that the mover of the original motion may exercise a right of reply for not more than three minutes, introducing no new material.

15 POINTS OF ORDER

15.1 A member registered for the conference may at any stage in a Conference raise a point of order if she/he considers that the business is not being conducted in accordance with [Left Unity's] Constitution and Standing Orders.

15.2 Such a point of order must be raised as soon as the alleged breach occurs or at the earliest practicable moment thereafter.

15.3 The Chair's ruling on the point of order is final.

16 GROUPED DEBATES AND SEQUENTIAL VOTING

16.1 Where, in the view of the Standing Orders Committee, separate debates on specified motions and/or amendments dealing with the same subject matter would lead to undue repetition in the debates, a grouped debate and/or sequential voting may be adopted by Conference.

16.2 The following procedure will be followed:

.1 The Chair will advise Conference of the order of business and of the sequence in which motions and amendments will be moved and voted on following a general debate, and of the effect of certain proposals on others.

.2 All motions and amendments included in the debate shall be moved.

.3 The general debate shall take place.

.4 The Chair shall again state the order of voting and shall advise Conference which, if any, motions or amendments will fall if others are carried.

.5 Voting will take place on motions, preceded by relevant amendments, in the order in which they were moved.

.6 A debate being conducted under this procedure may not be adjourned until after all the motions and amendments have been moved.

17 REPORTS BY [NATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP]

17.1 After the opening of Conference the [National Coordinating Group] shall present its report for the past year. The items of the report shall be discussed on a subject basis and in conjunction with any motion on the agenda which bears directly upon any part of the report.

17.2 If the [National Coordinating Group] presents a report to Conference which contains proposals or recommendations requiring approval and adoption by Conference, it shall submit it under a motion seeking such approval and adoption.

18 REFERENCE OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS TO THE [NATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP]

18.1 If at the end of the National Conference, the business of the Conference has not been concluded, all motions and amendments then outstanding shall stand referred to the [National Coordinating Group]. The [National Coordinating Group] in turn shall then report back to the appropriate local group or platform its decision on these matters. All such motions and amendments shall be responded to at least one month before the deadline for submission of motions and amendments to the next National Conference.

19 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

19.1 Any one or more of these Standing Orders may be suspended by a resolution of Conference in relation to a specific item of business properly before that Conference and to the proceedings thereon at that Conference, provided that at least two-thirds of the members registered for the conference present and voting shall vote for the resolution.