

The following motions have been received by Standing Orders Committee, and accepted as valid. No motions have been rejected as unconstitutional or invalidly submitted. The numbering is for convenience only, and does not imply any decision as to relevant importance or position in the final conference agenda.

The Constitution Commission report is appended. The first section will be taken as one motion. In line with the decision of last year's conference, SOC will only be allocating one hour in total for discussion of constitutional issues; please bear this in mind if you intend to submit any amendments.

Proposed amendments to these motions, and motions relating to the Labour Party leadership contest, should be submitted by 14 October. If submitting an amendment, please specify the motion which it is intended to amend, and specify clearly what changes are proposed. SOC will practice a strict interpretation of the requirement that new motions relate to the Labour Party leadership contest, and any motions which could have been submitted by the original deadline of 16 September will not be accepted.

Economy

1. For a class struggle programme for trade unions

Liverpool

Conference reaffirms the resolution of the 29 March 2014 Party Conference, viz :

“Left Unity needs to clarify its relationship to organised labour, work within the grassroots of the trade union movement, and develop policies that link the crisis of working class representation to the development of a rank and file trade unionism”.

In order to stimulate and develop the discussion within the Party, on policy and programme, Conference instructs the National Council to circulate to branches, and to all members via the email distribution list, and to place on the discussion forum page of the Party website, the draft ‘Class struggle programme for trade unions’ which has been produced by a minority of the Party’s Trade Union Commission {url :<http://tinyurl.com/jemfpb3> } .

This action is to be taken with the intention that the document, subject to review arising from the discussion, shall be submitted to Party Conference 2017, together with any alternative document that may be produced by other members of the Trade Union Commission

In light of Brexit, we need to deepen our direct links and solidarity actions with the European Workers Struggle as highlighted in the class struggle programme.

2. For a class struggle programme for trade unions

Stockport

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In order to stimulate discussion within the Party, on developing that policy, Conference instructs the National Council to circulate to branches, and to all members via the email distribution list, and to place on the discussion forum page of the Party website, the draft ‘Class struggle programme for trade unions’ which has been produced by a minority of the Party’s Trade Union Commission {url : <http://tinyurl.com/jemfpb3> } .

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3. World Economic Crisis

Liverpool

Left Unity recognises the crisis in the world economy and recognises that the owners of finance and industry have few solutions. We recognise the likelihood of repression in crisis both in the UK and across the world.

Repression in the past has extended to attacks on elected left Governments/ Discussions on how to address this situation are needed across the party drawing on the lessons of Greece and of Chile under Allende.

4. Campaign to support unorganised workers

Wales

Left Unity National Council and Trade Union Commission are instructed to develop a campaign to support and take forward the fight of unorganised workers to overcome workplace exploitation such as zero hour contracts.

A report with recommendations to the National Council should be made to the first NC meeting in 2017.

The campaign should include:

- methods of increasing trade union membership
- an emphasis on strikes and other direct industrial action to achieve recognition and collective agreements
- demands for legal changes to back trade union demands
- methods of developing solidarity support from trade unions and community organisations.

It is recognised that the TUC has decided at its 2016 conference to take a campaign forward in this area. It is also recognised that trade unions such as Unite and the IWU are active in this area as are other campaigns.

The proposal is that Left Unity should work to develop solidarity across these campaigns at all levels, with the particular emphasis on the importance of lasting workplace organisation and direct action, to achieve and sustain trade union recognition and agreements.

Environment

5. Climate Action Charter

Birmingham

This conference notes the launch of the Climate Action Charter by the Climate Action Network West Midlands and agrees to sign and promote it.

OVERALL AIM:

To provide a habitable planet for our children, grandchildren and future generations, we must limit the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, as agreed at the International Paris Climate Change Conference, 2015. Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 90% of 1990 levels by 2050.

Required actions to achieve this:

ENERGY AND CONSUMPTION:

1. Leave the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves in the ground. Stop the use of fracking and ban further oil and gas exploration. Nuclear energy must be phased out.
2. Generate the energy we need from renewable sources such as wind, solar, tidal and wave energy, to be delivered by not-for-profit publicly-run energy suppliers.
3. Reduce our consumption and energy use to sustainable levels.

TRANSPORT:

4. Invest in a rapid and massive shift towards low carbon, affordable public transport, cycling and walking for all.
5. Halt airport expansion and end unnecessary short-haul flights.

HOUSING:

6. Invest in a comprehensive programme of house and other building insulation and support people to switch to low carbon and zero carbon energy sources in their homes.

FOOD:

7. Bring large scale agriculture run by private corporations under public ownership and control. Ban genetically modified food production.
8. Put an end to all food waste.

EMPLOYMENT:

9. Retrain the workforce: replace environmentally harmful jobs with 'green' jobs.

EDUCATION:

10. Embed environmental issues throughout the education curriculum.

6. The Arctic

South London

The Arctic region is rapidly being destroyed as a result of climate change and the dash for fossil fuels and other resources by nations bordering the region. This could result in enormous environmental damage and the destruction of the habitat of indigenous people, wild life, as well as runaway climate change.

We call on Left Unity to work closely with the Red Green Alliance in Denmark and other sister parties and organisations campaigning to save the Arctic region from destruction.

7. Energy Policy

Wigan

Conference reaffirms its position on green energy - namely that renewable energy creates jobs and is less harmful to the environment than fossil fuels.

(a) It calls on branches to instigate action against fracking, by working with other groups such as Trades Councils, anti-fracking groups and similar like-minded organisations.

(b) Conference will delegate a body of volunteers to produce an anti-fracking training package for distribution to branches.

Health/Social Care/Welfare

8. The Crisis within Social Care and Independent Living

Birmingham

Introduction

The Centre for Welfare Reform, an independent think tank founded by Dr Simon Duffy, submitted in alliance with others written evidence to the Communities & Local Government Committee Inquiry on Adult Social Care. The summary of this evidence stated:

- Adult social care is in a state of profound and system-wide failure, accelerated by austerity. It is in breach of basic human rights, increasing death rates and promoting institutional and abusive services.
 - Legal, civil society and advocacy systems have been inadequate to defend the basic right to social care at the level of both the individual and society as a whole.
 - The underlying approach to social care (including commissioning, care management and regulation) is rooted in the failed policy assumptions of late 1980s and are undermining good practice.
 - Good practice has emerged against the grain of the current system and focuses on (a) promoting citizenship (b) strengthening families and (c) respecting communities.
 - It's time to radically redesign adult social care to create a system that combined universal, non means-tested system of entitlement with a focus on community development and prevention.
 - We recommend a root and branch reform of the whole system, moving responsibility away from the Department of Health and creating a new framework for funding, regulation and rights.
- The Centre for Welfare Reform has a real influence on the Socialist Health Alliance (SHA) and indirectly with policy makers within the Labour Party and, as a result, could play a major role in shaping a future Labour government's policy. Members of Left Unity involved in this area of policy development and service delivery would share common ground found within the summary presented by the Centre however this does not mean there is a shared vision for addressing the crisis in social support.

Conference Notes that:

Within local communities people have only the weakest notion of their entitlement to their social care and advocacy and information services are dependent on local funding which has frequently been cut.

Independent advocacy and self-advocacy for people with learning disabilities has radically declined since austerity.

The acute crisis within mental health services, the closure of the Independent Living Fund as well as the fact that the personal budget system has not developed as intended and is constrained by damaging levels of bureaucracy and control.

Conference Believes:

Left Unity has no up to date policy for addressing the current crisis in social support therefore it should establish a policy working group to explore what our vision of a radically redesigned social support system would be.

This working group should make links with radical forces seeking to address the crisis within social care and the undermining of independent living in order to build bridges where possible and to share intelligence.

The current crisis has been deepened by the marketisation of services and severe cutbacks to local authority services. It is acknowledged that many of the proposed 'solutions' to this crisis still offer a platform for neoliberal ideologies and practice.

Given this threat from the centre-right, the working group should consider alongside its own proposals what our position as Left Unity should be in relation to:

The concepts of 'social care', 'independent living' and 'citizenship'.

The notion of a combined universal, non means-tested system of entitlement with a focus on community development and prevention.

A proposed model based upon the Australian initiative to establish the National Disability Insurance Scheme to provide all disabled people with an appropriate non-means-tested personal budget. This system is underpinned by increased taxation, a policy which most Australians supported, recognising the need to invest in a universal system.

The radical reform of the organisation and funding of social support in order to establish a universal entitlement to support and community services that prevent need and support family and community life.

The need for a whole new understanding of the relationship between central and local government and of the overall financial settlement for social support.

How the boundaries of social support in relation to health care, (including all long term care), and independent living should be drawn.

A critical appraisal of current reforms in education and health to implement personalisation (sic) Any new system must be built upon the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (UNCRDP) and in particular the Right to Independent Living (Article 19).

The need to re-establish these fundamental rights at the heart of the welfare state which cannot be achieved via the existing marketisation of services and the complete medicalisation of service users' support needs.

9. Benefits Cap

Liverpool

Left Unity recognises the grave crisis for many families, for individuals and those living in sheltered housing will face in the forthcoming benefits cap.

Left Unity instructs the NC to endeavour to organise meetings in many areas on this matter and assist in the organisation of resistance to this locally and nationally

Local organisation can take many forms and will often be led by people directly affected. National resistance will require coordination.

Left Unity will have to work with many organisations but for some members they will need to be the starting point of organisation on this issue.

The NC should produce model leaflets, fact sheets and other help to members on this.

Left unity recognises that children, women and people with disabilities will again be hardest hit.

This matter must be taken up in the unions because many people affected will also be in low paid work.

10. Maternity Review

Liverpool

Left unity recognises the severe crisis of the NHS under the Tories and resolves to continue to campaign for the restoration of the NHS and the need of privatisation and marketization

We particularly recognise the dangers in the maternity review, the threat to obstetric and gynaecological services, from private midwifery services, closure of local consultant units, and from "personal budgets".

Communities must organise locally, regionally and nationally to defend the NHS.

11. NHS And Social Care

West London

In late March the Government launched a new and devastating tsunami of cuts to the NHS and local authority social care'

Without legislation or publicity, the Government has divided all English NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities into 44 'Footprints' each of which has been ordered to develop a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

These unaccountable bodies are to plan future NHS and social care funding across England with local authorities - but with massively reduced budgets. The core component of STPs is a financial one, where local health authorities and NHS Trusts are being compelled to tailor provision to meet the demand for cuts and budget deficits to be reduced to zero. The STPs aim to shift core elements of health provision from hospitals to social and health care in the community. With local authority cuts this is both unlikely and may well, if implemented, result in lower health care standards for many.

Core NHS functions are to be handed over to Accountable Care Partnerships (ACPs) which will lead to further privatisation in the NHS and over which local authorities will have no control.

While health care is currently free at the point of delivery, LA social care is means tested. Any move to charging for health care needs to be campaigned against.

Local Authorities are being blackmailed into compliance with STPs, with the threat of the limited 'sustainability budget' from NHSE and the government being withheld from local authorities. But STPs include unprecedented cuts in beds, hospitals and other services, while implications for LA services have yet to be set out. "Get well in your own home" is the message from the Government and NHSE. The penalty for failure would be huge losses of funding and imposition of new leaders.

This Conference therefore resolves

- to oppose the imposition of STPs, locally and nationally
- to campaign for full public consultation in all areas on STPs, with democratic accountability
- to resist the handing over of local health provision to undemocratic and largely privatised ACPs
- to campaign for publicly funded, publicly provided and accountable Health and Social Care services and for a similar % of UK GDP to be invested in public health and in social care as in neighbouring European countries such as Germany, France and Netherlands
- to campaign for the level of hospital beds per head of population to at least meet the European average.
- to support local grassroots campaigns for the NHS and to actively encourage LU members to participate in local campaigns, in addition to raising the issues in their TUs and other bodies.

12. The National Health Service

Oxford

Conference believes that the NHS is in acute crisis and that we cannot wait for the next General Election to save the NHS, as every day more damage is being done to it by the Tory Government. The symptoms of their attack on the NHS include:

- Since 2011, the number of patients waiting longer than four hours in Accident and Emergency Departments, has increased from 52,000 to 181,000.
- The Government not investing in healthcare, but cutting the deficit said to be £22 billion by 2020, which is why in England hospitals are being closed, Accident and Emergency services merged and some hospitals are already announcing the suspension of many services.
- Sustainability and Transformation Plans with their new regional structures being created under central NHS control, for rationalising provision and levering in new resources; this means more private sector involvement and privatisation and cuts in services.
- Government funding for public health, critical for keeping people out of hospital, is facing cuts of over five per cent a year up to 2020.
- Continued commitment to the Private Finance Initiative.

This is a crisis that has been cynically created by those in the Conservative Party and their friends in the private sector who want the NHS to fail.

Conference affirms the basic principles that our fight against inequality and better health should be based on:

- (1) NHS planning and provision being focussed on the social determinants of improved social housing, access to a good education, healthy food, a healthy environment, access to exercise and sporting facilities and health education;
- (2) An NHS that meets the needs of the population, free at the point of delivery, universal and equitable, publicly provided within the NHS and funded by progressive taxation;
- (3) An ending of the democratic deficit within the NHS, with accountability to be based on election, democratic decision making at a local level, transparency and equality of opportunity;
- (4) The full integration of the provision of health and social care;
- (5) Expansion of mental health services, neglected over decades and more fully integrated into the broader NHS as a whole.

In support of these principles, Conference commits itself to protecting and improving of the NHS by:

(1) The repeal of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and part of the Care Act 2014, in order to restore the NHS as a publicly delivered, publicly funded and publicly accountable healthcare system and re-establishing the position in England of the Secretary of State for Health being fully accountable for providing comprehensive health care;

(2) As a consequence, an ending of market forces in the NHS, including the internal market split of purchaser/commissioner and provider and the re-establishment of a single integrated service, with private enterprise having no place;

(3) Re-instating the NHS as the sole provider of services. This will protect the NHS as a public service by preventing a private sector takeover of NHS services by stealth;

(4) Ending the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and the renegotiation and buying-out contracts at a realistic value. Any publicly owned banks to be forced to cancel PFI contracts before re-privatisation and the ending and reversal of the outsourcing of clinical and support services related to PFI contracts;

(5) A moratorium on Accident and Emergency Department, hospital, ward and bed closures. Any reconfigurations must be both clinically and evidence-based and must show they have won public and professional support for alternative and improved services;

(6) That all NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans be immediately made public and that the proposals contained within them be abandoned pending full consultation;

(7) Reduction of the Department of Health, NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Group reliance on external management consultants, who have too much influence on health policy. As an alternative, they should re-engage with the representative bodies of frontline NHS professionals, as well as patient groups, to develop and plan future NHS policy in the most clinically effective and sustainable manner;

(8) Ensure evidenced-based adequate staff to patient ratios and bed numbers in order to maintain safe, effective, and high quality patient care;

(9) Improving accountability and transparency of the NHS by empowering community health bodies and combining them with external peer review of hospitals and GP practices by the Care Quality Commission;

(10) Reviewing and strengthening the NHS complaints procedures and improving the ease of access and protection for whistle blowers, in order to contribute to patient trust and confidence;

(11) Using the purchasing power of the NHS to improve procurement practices in order to reduce costs of drugs, medical devices and general supplies and ensure those who manage NHS

purchasing have no conflict of interest arising from a financial benefit to be gained from selecting a particular product;

(12) Exempting the NHS and all other public services from all provisions of the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and other trade deals such as the Trade in Service Agreement (TISA), that threatens to open up our healthcare system to irreversible privatisation;

(13) Ending all funding cuts, such as the £22 billion in so-called 'efficiency savings'. We must ensure that the NHS is fully and properly funded so that the needs of all patients can be met efficiently and promptly with the best available treatments and the reversal in the decline in real wages of health service workers and their conditions of service, such as those attempting to be imposed by the Department of Health on Junior Hospital Doctors.

Conference also believes that it would be a disaster for the NHS for the Labour Party to simply wait for an invitation to form a government to implement change. The NHS is at breaking point today and by 2020 it will be too late. We need to reverse the damage done today.

Conference recognises that only through the creation of grassroots movements, can we protect our NHS. The campaign to save our NHS must become a visible reality on every high street and a priority for all those who value it. Only that might give our health service a chance of survival.

Conference resolves that the National Council make campaigning on saving the NHS a first priority and that in doing so, we join with and help build local NHS campaigns that should ensure that the campaigning enthusiasm within trades unions and the left as a whole, that support for the election and re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as Leader of the Labour Party has generated, is now directed to campaigning ends, such as saving the NHS.

13. The NHS Junior Hospital Doctors' Dispute

Oxford

Conference notes The Junior Doctors' dispute is but symptomatic of an NHS in deep crisis and is directed against the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt's refusal to negotiate on two key issues, namely the shortage of doctors in key specialisms and the impact of the longer contract hours on women. The imposition of extended working hours will create significant problems for many junior doctors, no less in childcare costs and will do so unevenly across specialisms. It is also why so many Junior Doctors feel the settlement to be unfair, particularly where existing contracts are being maintained by the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Conference re-affirms Left Unity's full support for and solidarity with NHS Junior Hospital Doctors, represented by the British Medical Association Junior Hospital Doctors' Committee, in

their continuing industrial action against the intransigent Tory Government, in support of their conditions of service and the interests of patient safety.

Conference resolves to offer what local support and assistance to them in their campaigning that may be appropriate and to work at a national level in support of their just demands as part of our campaign to save the NHS.

14. Mental Health Service Cuts

Wigan

Conference believes that children are disproportionately affected by the cuts in mental health services. It also notes that people suffering the greatest financial hardships under this government are often the ones in need of support from those mental health services which are being cut.

(a) This conference calls for the mental health service to be recognised as having an essential role, at a time when austerity measures are linked to issues ranging from depression to suicide.

(b) This conference also calls for a reversal of all cuts and privatisation throughout the wider NHS.

(c) It also proposes working with a national campaigning organisation (such as HCT - Health Campaigns Together), and the building of a national mass demonstration, to be held outside of London.

International

15. NATO

Haringey

Left Unity reiterates its opposition to NATO, following its Summit in Warsaw in July 2016. We reject the false narrative which NATO projects, describing itself as a ‘defensive alliance’ with a nuclear capability to ‘preserve peace’. In fact, NATO is a US-dominated, aggressive, expansionist military bloc with a nuclear first-use policy that has systematically expanded its territory and remit since the end of the cold war, engaging in destabilising and disastrous wars.

The outcomes of the Warsaw Summit include the following:

Increased so-called Missile ‘Defence’ capability, notably bases in Romania, Turkey and Poland

The permanent hosting of 1,000 NATO troops in Poland and the Baltic States, from countries including the UK

Continuing expansion of NATO through the offering of membership to Montenegro
The assigning of at least 13,000 NATO troops to Afghanistan, despite previous plans to reduce them to zero by 2017

Continued pressure to be exerted for 2% of member states' GDP to be spent on 'defence', constituting a massive hand out for the arms industry, as well as European funding for US foreign policy

These outcomes, amongst others, will only contribute to further global tensions and instability, particularly in relation to Russia, against which missile 'defence', troop location, NATO expansion and nuclear weapons possession and policy are all orientated.

We note NATO's self-description in its post-Summit statement: "NATO is an alliance of values, including individual liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law."

This bears no relationship to the truth and we deplore the fact that Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Defence has echoed these words, describing "the basic values that underpin NATO" as "collective endeavour, human rights, liberty and democracy" when he commented on the Summit outcomes.

Left Unity will:

Continue its opposition to NATO and its aggressive expansion and dangerous military adventurism, and call for Britain to leave NATO

Work to end pro-NATO policies in the Labour Party and labour movement

Support the anti-NATO protests at the NATO Summit in Brussels in 2017

16. Turkey, the Kurdish struggle, and the Turkish invasion of North Syria

Haringey

This Conference condemns the military coup in Turkey of 15 July, Erdogan's counter coup, the ongoing arbitrary treatment of detainees, the Turkish army's violent invasion of Northern Syria, and EU member states' near-silence over all these matters. We call for:

an end to torture of prisoners,

an end to suppression of freedom of expression, whether for journalists, teachers and lecturers, or media outlets

access to lawyers and due process for all those charged

the release of all political prisoners including Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan,

an end to the war on the Kurds,

withdrawal of the Turkish army from Kurdistan and Northern Syria
an end to the state of emergency.

We support the democratic and working class resistance, including:

Building links with trade union campaigns in Turkey

Supporting campaigns around the environment

Support the elected officials and workforce and electorate of 28 municipalities in the south east where the government has removed the elected officials and impose trustees.

We call for lifting the blockades on Rojava, for the sending of aid by international agencies as requested by Tev-Dem to assist in meeting the needs of refugees in the area, and for people to support Kurdish and solidarity organisations that are already sending material aid to Rojava.

We ask the British government to closely monitor the treatment of all those detained in Turkey.

We will make links with other labour movement organisations and individuals doing similar work, to strengthen the network of solidarity. We call on Left Unity Branches to do this at local level.

This Conference agrees to support and work closely with solidarity initiatives including Peace in Kurdistan, Stop War on Kurds, Solidarity with People of Turkey, Women's Alliance for Kurdistan, Iraq and Syria, and Academics for Peace. We will encourage Left Unity branches to raise money for Heyva Sor (Kurdish Red Moon) for medical aid.

Left Unity Internal

17. Proposed rule change to writing motions for National Conference

Wales

Conference notes that motions submitted for debate at National Conference can vary in length. To ensure that all motions can be readily accessible to all members for consideration prior to National Conference the following rules are proposed for acceptance by the Constitutional Commission and National Conference:

- i) a motion should be no more than 200 words including the title;
- ii) a supporting argument for a motion should be the body of the proposer's speech to a motion and not a written pre-amble to a motion;
- iii) any amendment to a motion should be no more than 25 words.

18. Conduct Within Left Unity

Liverpool

Left Unity operates in a society with great inequalities and great oppressions.

We resolve therefore to do our utmost to address such issues in our own party, and to do our best to make our party as open and democratic as possible affording to all the opportunity to speak and to be heard.

Left Unity stands with those who have disabilities and will aid their struggles. Left unity is antiracist, supports migrant rights, is feminist, supports LGBT rights, is opposed to anti-Semitism and opposed to Islamophobia and xenophobia and is opposed to ageism.

We opposed the poverty imposed by capitalism and recognise class oppression and snobbery as real issues faced by our members.

We aim to build left Unity to be a Party where people in each oppressed group feels comfortable to take a full part

We recognise the rights of members to form caucuses within oppressed groups/liberation groups

We resolve accordingly to

1. Use best practice in safeguarding children and young people in our party and in such campaigns that we organise. Until such time as left unity has the opportunity to develop our own procedures, we will use those adopted by the Society of Friends. Applications to vary these procedures will be made in writing to the general secretary of Left Unity who is given permission to vary them when required, but will report all such to the National Council.

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting/policies-procedures>

2. Offer good opportunity for members from all oppressed /liberation groups to play and active part in the party
3. recognise responsibility towards vulnerable adults and will consult members as to how best to secure freedom of speech expression and organisation whilst keeping such adults safe from exploitation.
4. Endeavour to ensure all meeting will be held in accessible venues.
5. Endeavour to ensure No alcohol should be allowed in business or political meetings
6. Provide Crèches or child care at major meetings
7. be welcoming and open to all who wish to attend. Racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, sexism and islamophobia will not be tolerated in the party.

8. recognise there is a difference between hate speech, inadvertent offence, and lack of awareness. In a meeting, members will have one warning from the chair on such issues. The party should be inclusive to all oppressed groups but also protect from harm.
9. welcome people fresh to the struggle who may have little no experience of such rules. We hope people will come to our meetings even when they are angry and full of rage against the system. The chair still has responsibility to call to order any offensive comments.
10. Hold regular new members meeting where such issues will be addressed
11. Adopt the following procedure; members will be called to order on the first occasion of inadvertent offence and warned about repeating it. This to be in a calm and non-confrontational manner. Discussions with that member should happen as soon as possible to explain the offence caused and how such comments or attitudes can offend, can act to suppress discussion and free expression
12. Branches should endeavour to discuss issues such as the impact of class, violence against women, child sexual exploitation, poverty, racism, lgbt rights over the course of the year. These discussions can be tied to current events.
13. Ensure complaints on such matters are made either to the secretary or another member appointed by the branch. If this is not appropriate complaints should be directed to the General secretary and dealt with at their discretion
14. Each person in a complaint should be entitled to representation by another member.
15. Permit a branch secretary and chair may suspend the right to attend meetings and to personally contribute to forums if the secretary have concerns as to the safety of the aggrieved member. Such matters to be dealt with in due haste and referred to national bodies as per the constitution e.g. via appeal and through the disputes committee.
16. Any dangerous matters must be referred to the law.
17. Respect and care are expected between members. Robust discussion on issues is to be encouraged but personal insults are not helpful in person or on line.

19. Rebuilding LU

South London

1. Left Unity was set up to build a new socialist party in the “Spirit of 45” – a reference to the highpoint of British social democracy in the 1945-50 Labour government. LU set out to build a socialist-labour party on a British road to socialism.
2. This perspective had germinated over a longer period as a response to the sustained neo liberal offensive against the ‘welfare state’ and the politics of New Labour.
3. This perspective has been overtaken by events – in particular a) The Scottish referendum in 2014 and the launch of RISE b) The Corbyn victory in the Labour Party in 2015 c) The vote to leave the EU in England and Wales, known as Brexit, in 2016

4. The election of Jeremy Corbyn and the rapid growth of the Labour Party has reinvigorated the “Spirit of 45” in the Labour Party and has undermined Left Unity and TUSC who had been defending socialist-labour politics outside the Labour Party.

6. In parallel with the post 2008 economic crisis there has been a growing “crisis of democracy” because millions have come to recognise that the Westminster parliamentary system is failing to represent the people. The failure of Westminster ‘democracy’ has shown itself in a variety of ways – non-voting in elections, the division between Westminster MPs and Labour members, the rise of small parties such as the SNP, Plaid Sinn Fein, the Green Party and UKIP, the Scottish and EU referenda

7. The future of LU is called in question by the rise of Corbyn. LU has no sustainable long term future as a socialist-labour party. There has to be a change of direction, strategy and programme. LU must begin to rebuild itself as a republican socialist party with the aim of a European and UK ‘democratic revolution’.

8. Over the next year Left Unity will therefore:

I. Rebrand itself as the party of democratic revolution in the UK and the EU

II. Review LU’s democratic programme

III. Add opposition to the 1707 Act of Union to LU existing policies of abolishing the monarchy and House of Lords

IV. Build support in England for Scotland’s right to self determination, including the right to remain in the EU

V. To seek official discussion with RISE in Scotland for an anti-Unionist alliance

VI. To hold discussions with Left Unity (Wales) over how this perspective can be developed in Wales.

20. Standing in Elections

Stockport

This Conference believes that the decision on whether or not to stand as a Left Unity candidate for any and all local elections such as local councillor positions should be the decision of the local branch of Left Unity and this would be an exception to Left Unity's current policy on not running in elections.

Miscellaneous

21. A Left Forum

Haringey

This conference calls on the incoming National Committee to make it a priority strengthen our links and discussion with ex-members of Left Unity who have left to join the Labour Party, and other socialists inside and outside the Labour Party who share much of our politics.

To this end we will initiate a Left Forum to promote political discussion, and common activity. The aim would be to create an open, democratic, pluralist space for socialist discussion and activity.

The Forum will amongst other things:

- have an online discussion journal separate from and independent of the Left Unity website; and,
- aim to hold political discussion meetings at local and national level.

We will initially invite all ex-members of Left Unity that we have contact details for, and other non-member branch and national contacts to participate in the Forum. The NC should also explore with other socialist organisations and groups, the potential for joint sponsorship of the forum and merger with similar, existing initiatives where this can be mutually agreed.

The Forum would seek to attract participation by, and discussion among, the diverse strands of radical and socialist politics in the UK, both inside and outside the Labour Party, including members of workers' organisations and trade unions; grass roots 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 underemployment; environmental and green campaigners; campaigners for freedom and democracy; all those who seek to authentically voice and represent the interests of working people.

Nothing in the enactment of this motion would be a substitute for, or counterposed to, continuing to organise independently as Left Unity, or direct recruitment to Left Unity, where this is possible.

Left Unity recognises the grave crisis for many families, for individuals and those living in sheltered housing will face in the forthcoming benefits cap.

Left Unity instructs the NC to endeavour to organise meetings in many areas on this matter and assist in the organisation of resistance to this locally and nationally

Local organisation can take many forms and will often be led by people directly affected.
National resistance will require coordination.

Left Unity will have to work with many organisations but for some members they will need to be the starting point of organisation on this issue.

The NC should produce model leaflets, fact sheets and other help to members on this.

Left unity recognises that children, women and people with disabilities will again be hardest hit.

This matter must be taken up in the unions because many people affected will also be in low paid work.

22. Brexit

Liverpool

Left Unity recognises the serious difficulties posed to the labour movement by Brexit and heightened racism and xenophobia. Left Unity further recognises the threats to many gains by workers in maternity and paternity

Left Unity instructs the NC to organise with such people who agree with us to develop agitation and organisation in defence of all workers in the UK, their families and all who have come to live in the UK

Left Unity will campaign for the rights of workers to choose where they will work and live.

Left Unity is aware of the major drop in wages experienced in the UK since the 2008 crisis.

Left Unity recognises how major employers have exploited the crisis and Austerity to cut wages and conditions, especially in agriculture where the abolition of the Agricultural wages board which was opposed by most in the industry but pushed through by big business.

Left Unity opposes the rights of employers to exploit free movement to enforce low pay.

Left Unity will campaign in the trade unions to defend women's rights and workers' rights during Brexit

Left Unity recognises the ongoing problems of the British economy and the world economy and resolves that workers and others in our communities. should not pay the price of crisis

Left Unity will campaign with environmental groups to defend environmental protection and to oppose fracking during Brexit

Left Unity will continue to campaign with groups, including as part of the European left party to coordinate workers, women's, community, environmental and peace struggles across Europe

Left unity will endeavour with groups, including the European Left Party, to extend links to other continents where workers and women are in struggle.

23. Defend comprehensive education

Camden & Islington

Conference is deeply concerned by the proposals in the government Green paper on education including

- Relaxing the ban introduced by Labour in 1998 against opening new grammar schools
- Existing non-selective schools will be allowed to select where there is demand from parents
- Existing grammar schools will be able to expand and will be given £50 million to do so
- Lifting the ban on any new faith school selecting more than 50 per cent of pupils on the basis of their religion.
- These changes are part of a wider Tory agenda to increase segregation and division in our education system through the promotion of academies and the introduction of "University Technical Colleges" (UTCs)

Conference notes that selective education systems are also linked with greater inequality in social outcomes later in life. The extension of grammar schools will not raise educational standards for the majority of children. Although pupils who passed the 11+ and go to grammar schools generally achieve well, this is at the expense of the majority of children who do not get a grammar school place. The evidence shows that the attainment of pupils at secondary moderns is lower than that of comprehensive schools.

Left Unity commits itself to campaigning against these proposals together with teaching unions, education campaigns and activists as widely as possible. We welcome the opposition of Jeremy Corbyn and Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Angela Rayner to these plans and urge the Labour Party to commit itself to reversing any changes made to increase selection made between now and the election of a Labour government

24. Women

Louise Harrison , Felicity Dowling

This Conference recognises that women's lives are under attack in a whole range of ways due to austerity. We face daily cuts to services, jobs, wages and benefits. These financial assaults are coming on top of years of institutional discrimination that have already seen us robbed of equal pay, full time hours at work and decent pensions in our retirement.

This conference recognises that decades of gender discrimination has led to women having less choices, Less control and less rights in their lives.

Consequently, women and girls have historically been viewed and treated as inferior, which has directly led to most women experiencing intimate and state violence at some stage in their lives. Domestic violence is responsible for two murders of women a week and three women weekly committing Suicide.

This conference recognises that the sweeping cuts to domestic violence services that are taking place across the country is unacceptable, unforgivable and life threatening. Women suffering domestic violence now have less chance of living a life without fear as government cuts stop every avenue of escape open to them.

Conference applauds the fight back in Doncaster by the women's lives matter campaign to save Doncaster womens aid and will support similar campaigns as they arise.

Conference calls on members to raise this matter as a matter of urgency in their unions and community groups, as National and local political decisions are taking women's lives back to pre women's aid, to pre refuge.

This conference requests the NC to produce support materials in order to organise a national meeting to coordinate this work. We welcome the first ever minister for domestic abuse in his shadow cabinet; and we welcome working with Sarah champion mp to tackle this issue; however this conference recognises that women can not wait for an election to deal with this pandemic cuts to services that support victims of domestic violence have to be saved now.

25. Sex Workers

South London

Conference notes:

1. 80% sex workers are women and a disproportionate number are LGBT, migrant, disabled people, and single parents.
2. Some are forced into sex work through 'trafficking' and 'grooming', the majority of enter the industry for economic reasons

Conference believes:

1. We live in a deeply patriarchal society that structures the sex industry. Empowering sex workers is a blow against this.
2. Provided that they don't harm others, al adults have a right to do with their bodies as they please.

3. sex workers should have access to the same protections afforded to any other worker.
4. the current legal position in the UK on sex work is contradictory and fails to support interests of sex workers.
5. That the 'Nordic' model which criminalises the purchase of sex has been a failure
6. That decriminalisation in New Zealand has substantially improved the rights of sex workers and is the only effective way to tackle organised crime that affects the sex industry

We campaign for:

1. Tackling the economic reasons for people taking up sex work including by fighting for:
 - a) a comprehensive student grant system.
 - b) Gender reassignment available on the NHS without a diagnosis of gender dysphoria.
 - c) Affordable public rented housing for all including LGBT people.
 - d) Free childcare including for those who work shifts
 - e) Disabled people should be financially supported for the extra cost incurred due to health and/or social restrictions
 - f) Easy access to services that help tackle drug and alcohol addiction.
 - g) Guaranteed income for those out of work.
2. Decriminalisation of sex work akin to legislation developed in New Zealand, including:
 - a) zoning regulated by civil not criminal law.
 - b) Pardoning of all past sex work related offences (except those involving coercion or violence).
 - c) Involvement in sex work of adults they live with no reason for children being taken into care.
 - d) A two tier brothel system; with socially owned larger brothels and enabling sex workers to work independently in collectives
 - e) Rights for sex workers in relations to clients, and managers
3. Left Unity campaigns for the empowerment of sex workers, including:
 - a) engaging sex worker to influence policy changes.
 - b) Making discrimination of the provision of services and goods to people who are sex workers an offence

c) Support the development of sex workers unions

4. Left Unity is committed to tackling the coercion of people into sex work whether through trafficking or grooming, this includes:

a) freedom of movement enabling trafficked sex workers to escape without fear of deportation

b) Crimes against a sex worker to become a hate crime.

c) Support street based initiatives that help identify dangerous clients

d) A comprehensive network of safe-spaces for sex workers open 24/7.

Conference instructs the NC to:

1. Develop a relationship with sex-worker led organisations,

2. Campaign against the introduction of the 'Nordic Model'.

3. Work with others to develop a private members bill to decriminalise sex work akin to that in New Zealand.

26. For a prostitution policy based on the Nordic ‘Sex Purchase Act’

Stockport

Left Unity notes that

- Prostitution is incompatible with the human rights and dignity of the individual because it commodifies sexuality which is a core aspect of the human personality. The practice of prostitution creates a market place where sexual services are bought by mainly male end-users and supplied by mainly female providers whose bodies are thereby rendered a commodity. The sex-trade also comprises many third party exploiters such as pimps or brothels. The sex trade is founded on the inequality of the sexes, on the premise of male entitlement of, and female submission to, sexual gratification on demand. The vast majority of people in prostitution entered it as children or very young adults, or due to financial distress, homelessness, low skills, a history of childhood abuse, or were coerced by traffickers.
- Once in prostitution, many obstacles prevent people exiting the sex trade.
- The prostitution market is competitive and like any market generates a need for Unique Selling Points; this encourages third party exploiters to supply children to satisfy demands for young bodies. Evidence suggests that countries adopting a policy of liberalisation of the sex trade experience an increase in trafficking, pimping and unsafe or violent practices of end-users; also in market innovations such as brothel multiplexes, sex drive-ins or brothel camps. Countries that have adopted a policy of curbing demand have seen a decrease in pimping, trafficking and violence against prostituted people.

Left Unity therefore resolves to campaign for and adopt as a manifesto commitment a ‘Nordic Model’ approach to prostitution, including:

- The removal of all criminal and civil sanctions against individuals selling sexual services, provided in person by themselves.
- The introduction of a new criminal offence of buying or procuring sexual services.
- Provision of quality services for prostituted people wishing to exit the sex trade, i.e. housing, legal or benefit advice, counselling training or childcare.
- Funding of training in this new approach for police, the criminal justice systems, and attendant services.
- Funding of a comprehensive public information campaign to raise awareness of the new law.
- Cancellation of all previous convictions and orders of prostituted people for offences related to past activities in the sex trade.

- Prioritisation of the policing and prosecution of pimping, trafficking, sex buying and the sexual exploitation of children.
- Banning of any advertising of sex trade related jobs such as lap dancing, or sex phone lines on government funded web sites and job boards or promotion of these to job seekers.
- Prioritisation of all Left Unity policies that address factors known to “push” people into prostitution, such as student tuition fees, benefit cuts or immigration rules that leave migrants without the right to work or benefits.
- Revoking the identification of trafficking victims as illegal immigrants.
- Registering Left Unity as a supporter of the End Demand campaign (<http://enddemand.uk/>)

Racism/Migration

27. Brexit And Immigration Control

Camden & Islington

Immigration remains at the centre of political discourse because:

The forces causing the massive displacement of people, including military intervention by imperialism are becoming more acute, so more and more people are risking their lives and arriving at the gates of Europe. This has had a polarising effect throughout Europe. Whilst many welcomed refugees, there has also been an upsurge of fascist and right populist anti-migrant parties playing a significant part in many European countries.

The EU Referendum was to a significant extent a referendum on migration. The Tories believe that for Brexit to be seen as successful they will need and the success of Brexit is to significantly reduce the number of migrants entering the UK – to be seen as taking a tough stand. This will involve more anti-migrant legislation and procedures, restrictions on benefits, more raids and dominate the Section 50 negotiations with the EU. The first step is the proposals for a work permit system – as bad or worse than a points based system.

Brexit faces us with an uncomfortable truth. Many working class people who voted Leave were kicking back at the status quo, especially where social and economic life of communities have been smashed by successive governments from Thatcher onwards, including Labour governments. On the other hand it reflected opposition to migration and freedom of movement.

We should not conclude that the working class is anti-migrant. After all most migrants are themselves working class. Many workers, especially in very mixed communities, will defend their multi-cultural communities whichever way they voted in the referendum. Nevertheless

there is clearly an enormous task ahead , challenging anti-migrant attitudes and scapegoating in our class.

The left, both inside and outside the Labour Party will be coming under tremendous pressure to make concessions on this question. It is vital, when the government is gearing for further crack down on migrants, to be seen to be ‘doing something about immigration’, that socialists are organising to defend migrants rights and arguing for solidarity. Left Unity must hold the line that we bravely adopted at our conference in 2014.

The fight back will involve a combination of things.

Showing solidarity with migrants – particularly those in Calais

Working with campaigns for migrant rights including the Movement for Justice Campaign to close Detention Centres, and the anti-raids campaign, campaign against the new policies and attacks coming from the Home Office and government

Arguing the case for migrants rights, freedom of movement and against immigration controls

Advocate policies on jobs, homes, education and health care for all, in defence of the environment and against poverty which show that it is government and the rich that deny working people the jobs and services we need, not migrants

Assisting the development a socialist sense of working class solidarity and pride which can positively build a sense of community rather than embracing nationalist flags or excluding ‘outsiders’.

28. Defend Free Movement - stop the racist attacks

Haringey

Since the Brexit outcome of the referendum, we have seen a sharp move to the right in British politics with a dramatic rise in racist and xenophobic attacks. This increase in hate crime is an entirely predictable response to a Leave campaign which focused largely on migration.

All the ills of British society were laid at the door of immigration. A hundred newspaper front pages told us how damaging and harmful immigrants and refugees were to the British way of life – this was the underlying message of the Leave campaign.

The fact that government policies are to blame for the shortages and cuts – not migrants - was ignored, and the real economic benefits brought to our society and economy as a result of migration were airbrushed out of the debate. So the belief that curbing immigration will have a beneficial effect on British society has gained widespread support.

But this is not actually true.

Reports show that immigration is a net contributor to the economy overall and, as far as average wages are concerned, it may actually lead to a small increase in average wages. What's more, nearly all studies of the effect of migration on jobs and wages fail to include the positive effect of job creation through enterprise by migrants. Migrants create more jobs than their actual numbers.

Free movement is also an advance for the European working class as a whole. Rather than being 'guest' workers with few rights, those who work in other EU countries have rights and protections as EU citizens. These rights need to be extended rather than retreated from.

The terms of Brexit are now the key site of struggle for the left and progressive forces in Britain. Brexiteers will try to remove trade union and social rights that have been underwritten by the EU. We will have to fight every step of the way to prevent the Brexit treaties being a deregulatory jamboree in the interests of the ruling class.

Not only free movement but migration in general must be defended; it is historically a powerful source of progressive development. We oppose Fortress Europe but ending free movement in Europe will make extending that right more – not less – difficult.

None of the problems that the working class faces internationally can be solved on a national basis. We need to work for a pan-European movement to create the democratic and federal Europe that can begin to solve the problems that we face. Blaming and punishing European workers for the problems brought by capitalism is not the answer. The working class belongs together, across borders, and we can only win together.

Left Unity resolves to:

- 1] continue to engage with the issue of immigration by continuing to oppose all cuts to education and health and other services and calling for a mass house building programme.
- 2] oppose any attempt to use the referendum vote to restrict the rights of migrant workers and refugees.
- 3] continue to oppose all racist attacks and argue for the benefits of migration and free movement.
- 4] campaign alongside others to Defend Free Movement.
- 5] campaign alongside our sister parties and others in Europe in solidarity against those who seek to divide workers and mis-use the issue of migration for political ends.
- 6] defend all trade union and social rights that have been underwritten by the EU and we oppose the scrapping of the Human Rights Act.
- 7] campaign for a refounded European union on a democratic and anti-capitalist basis.

29. The rights of EU citizens

South London

In the light of the aftermath of the Brexit referendum with increasing attacks on EU citizens and mounting xenophobia the position which LU adopted in the referendum campaign has been justified. The increasing confidence of the Right and the forces of Little Englander reaction demonstrate that the Left must strive far more to oppose them and to argue for the most 'open' Brexit possible.

LU calls for a campaign to protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK so that they are not used as pawns in a political game. We also call for the retention of the right to free movement between the EU and the UK and to campaign with groups such as the Migrants Rights Network to protect this and oppose all forms of xenophobia against migrants.

UK Constitution

30. Scotland

South London

Politics has evolved in Scotland since the referendum in 2014. The vast majority of progressive Scots now support independence whereas the Unionist parties consist of the Tories, Lib Dems and the Right of the Labour Party. Left Unity must support the progressive movement for an independent socialist Scotland.

Left Unity agrees to support the campaign for Scottish independence and to forge links with those progressive and socialist forces involved with the campaign in Scotland

31. The British Union

South London

1. We note the LU Manifesto called for the abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords but took no view on the Union which binds England with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
2. This conference calls for the abolition of the 1707 Act of Union and the end of all jurisdictions by the British Crown over the sovereign nations of Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
3. By ending the Union, the people of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, will be able to freely choose their future relations with the people of England, whether as independent nations, or in some form of voluntary federal relationship or within the European Union or in whatever form they decide.

32. Scotland after Brexit

South London

1. Left Unity notes:

1.1. Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU

1.2 In the 2014 Scottish referendum one of the main arguments from the Unionist (No) campaign was that if Scotland left the UK it would be excluded from the EU.

1.3 The majority votes for Brexit in England and Wales and the subsequent Tory government's commitment to leave the EU changes the position. Scotland cannot remain in the UK and the EU as supporters of the British Union claimed in 2014

1.4 Under the 1707 Act of Union (including subsequent amendments) the Scottish people have no right to self determination. There is no right to a self determination referendum (i.e. no right to a vote on secession.) It depends on 'sovereignty of the 'Crown-in-Parliament' as exercised by the British Prime Minister.

2. Left Unity recognises the right of the Scottish people to self determination and in particular the right to remain in the EU given the majority vote in Scotland to remain.

3. Left Unity will fully support the call for a 'self determination' referendum to enable the Scottish people to decide to leave the UK and seek to remain in the EU.

4. Left Unity calls for the Labour Party to support such a referendum and commit a future Labour government to guarantee Scotland's right to referendum on the EU or on other issues.

5. In the event that a Scottish referendum is held before the next general election, LU will promote activities to encourage the working class movement to support Scottish exit from the UK to implement the decision of the Scottish people to seek to remain in the EU.

33. Boundary Changes

Wigan

Conference notes with concern that the government's proposed boundary changes are based on out-of-date information on the number of voters who had registered themselves in each area (by December 2015), rather than on the actual number of people residing there.

Conference believes that this system disadvantages the less affluent urban areas (i.e. the traditional Labour heartlands), where many disaffected residents have not registered themselves under the new system at all, resulting in an incorrect population count. This potentially reduces the number of Labour seats, which directly benefits the Tory party.

Conference resolves to identify and actively support an appropriate national campaign to oppose these boundary changes as currently constituted.