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## **THE FUTURE OF LEFT UNITY AND MISCELLANEOUS**

### **4. Electoral Pact, Bath and North East Somerset,**

"Left Unity does not enter into any electoral pacts with other parties or organisations."

### **38. Electoral coalitions, Croydon,**

Left Unity will immediately de-register its joint electoral description with TUSC, 'Left Unity – Trade Unionists and Socialists', with the Electoral Commission. It will no longer stand any joint candidates with TUSC unless and until this decision is overturned by a future annual conference.

### **61. Kill the Bill – Defend the right to strike and protest, Brighton & Hove,**

Left Unity condemns the attacks on trade union rights contained in the Tories' Trade Union Bill. This is an attack on workers' rights by a government serving the interests of the rich and powerful.

The Government proposes to make any strike illegal unless 50% of all eligible voters take part in the ballot; plus, for education, transport, health, fire and other essential services, an additional hurdle of 40% of all eligible members must vote in favour. This from a Government that was "elected" by less than 25% of voters.

In addition the proposals on using agency workers to break strikes, restrictions on picketing, extended ballot notice periods, attacks on facility time, and even restrictions on protests associated with disputes represent an ideological drive to stop all effective opposition to the Government's austerity programme.

There is a wider struggle to repeal the existing anti trade union laws which ban solidarity and restrict the right to strike, breaching International Labour Organisation conventions. The best way to conduct this struggle is to fight the new proposals and go over to the offensive. We recognise that history tells us that defeating unjust laws often entails breaking them.

Left Unity resolves –

- \* To support any workers who take action in defiance of these laws
- \* To work within unions and local Trades Councils to campaign against further anti-union legislation.
- \* To support any trade unionists facing legal action or victimisation as a result of these laws
- \* To call, via our own union structures and directly on the TUC, to organise a mass demonstration in the week the laws are debated in Parliament
- \* To support any calls by trade unionists on the TUC to organise mass strike action if the laws are introduced
- \* To support the establishment of funds to support strikers who take action, such as solidarity action, that breaches the anti-union laws.

### **81. Motion 2 from LU Scotland, Glasgow South,**

The capitulation of the SYRIZA government and its implementation of the EU-imposed programme of austerity was a set-back to those opposing the drive of capitalism to impose its class solution on the European working population and ordinary citizens. The EU and the Central Bank, in conjunction with national governments, are all employed to collectively impose their political will, even if this means throwing millions of its citizens into abject poverty.

The strategy is to isolate and impose a defeat in countries where the anti-austerity movement has widespread political and public support. Greece has deliberately been used as a lesson for the rest of us. Podemos in Spain will be next on the Euro hit-list if it gains widespread support in the coming elections.

What should our collective response be to this concerted onslaught by the bankrupt money system? The anti-austerity movement in Europe is uneven in its development. We need to begin to combine that uneven nature of our opposition and forge it into a coherent European wide force for change. We need to harness it in a more effective manner, both collectively and at the level of the individual nation state. We have to develop a strategy that allows us to do both at the same time. How can the interests of the movement as a whole be advanced throughout Europe in the present conditions?

Conference agrees to take the following steps to further advance the interests of the movement.

#### Proposals

1) That the leadership of LU, in conjunction with the main anti-austerity movements in Europe, e.g. Podemos, Popular Unity (Greece), Die Linke etc., convene, as soon as possible, a conference with the aim of launching a European wide campaign in opposition to the austerity politics of the EU, the ECB and individual national governments of all political hues.

2) The aim of the European wide campaign is to unite and cohere all those forces, political, trade union, community based that have been at the sharp end of the struggle, into a single European wide strategy and focus for common activity.

3) The campaign has to be open, democratic and accountable to its constituent national and local campaigning forms, membership open to all organisations, groups, individuals opposed to the austerity capitalism of the EU and for a Europe run in the interests of its working population.

4) That the campaign agrees to stand a unified single slate of candidates in all major national cities and regions of the EU at the next European Parliamentary elections. Candidates should stand on a platform that reflects our two general campaign demands.

- An end to austerity capitalism in Europe
- A Europe run in the interests of its working population and ordinary citizens

#### Summary

The opposition to capitalist austerity remains widespread throughout the continent. We need to galvanise that potentiality for a political alternative to the misery imposed by free market capital. By developing a European-wide campaign, we can begin to overcome the unevenness that plagues our movement and combine our forces in a united opposition to the never-ending austerity offered by European capital.

#### **15. Motion for Left Unity National Conference, Pete Green, Salman Shaheen, Tom Walker, Rachel Godfrey-Wood and Carla Willig**

Conference recognises that the triumph of Jeremy Corbyn in the Labour leadership election has transformed the political landscape and is now attracting thousands of new members into the Labour Party including many who have been active inside Left Unity. The struggle inside the Labour Party itself over its direction and policies is now critical for the future of the left and the interests of the vast majority of people in Britain. It follows that Left Unity now needs to devote the opening session of its forthcoming conference to an extended debate about its relationship to the Labour Party and Left

Unity's lack of viability as an electoral alternative.

WE propose that:

a) Left Unity dissolve itself as a political party which contests elections at any level.

b) Those present reconstitute ourselves as a Left Unity Network of activists and supporters who are committed to the principles and policies contained in our founding documents and to support for the various campaigns and struggles which correspond to those principles. This network would be open to both members of the Labour Party and those who choose to remain outside it.

c) Conference suspends the current constitution of left unity but empowers the current Executive Committee to use existing funds to maintain the office, the website and facebook pages and an online journal and to produce a new set of procedures appropriate for a network as distinct from a political party. These to be voted on at an open national meeting in the spring.

## **20. First Resolution from Norwich Branch to Conference., Norwich,**

Left Unity should not be dissolved. Instead we should work closely with the rank and file of the Labour Party. In particular we should join with them in ensuring that the annual conference of the Labour Party is restored as the highest decision making body in the Party whose decisions are binding and secondly that all prescriptions preventing political groups who have their own programme affiliating to the Labour Party under rule 5A, be ended.

## **23. The Labour Party and Left Unity, Haringey,**

Left Unity welcomes the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party. We believe the movement that swept Jeremy Corbyn to victory has its manifestation both inside and outside the Labour Party and this will continue to be the case. We resolve to work with the left at all levels of the Labour party to build joint initiatives where our policies overlap. This movement must be sustained and built on, and would benefit from being given organisational form. We support the calling of national and local conferences and meetings of all those inside and outside the Labour Party who support the general thrust of the policy platform on which Jeremy Corbyn campaigned.

In addition, the National Committee is tasked to explore with the Labour Party the possibility for Left Unity to affiliate with the Labour Party, while maintaining an independent organisation with its own policy making process. We note the Co-operative Party has such an arrangement. If affiliation becomes a possibility, the National Committee will convene a special National Conference of Left Unity to consider the terms of affiliation and make a decision about whether to affiliate. Until such a possibility arises and is agreed by a National Conference, Left Unity will continue to organise as an independent party as currently constituted (subject to any constitutional amendments agreed by National Conference in the usual way).

## **27. Labour Party, Sheffield, Tina Becker, Jack Conrad**

1. Left Unity welcomes the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party. It amounts to a revolution in the workers' movement in Britain.
2. All halfway house projects, opportunist attempts to chase the Greens, adaptations to petty nationalism have been exposed, wrecked or left high and dry.
3. Left Unity commits itself to the project of transforming the Labour Party into an instrument for working class advance and international socialism. Towards that end we will join with others and seek the closest unity of the left inside and outside the Labour Party.
4. Ideas of reclaiming the Labour Party and the return of the old clause four are totally misplaced.

From the beginning the party has been dominated by the labour bureaucracy and the ideas of reformism. The party must be refounded on the basis of a genuinely socialist programme, as opposed to social democratic gradualism or bureaucratic statism.

5. The aim is not a Labour government for its own sake. History shows that Labour governments committed to managing the capitalist system and loyal to the existing constitutional order create disillusionment in the working class.

6. Labour should only consider forming a government when it has the active support of a clear majority of the population and has a realistic prospect of implementing a full socialist programme. This cannot be achieved in Britain in isolation from Europe and the rest of the world.

7. Socialism is the rule of the working class over the global economy created by capitalism and as such is antithetical to all forms of British nationalism. Demands for a British road to socialism and a withdrawal from the European Union are therefore to be opposed.

8. Political principles and organisational forms go hand in hand. The Labour Party must become the umbrella organisation for all trade unions, socialist groups and pro-working class partisans. Towards this end Left Unity will demand the complete elimination of all undemocratic bans and proscriptions and will seek to affiliate to the Labour Party.

9. The fight to democratise the Labour Party cannot be separated from the fight to democratise the trade unions. Trade union votes at Labour Party conferences should be cast not by general secretaries, but proportionately, according to the political balance in each delegation.

10. All trade unions should be encouraged to affiliate, all members of the trade unions encouraged to pay the political levy and join the Labour Party as individual members.

#### **48. Left Unity and the Labour Party, Kate Hudson, Andrew Burgin**

The landslide victory of Jeremy Corbyn in the Labour leadership election opens a new period of class struggle. The Corbyn leadership will seek to reassert the values on which Labour was founded, democratising the party and presenting a political and economic alternative to the electorate which breaks the Thatcherite neo-liberal consensus, accepted by Blair and subsequent leaders.

We recognise how contested such a project will be, within the Labour Party itself, and subject to an enormous weight of opposition from the establishment and media; as yet no such former social democratic party has bucked the neo-liberal trend and recovered an identity standing politically and economically in the interests of the working class.

Left Unity shares many of the policies of the Corbyn leadership: against austerity, racism, war and nuclear weapons, for increased government social spending, renationalisation and regeneration of our industrial base.

We welcome this common ground and will fight together with those inside and outside the Labour Party to achieve these political goals. We also recognise the further range of transformatory policies on which our party is based, reaffirming our identity as a party of the left: anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, internationalist, against all borders, socialist, feminist, environmentalist and against all forms of discrimination.

Left Unity is a party of the radical left, linked to the European Left Party, founded in solidarity with class struggle across Europe. We are part of the political spectrum, to the left of Labour, whether it is neo-liberal or social democratic.

We will continue to build Left Unity as a radical left party, committed to supporting progressive developments in the Labour Party. In the interests of broad dialogue to advance the left, both inside and outside the Labour Party, at this time of historic opportunity, we resolve to develop our online journal as a forum for debate and analysis, and to work with others on joint initiatives - such as our planned spring conference - where we share common policies.



Left Unity's National Council will reassess our electoral strategy in the light of the changed situation in the Labour Party. We reaffirm our identity as a campaigning, activist party, as an organic part of working class communities, with uncompromising policies in support of the most oppressed and exploited in society.

#### **49. Motion for Left Unity national conference, Fred Carpenter, Fred Leplat**

We welcome the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party. It is a rejection of Blairism and austerity-lite represented by the other three candidates for the leadership. His victory is a victory for the anti-austerity movement as a whole and can help regenerate and reshape the left, a process which we should be part of. His stunning 59% of the vote out of a massive 554,000 electorate and the 13,000 volunteers who helped his campaign demonstrate the mass appeal for an alternative to neo-liberalism, austerity, privatisation and war. Corbyn's election also demonstrates that most Labour councillors and MPs are not representative of the views of the Labour Party membership and supporters.

A Government led by Jeremy Corbyn and based on his ideas would be considerably better than that of New Labour. But to be successful, a mass movement in the communities and workplaces is needed to defend him now and in the future, against the establishment and the right wing and to carry out his ideas for social and economic justice.

We believe that there is an overlap between what Corbyn stands for and what Left Unity puts forward. We will stand full square with Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters in building a mass movement to fight against austerity, war and racism, and for internationalism. Today, we will fight together for public housing, welcoming refugees, against Trident, and defending trade-union rights. And in any internal battle within the wider labour movement to unseat him we will be absolutely on his side.

#### **69. The Corbyn led Labour Party and the future of Left Unity, Steve Freeman, Russell Caplan**

1. LU welcomes the election of Jeremy Corbyn to the leadership of the Labour Party.
2. This reflects the growing opposition to the austerity policies of the Tories and New Labour by the trade union and working class movement. It shows a shift is underway in the politics of the Labour Party.
3. Both TUSC and Left Unity have fought to uphold the politics of the Labour left (or socialist Labour) abandoned by the Labour Party under the New Labour regime.
4. From its founding conference Left Unity rejected the sectarian politics of those communists who counterpoised the communist maximum programme to the political unity of democratic socialists and communists who wanted to unite and fight back.
5. With the Corbyn victory and the mass support his campaign galvanised, LU has now lost its original rationale of uniting democratic socialists and communists on a socialist Labour programme as an alternative to New Labour.
6. Consequently if Left Unity is to survive as an independent party outside the Labour Party it will have to re-invent its political basis. If this does not happen, LU will become objectively a sect because there is no basis for two parties with Corbyn type politics standing against each other in elections.
7. We note three alternatives:

- i) Continue as before but as the party of left Corbynism outside the Labour Party
  - ii) Abandon the politics of left unity for an alternative revolutionary communism and position ourselves as alternatives to the SP and the SWP by adopting a full revolutionary communist programme.
  - iii) Recognise the growing importance of democracy across the UK and seek to unite the left on the basis of a new kind of socialism which is militant in fighting for democratic republicanism and Anti-Unionism against the outdated social monarchy politics of 1945-50 Labour government.
8. Noting the rise of the democratic movement in Scotland during and after the referendum and the launch of RISE, Left Unity will work to reject Labour's economism and seek to build an alliance with RISE around the politics of republicanism, internationalism, socialism and the environment.

Therefore to conclude:

- i). LU has no future as smaller sectarian version of the Corbyn Labour Party and conference recognises we cannot continue on this basis for more than a temporary period.
- ii). LU resolves to make the transition to an alternative on the basis of a radical democratic and social programme.
- iii). LU will hold a special conference or national meeting in early 2016 "After Corbyn what next for LU?" where members can discuss and debate the transition to the new politics needed in response to the Corbyn victory.

## **70. Jeremy Corbyn's victory and Left Unity, Lambeth,**

Left Unity welcomes Jeremy Corbyn's victory in the Labour Party leadership election. The election, where over four hundred thousand people voted and almost 60% supported Corbyn, was a massive defeat for the right-wing of the LP and opens a period of struggle in the LP and beyond. As a socialist organisation LU cannot stand aside from this struggle and we commit ourselves to do everything we can to strengthen the struggle for socialism inside the LP and outside it.

However a consolidation of the victory for Corbyn and all those who support his ideas inside the LP is far from certain. He has ranged against him the vast majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP), Labour's establishment and a right wing media including the pro-establishment BBC. These forces might well lead to the ejection of Corbyn from the leadership well before 2020. We believe that Corbyn and the left in the LP can only consolidate their victory by a rapid democratic transformation of the LP placing policy and organisation into the hands of the rank and file members.

This means at a minimum:

1. Reversing the purge of would be members and opening the doors of the party to all who support the ideas of socialism
2. Restoring the LP conference to a decision making body with its decisions binding on the leadership and the PLP
3. Encouraging the affiliation of trade unions such as the RMT and FBU and abolishing the monopoly of support that the LP demands in its constitution, thus allowing affiliates to support other workers parties in elections as well as the LP.
4. Restoring the right of Constituency Labour Parties to deselect MPs who flout the decisions of the

party and who actively work to undermine the new leadership. Left Unity will work with those inside and outside the LP trying to bring socialist change.

We will:

a) Not stand in the GLA elections but instead call for a Labour victory in these elections, working alongside Jeremy Corbyn supporters while arguing our own policies for London.

b) Temporarily suspend our national electoral work

c) Encourage LU members to join the Labour Representation Committee. We will review these policies at our next conference in the light of developments in the LP.

#### **74. LU and Labour Party, Waltham Forest,**

Jeremy Corbyn's campaign and victory in the Labour Party leadership election has qualitatively changed the situation in which Left Unity is operating. Even before his candidacy was confirmed, some 20,000 new members had joined Labour. This was testimony to the continued pressure for a fight against austerity, which had been dissipated primarily by the tactics of the union leaderships but was now galvanised by the Tories' victory and the scale of the onslaught they were about to unleash.

That stream of recruits turned into a flood as Corbyn's campaign made his victory increasingly likely. Nor has this flood abated, with 30,000 joining in the days after his election. The 300,000 new members, or supporters, represent precisely the layer of militants and activists to whom Left Unity has oriented since its foundation. For our socialist ideas to have any effect on them it is necessary to be in the same organisations as them. To continue the work we have undertaken over the last two years it is now necessary to respond positively to Corbyn's invitation to those who left Labour because of its right wing policies to join the Labour Party.

The huge influx of new members opens the prospect not only of mobilising the LP in the fight to prevent the implementation of austerity programmes but also to winning a majority to an anticapitalist, socialist programme. Given the traditions and existing structures of the LP, however, neither of these is guaranteed; every move in that direction will lead to clashes with the representatives of New Labour at every level of the Party. The huge numbers of new members face an entrenched right wing in the majority of MPs and local councillors and the party apparatus. Preventing them from sabotaging Jeremy's leadership and policies is an urgent duty for all on the left.

Recognising that members of Left Unity have been refused entry to the Labour Party, conference instructs the leadership to seek the agreement of the Labour leadership to the reversal of those decisions and recognition of Left Unity as a legitimate political current within the Labour Party up to and including affiliation as a socialist society.

Joining Labour in the present situation does not mean the liquidation of the politics of Left Unity but refocusing its fight to build a new working class socialist party in the UK and on an International scale. In this, its main priorities will be;

- democratisation of the party, giving policy-making powers to its delegate conference and lifting all bans and proscriptions
- committing the Labour Party to opposition to all austerity measures, anti-union and anti-democratic "reforms", anti-immigrant measures and to campaigning for democratically controlled direct action to prevent their implementation

- active support for the formation of local coordinating bodies, “councils of action” based on delegation from the organisations of the working class and oppressed sections.

If accepted as an affiliated society, LU will make its first priority to ensure that all Labour Party branch meetings are fully accessible.

### **78. for the compositing pot, Camden and Islington,**

Left Unity welcomes the campaign to elect Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader. We will work alongside Corbyn and others to further anti-austerity, anti-racism and internationalism

### **79. Motion from Glasgow South, Glasgow South,**

The effect of the Jeremy Corbyn's overwhelming victory in the Labour party leadership election on 12th September has been to offer a rallying cry to the left. This has prompted large numbers of existing activists and those coming into activity to join the Labour Party in support of Corbyn's leadership. The movement into the Labour Party also offers a focus for a fight against both the Government's austerity programme and its efforts to attack workers' organisations and civil liberties. The wave of support for Corbyn has already led the leadership of the FBU to indicate support for re-affiliation and it is to be expected that the RMT will follow this path also. This means that a substantial section of the left plus a large number of new activists totalling hundreds of thousands have joined or will join the Labour Party seeing it as a focal point of a fight for a better society against the reactionary programme of the Tory Government and by extension the right wing of the Labour Party. This right wing which includes the bulk of MPs in the PLP plus all but a handful of councillors are of course enthusiastic supporters of austerity and play a major role in inflicting it on the working class.

In response to this huge political shift Left unity resolves to

- 1) Encourage members and supporters to join the Labour Party unless they have some strong political objection to doing so
- 2) To cease to stand candidates against the Labour Party.
- 3) To continue to operate as a political organisation with its own structures, propaganda, events etc. but with an orientation to the mass of people joining the organisation in support of Corbyn.
- 4) To commence production of a regular bulletin both online and offline (paper) with the intent to aid organisation, political education and debate as part of an effort to draw together a Marxist current within the new movement.

### **52. Culture, Ray Campbell, Chris Hurley**

This motion was passed by the NC earlier this year, however no progress appears to have been made and the Culture Commission, which was set up to oversee such things, does not seem to be functioning. This conference recognises that culture plays an important role in everyday life and all forms of culture should be supported and encouraged. Culture is just as important as politics and most political parties in Britain fail to give it a place alongside their activities. This is a mistake. To this end we propose to:

1. Give culture a prominent position next to our political activities.
2. To create a Left Unity street band to add sound and colour to protests and demonstrations

3. To create a Left Unity agit-prop theatre troupe that performs at protests, demonstrations as well as workplaces and conferences
4. Establish a series of community cabaret clubs up and down the country that offer a space for local poets, musicians, comics and other artistes to perform.
5. To embrace youth culture. This is one way to attract young people to our party. This could take the form of setting up social events like parties.
6. Recognise that Britain is a multicultural society and that all forms of culture need to be supported and celebrated.
7. Create a space for people of all cultures in Britain to thrive. This means restoring funding that was cut in 1984 to minority arts groups.
8. Support community arts groups and encourage public participation in the arts.

## **THE EU REFERENDUM**

### **12. ACTIVE ABSTENTION CAMPAIGN FOR EU REFERENDUM, Dave Landau, Will McMahon**

Left Unity believes that the choice being put in the EU in/out Referendum is a false choice. Victory for either result is against the interests of the working class and the oppressed. A Yes vote will be a victory for the neoliberal agenda. It will be a victory of the forces who are battering the working class in Greece and have imposed austerity policies on Spain, Portugal and Ireland. It will be the victory for fortress Europe. It will be in the context of Cameron having won concessions which will make the institutions of the EU more reactionary than they are already, with opt outs from the few progressive aspects of the Union.

A No vote will be a victory for the forces of UKIP, the chauvinist rightwing of the Tories, the farright etc. If successful it will be a victory built on xenophobic and racist opposition to immigration and specifically the free movement of people within the EU. It will be the victory of those determined to get rid of human rights. It will probably force Scotland out of Britain.

In these circumstances it is the responsibility of socialists to fight for an internationalist socialist alternative which will not be an option available on the ballot paper. The referendum campaign will be a Carnival of Reaction. It will be our responsibility to challenge the toxic ideas which will be common currency throughout the campaign. We must challenge the demonisation of refugees and migrants and the new regime of punitive restrictions being imposed upon them. We must fight for migrants rights and against immigration controls and to end a framework where people are illegal because of where they are born, their parents are born, the language they speak or the colour of their skin. The EU is not a friend of migrants either and we should be opposing fortress Europe which is causing thousands to drown every year.

We must organise solidarity across the working class in Europe against the neo-liberal austerity agenda being imposed by the Troika. We demand DROP THE DEBT! and argue the necessity to take the banks and the forces of production into public ownership.

We must oppose the erosion or abolition of Human Rights.

Whilst the main emphasis of the campaign is NOT the vote itself, LU should have a policy for what to do on polling day itself. We should encourage people to spoil their ballot papers by writing a slogan such as "For a Socialist Europe in a socialist world".

### **21. Second Resolution from Norwich Branch to Conference., Norwich,**

The in-out referendum on Europe which may be held within the year is bound to be fought on the twin issue of immigration and democracy. We need to make sure democracy takes centre stage and that we counter the argument that leaving the EU will make Britain more democratic. Accordingly we need to campaign to have a second question put to the electorate on the same day. "Regardless of whether Britain stays in Europe or not, should the United Kingdom's first past the post voting system be changed to a proportional system of voting?" We should seek the support of the Corbyn Labour Party, the Greens, the Unions and 38 Degrees.

### **33. Voting in the EU referendum, Southwark,**

The conference notes that the Tory government intends to hold an in/out referendum on Britain's membership of the EU by the end of 2014. We regard the EU as a reactionary anti-working class unreformable institution that played a brutal role in Greece in enforcing austerity. Its role is to act as a supra-national authority charged with ensuring that the member states comply with the neo-liberal agenda and act within the rules of the EU and the Eurozone. Despite this characterisation, however,

we resolve, in the forthcoming referendum, not to vote to come out but to vote to stay in. The reasons for this are as follows:

☒ This will not be a referendum that can produce a progressive exit from the EU that would benefit the left and/or the workers movement. It can only produce a reactionary exit that would benefit only the xenophobic right wing of the Tory party and of UKIP. It would be an exit entirely on their terms. It would place EU citizens living in the country in a very difficult and vulnerable situation.

☒ This referendum has been proposed by Cameron as a concession to UKIP and the Tory right and plays to a reactionary xenophobic agenda. The campaign itself will be a jamboree of racist and anti-immigration bile. It will be dominated by UKIP and the Tory rightwing. Any attempt to mount a progressive exit campaign will be drowned out.

☒ An exit vote under these conditions would be a triumph for UKIP and the Tory right. It would be what they have worked for years. It would push the whole political situation to the right and reshape politics in a reactionary direction. It could even split the Tory Party (that has been divided on this issue for decades) and create a new right-wing populist party comprised on UKIP and the Tory right.

Defining the EU as a reactionary anti-working class institution does not mean that we are obliged to vote for exit whatever the circumstances and whatever the consequences. We need to be guided by what best serves the interests of the working class, and in this instance it is very clear that it would be a vote to stay in. This would create better, rather than worse, conditions under which to build the fight back against austerity in the post election situation.

### **35. EU referendum, Croydon,**

The current EU is a travesty of democracy, and there can be no justification for its treatment of the people of Greece. But this is not what is on the ballot paper in the coming EU referendum. The referendum presents a specific choice between two possible futures for Britain. If the 'Leave' side wins, we will lose the basic freedom of movement migration rights the EU provides, as well as worker protections, human rights and several other important areas of law. These laws and rights will not be modified or improved – they will simply disappear. Migrants from within the EU will face insecurity, and in the worst case deportation. UKIP and the hard right will be triumphant.

If the 'Remain' side wins, the status quo continues – a Britain in which people from across Europe can come to live and work, and some basic rights are assured. Despite our harsh critique of the EU, that is better than the alternative outlined above. That does not mean we support the existing EU, or paint it as progressive. Left Unity believes that there can be a different kind of Europe, based on equality, democracy and solidarity. That is our long-term aim.

As a short-term, defensive tactic, we believe the best way of achieving that aim is to support the 'Remain' side in the EU referendum. Therefore Left Unity will participate in the campaign for a 'Remain' vote. Our participation in this campaign must be part of a broad-based alliance, but it should also be radical and absolutely independent from the official campaign, raising the demand for a better Europe.

### **56. European Union, Sheffield,**

Conference reaffirms Left Unity's previous decision to fight for "a united Europe under the rule of the working class."

Conference notes:

1. That a referendum on British membership of the EU is on the Tory government's political agenda.
2. That a 'yes' vote will be an expression of support for whatever concessions David Cameron is able to get from the EU, and that any such concessions will be anti-working class to their core.
3. That left-wing support for a 'no' vote can only be justified by endorsing the utopian fantasy of 'socialism in one country', shown by Stalinism to be a dead end.

Conference resolves:

1. To call for a boycott of the referendum.
2. To continue to fight for working class unity across the EU, and united action on a continental scale.



## **INTERNATIONAL & IMMIGRATION**

### **16. Greece, Mike Macnair/Sheffield, Dave Isaacson**

Conference reaffirms Left Unity's commitment to campaign in solidarity with the Greek people against the fraudulent 'austerity' policy imposed by the 'institutions'. Conference recognises that this 'austerity' policy can only be overthrown by the common political action of the working class Europe-wide. Left Unity will therefore increase the priority it gives to Europe-scale political cooperation. Conference, accordingly, recognises that Left Unity was, like Syriza, mistaken to promote illusions in the possibilities of a Syriza-led government overturning austerity in Greece without immediate common action of the working class across Europe.

### **25. Greece, Haringey,**

Conference reaffirms Left Unity's commitment to campaign in solidarity with the Greek people against the fraudulent 'austerity' policy imposed by the 'institutions'. Conference recognises that this 'austerity' policy can only be overthrown by the common political action of the working class Europe-wide. Left Unity will therefore increase the priority it gives to Europe-scale political cooperation.

### **10. Intervention, Teesside, Yassamine Mather, Sheffield,**

1) Conference recognises that imperialist interventions, in the form of wars and occupation followed by civil wars, have left most of the Middle East and North Africa in a state of permanent conflict. The United States as the world hegemon power, supported by its allies, seems content with the existence of failed states in the region and tolerance of Jihadist groups, including Islamic State.

2) Conference notes that after a year of US air attacks, Islamic State remains as strong as it was in 2014. In the last few months, Turkey, a Nato ally of the United States, has been engaged in bombing Kurdish forces fighting IS.

3) Conference recognises that the signing of a nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 powers has paved the way for more conflict in the region as regional rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia enters a new phase.

4) Conference reiterates its stance in opposition to imperialist military interventions in the Middle East. Peace cannot come courtesy of bodies such as the United Nations – an assembly of exploiters and murderers. It is the duty of socialists to connect the popular desire for peace with the aim of revolution. Only by disarming the bourgeoisie and through the victory of international socialism can the danger of war be eliminated.

### **24. Struggle of Kurdish People, Haringey,**

We reiterate our support for the struggle of the Kurdish people and other peoples of the region for self-determination and self-defence and for the self-organisation in Rojava. We support the rebuilding of Kobani, and we demand the opening of a corridor through Turkey for the passage of humanitarian aid to Kobani.

We support the declarations of self-rule of towns such as Cizre in Bakur (North Kurdistan), and their rejection of the oppressive Turkish state authority, and call for an end to the military assaults by the Turkish state on Cizre and elsewhere, which have already resulted in considerable loss of life. We condemn the AKP government's deliberate termination of the peace negotiations with the Kurdish movement, and its re-launch of the dirty war in Turkey, including widespread pogroms against Kurdish

people and other oppositionists, sieges of towns that have declared self-rule, the attacks on HDP buildings aimed at reducing the potential of HDP to repeat its recent electoral success in the upcoming elections on November 1, and the repeated bombing of Qandil mountains, including farmers' villages. We demand that Britain, Turkey's fellow NATO member, cease its political and military support for Turkey's assaults, directly or via support of ISIS, on the people of the region, whether guerrillas or civilians. We support the efforts of the HDP and its allies to refuse a return to the war, to build the peace movement, and to pull Turkey away from the disastrous course on which the AKP has set it on.

We recognise the determined resistance of the Kurdish people, and call for the unbanning in Britain and elsewhere of the PKK. We demand that the British government ask Turkey to release Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan and allow him to take part in peace negotiations, and to release the thousands of political prisoners. We demand that the DPP drop the PKK-related charges against Shilan and release her immediately.

We will support the relevant campaigns on all these issues, including aid for reconstruction of Kobani, the medical charity Kurdish Red Moon, and the current joint campaign by Ciwanen Azad (Free Youth), Corporate Watch, and Campaign Against the Arms Trade against the activities of the arms industry, which forms a key linkage between the British and Turkish states.

## **26. Resolution for Left Unity Conference 2015, Leeds North and East,**

Left Unity should explore ways to lift bans imposed by the European Union and the UK Government on the PKK (The Kurdistan Workers' Party) and the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine).

## **75. Migrant Solidarity, Waltham Forest, Hackney/Tower Hamlets**

Left Unity welcomes the massive outpouring of solidarity towards people seeking refuge which has been seen across Europe in recent weeks which has created a window of opportunity to extend discussions and actions on this issue. This has happened not only in the large cities but in smaller communities such as Malvern, clearly affecting people from outside the left. We also note the fact that slogans such as 'no human is illegal' which were previously seen as somewhat 'extreme' have become widely supported on the streets and in social media. We strongly welcome the fact that Jeremy Corbyn's first act on being elected Labour leader was to address the pro-migrant rally in Parliament Square. The movement around Corbyn provides natural allies for campaigners against racism and for the rights of migrating people.

We want to organise stronger links with migrants and migrant organisations themselves – and to ensure they are given the opportunity to speak in their own voices. We also seek to open broader discussions on how to combat the hypocrisy of both the British and European establishment on these questions.

In particular we seek to:

Support all actions which keep this window open longer. Campaigns for practical solidarity allow discussions to be had with new audiences;

Strengthen links with those campaigning against immigration detention;

Argue that anti-austerity campaigns need to make anti-racist propaganda more central to what they do. The argument needs to be made that migrants make a contribution to society, both economically and politically, and that we support the free movement of people. It is spending on wars, weapons and tax breaks for the rich that undermine public services;

Raise within the trade unions how to most effectively stop public sector workers being pressured to act as immigration snoops.

## **CRIME AND JUSTICE**

### **2. For a prostitution policy based on the Nordic 'Sex Purchase Act', Stockport,**

#### **Left Unity notes that**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The sex-trade also comprises many third party exploiters such as pimps or brothels.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Once in prostitution, many obstacles prevent people exiting the sex trade.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 :**

- A. campaign for and adopt as a manifesto commitment :

1. Adoption of a 'Nordic Model' approach to prostitution, including:
  - a. The removal of all criminal and civil sanctions against individuals selling sexual services, provided in person by themselves.
  - b. The introduction of a new criminal offence of buying or procuring sexual services.
  - c. Provide quality services for prostituted people wishing to exit the sex trade, i.e. housing, legal or benefit advice, counselling training or childcare.
    2. Funding of training in this new approach for police, the criminal justice systems, and attendant services.
    2. Funding of a comprehensive public information campaign to raise awareness of the new law.
    2. Cancellation of all previous convictions and orders of prostituted people for offences related to past activities in the sex trade.
    2. Prioritisation of the policing and prosecution of pimping, trafficking, sex buying and the sexual exploitation of children.
    2. 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 promote these to job seekers.
    2. 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.
    2. Revoking the identification of trafficking victims as illegal immigrants.
- B. Register Left Unity as a supporter of the End Demand campaign (<http://enddemand.uk/>)

**14. Assisted suicide, individual autonomy and the freedom to make choices, Birmingham,**

Conference notes:

A major barrier to developing a principled position is the fact we are dealing with a variety of agendas; many of which are not transparent, or working in the interests of all people who could be affected by legislation on assisted suicide.

Conference recognises:

1. The Disabled Members' Caucus' desire to initiate a national debate, however, as a body it currently supports the positions on assisted suicide held by Not Dead Yet. This motion nevertheless offers a starting point for developing a policy position.

Conference believes Left Unity should:

1. Champion individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices.
2. Challenge the neoliberal agenda which undermines people's rights by:
  - Exposing the impact the austerity measures on those who rely on the NHS and Welfare State.
  - Opposing the continued demonization of people on benefits unable to work; the increasing restrictions placed upon disabled and elderly people's ability to live independent lives; state or individual interference or coercion which would take away people's choices in relation to their individual autonomy.
3. Oppose the use of forced medication and life support upon individuals who have elected to end their life.
4. Defend the right of individuals to have control over their own bodies and not to have the state or economic system determine their choices.
5. Campaign for an increase in resources within palliative care, allowing patients to die with dignity; including support for an extension of hospice facilities and offering the possibility of dying at home to those who wish to choose that option. This provides support (physical and psychological) to die a natural death.
6. Acknowledge there are people who do not want to continue to live and we should respect their will; thus, people should not be forced to live when they do not want to do or be subjected to acts which take away an individual's right to self-determination.
7. Support individuals' right to choose to input into the manner of their death, for example, the use of a 'Do Not Resuscitate' notice or the deployment of an advanced decision. The right to say they do not want extraordinary measures carried out to keep them alive. Similarly, those that do want such measures should have the right to have them.
8. Fight to ensure doctors are never forced to take a life; however asking them to withhold extraordinary measures is reasonable if conducted in a compassionate manner.
9. Acknowledge permitting assisted dying/suicide via a change in UK law without the guaranteed ability of ensuring choice and control by the individual at all times could put vulnerable people at risk of harm. The argument that the law on 'end of life experience' is broken does not stand up to close scrutiny and that the proposed changes to the law are flawed, unsafe and discriminatory.

## **19. SEX WORK, LGBT caucus, Lambeth Croydon**

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, all 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 effect 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 to be financially supported to minimise the impact of impairments.
  - 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; regulating 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 workers 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.

## **DEMOCRACY**

### **37. Abolish the monarchy, Croydon,**

This conference approves the following text from Left Unity's 2015 manifesto:

We are against the monarchy and for a republic. We are for the abolition of the House of Lords, and for votes at 16.

The royal family's enormous wealth, land and palaces should be put to social use. The same applies to the aristocracy and their mansions.

The Church of England must be dis-established, its privileges ended and its wealth confiscated.

### **68. Resolution (1) for Left Unity conference November 2015, Steve Freeman, Russell Caplan**

1. We note the LU Manifesto called for the abolition of the monarchy and the House of Lords but took no view on the Acts of Union which bind England with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
2. This conference calls for the abolition of all the Acts of Union, thus ending all jurisdictions by the British Crown over the sovereign nations of Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
3. By ending all Acts of 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.

### **11. The standing army and the people's militia, Teesside, Mark Lewis, Sheffield, Ben Lewis**

- 1) Left Unity is against the standing army and for the armed people. This principle will never be realised voluntarily by the capitalist state. It has to be won, in the first place by the working class developing its own militia.
- 2) Such a body grows out of the class struggle itself: defending picket lines, mass demonstrations, workplace occupations, fending off fascists, etc.
- 3) As the class struggle intensifies, conditions are created for the workers to arm themselves and win over sections of the military forces of the capitalist state. Every opportunity must be used to take even tentative steps towards this goal. As circumstances allow, the working class must equip itself with all weaponry necessary to bring about revolution.
- 4) To facilitate this we demand:
  - a) Rank and file personnel in the state's armed bodies must be protected from bullying, humiliating treatment and being used against the working class.
  - b) There must be full trade union and democratic rights, including the right to form bodies such as soldiers' councils.
  - c) The privileges of the officer caste must be abolished. Officers must be elected. Workers in uniform must become the allies of the masses in struggle.

d) The people have the right to bear arms and defend themselves.

e) The dissolution of the standing army and the formation of a popular militia under democratic control.



## **SOCIAL SECURITY**

### **5. Left Unity should introduction a taxable Citizen's Income Payment (CIP) scheme., Bath and North East Somerset,**

We believe that a party of the left should have policies to create a fairer distribution of wealth. The principle of CIP is well established under different names a system that would enable the discontinuation of the current unemployment benefit system. The payment would be made to all citizens higher than current unemployment benefit levels. The tax threshold would be set so that those who are in work would not start paying tax until their earnings are the same amount as the CIP. The main adjustment in the system once the level of CIP and the Tax starting thresholds are set would be through the adjustment of Tax levels for those on higher incomes.

A Citizens' Income can be paid for by abolishing all the existing benefits other than housing and disability benefits and including tax credits, abolishing the income tax personal allowance, the primary threshold on national insurance contributions and taking about half of the money spent on providing tax and NI incentives for pension contributions. LU to drawing on expertise in the fields of taxation, social security and any other relevant fields, to calculate a CIP at a level that is reasonable and affordable. LU to create a strategy to raise public awareness and support for a CIP.

It includes abolishing most existing benefits, income tax allowances, changing employees' National Insurance and also replacing the current contributory basic state pension with a non-contributory Citizen's Pension. CIP for children under 18. The amount will be the same to second and subsequent children as to the first child. CIP would be payable to everyone between 18 and the retirement age.

CIP Supplement for lone parents. People with disabilities or special needs, and single parents will receive a supplement. The Citizen's Pension payable to all those over 65 years old a supplement will be payable to pensioners living alone as well as for those with disabilities and special needs.'

### **62. Employment Policy motion, Brighton & Hove,**

The wording of current Left Unity policies on Employment and Social Security implies (whether this is the intention or not) agreement with Blair's dictum that 'everyone who can work, should work'.

In particular, we object to the wording of Left Unity's Manifesto 2015 which states: "Full employment, as existed in the post-war period up until the 1970s, should be a primary objective for any left government. We would achieve full employment for all those below retirement age on the basis of a 35 hour week, with no loss of income from any reduction in hours".

We call for this conference to take a far more radical stance on both work and social security.

The Economy - section on Employment

1) Replace:

"Full employment, as existed in the postwar period up until the 1970s, should be a primary objective for any left government."

With:

Left Unity rejects the capitalist idea that that everyone should be expected to earn a living, that the

only meaningful work is paid employment, and that people should be judged by their economic contribution to society. We recognise that 'work' comes in many forms, and most are unpaid. Activities such as bringing up children, caring for others, looking after homes, gardening, taking part in community activities, volunteering, pursuing hobbies, adult education, creative arts and activism all contribute to the common good, without a financial price being put on them. We will explore ways to move away from the reliance on paid employment to provide the financial needs of the population eg Citizens' Income.

2) Replace:

'Left Unity would impose a ban on all zero-hours contracts, converting existing ones to proper contracts.'

With:

Left Unity would impose a ban on all zero-hours contracts, converting existing ones to proper contracts.. We would also ban unpaid work experience and internships, and below minimum wage apprenticeships where these are used to substitute paid jobs.

### **63. Social Security policy motion 1, Brighton & Hove,**

Left Unity's current Social Security policy, as voted for in November 2014, is a stop-gap affair. Although critical of the welfare reforms introduced by the Labour government in 2007 and the Coalition in 2012, it does not tackle the issues at the heart of the assault on the welfare state and our rights. The wording of our policies and our Manifesto 2015 on employment and social security implies (whether this is the intention or not) agreement with Blair's dictum that 'everyone who can work, should work' We call for this conference to take a far more radical stance on both.

1) Replace:

"We agree that current system needs reforming, but disagree that it has to be more punitive and less supportive. We also disagree with the division into deserving and undeserving poor, categories that are completely arbitrary, as most social security recipients are actually in work and the vast majority of people claiming out of work benefits have worked and paid contributions."

with:

The Social Security system has been under assault since the 1980's. Instead of providing financial support for those in need, it has been turned into a vehicle for the privileged to reduce the rights of the entire working class. Like migrants, benefit claimants have been made convenient scapegoats for the damage done by austerity. Making benefits conditional and introducing sanctions, raising the pension age, and forcing those with disabilities and lone parents to sign on, have all contributed to creating a massive pool of people desperate for any job, under any conditions, to the advantage of employers. The introduction of Universal Credit will extend conditionality to part-time workers.

2) Replace:

"Furthermore, we expect a social security system to also empower people to make an active contribution to society and the economy, according to their abilities, which should be adequately rewarded."

with:

Social security is intended to provide the financial needs of those unable to do so themselves, and should guarantee a minimum living standard for all. We oppose benefit conditionality and the consequent sanctions regime. Benefits must return to being provided for need and not as a reward. The benefits system should only be concerned with enabling everyone to have a decent standard of living. Assistance in finding paid jobs for those able and willing to work should be provided by a separate public service.

3) Replace:

“Abolish all sanctions (benefit cuts) and Workfare for Jobseekers Allowance and Employment & Support Allowance claimants; no-one should be left with no income.”  
with:

Abolish benefit conditionality and sanctions (removal of benefits for perceived non-compliance with conditions). Abolish all unpaid welfare to work (workfare), mandatory work-related activity and training schemes, which provide employers and corporate charities with free labour and represent an attack on real jobs as well as real volunteering.

4) Add to end:

Restore the right to income support of lone parents with children under 16.

#### **64. Social Security policy 2, Brighton & Hove,**

Council Tax

Replace:

“Reinstate Council Tax Benefit ensuring that 100% council tax rebates are guaranteed in law for those on the lowest incomes. Also, add further council tax bands at the top of the valuation scale so that the rich pay a greater portion of council tax.”

with:

Scrap Council Tax and implement a fairer and more efficient way to finance local services, such as local income tax. As a short term measure reinstate full Council Tax Benefits for claimants and those on low incomes.

#### **77. LU Welfare Policy Direction, Waltham Forest,**

LU Conference 2015 understands that

1. Humans are social animals. We tend to live in groups, whether small or large, settled or mobile. Our social nature is a part of, and interacts with, the world’s ecosystem including other animals. All living inhabitants are creative agents of our shared future. Whilst human society is incredibly diverse, it is essentially, one society. The future of the planet depends on our social organisation as based on one diverse and inclusive society adaptive to the ecological needs of the global environment.

2. Fundamental to our vision of human society is universal access to a decent material living standard understood as including the right to full and equal democratic participation. This is based on recognition of, and respect for our mutual inter-dependence, as summed up by the statement, ‘from

each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs'.

3. Emergency safety net measures are immediately required along with introduction of new forms of support more relevant to a future green and non-competitive society, including local and regional democratic structures to provide oversight of welfare need and progress planning towards an inclusive, socialist programme. The measures needed include structural reforms of our state systems and institutions. In particular the foundation of mutual aid on which the current National Insurance system was built may be more fit for purpose if relevant HMRC and DWP functions are transferred to new municipal organisations run collectively by representatives from Trades Unions, equalities and user groups.

4. Along with reforming or creating new democratic institutions to oversee welfare provision we seek to explore the distribution of benefits in kind on a universal basis. An example of this would include reverse pricing for domestic energy use including a small starting quota of universal free energy / fuel for heating/cooking/bathing with increased usage incurring progressively higher

5. To disseminate this statement widely on the left to encourage research and policy development in the direction outlined above.

## **ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMICS AND HOUSING**

### **32. Mobilise for the Paris climate summit, Southwark,**

Conference notes that the earth's climate is changing fast, faster than experts thought. The cause is not in doubt: it is emissions of greenhouse gases, mainly CO<sub>2</sub> from the combustion of oil, coal and natural gas. The earth has already warmed by 0.8°C degrees in global average surface temperature since pre-industrial times. This will already raise sea levels by almost two meters in centuries to come as the icecaps melt. Hundreds of millions of people will be forced to move, millions of acres of agricultural land will be lost, many urban areas will need to be evacuated. The peoples of the South will be the most affected whereas they are the least responsible. Biodiversity is under extreme threat.

Already the sea is rising, the deserts are expanding, fresh water is getting more scarce, wild fires are increasing, agriculture is under threat, hurricanes and tornados are getting more powerful, the seas are becoming more acidic and biodiversity is collapsing. Yet governments continue to ignore the warnings. Annual emissions of global greenhouse gases are rising twice as fast as in the 1990s. Estimates for the date when the 2°C tipping point will be reached (after which feedback processes kick in) have now been revised from 2042 to 2038. Instead of moving seriously towards renewables and reducing unnecessary and wasteful consumption they are going towards shale gas fracking and other forms of extreme carbon energy.

The 21st United Nations conference on climate (COP21) will be held in Paris in December. A conference that takes place only every five years. A binding international agreement on carbon emissions (which failed in Copenhagen five years ago) is essential to start to tackle this problem. Conference resolves to support the mobilisations for the Paris summit and in particular the following actions. We took an in principle decision on the at our last conference, but we now have to make detailed plans,

\*The demonstration in London on Sunday November 30th. This makes the start of the summit and coincides with demonstrations on the same weekend across Europe and across the world. There are plans for demonstrations in Glasgow, cardiff and Dudlin on that weekend.

\* The mass demonsration in Paris at the end of the COP on Saturday December 12. The aim of this demonstration is to take the struggle forward, and build the movement against climate change, whatever the outcome of the summit itself. We must have a stronger movement coming out of Paris than when we go in. To this end the London organising committee is aiming to take tens of throuasnds to this event.

(The coalition in Paris coordianing the protest is planning to make 50,000 free bed spaces available for that weekend).

Conference pledges to give these events maximum support and also resoles to monitor and support the ongoing campaigns and activities being organised by the climate movement, following the summit, into 2016 and beyond.

### **80. Support for GM research across the UK, Glasgow South,**

Introduction:

In the beginning of August 2015 Scotland's rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead said that Scotland would opt out of growing (ban) EU authorized GM crops in Scotland. His reasons cited for

this include wanting to protect Scotland's 'clean and green' reputation and because there was not sufficient demand for GM crops to be grown in Scotland.

Argument:

The terminology 'GM crop' is a sweeping term and a blanket ban on all crops is not only limiting farmers from crops which may provide benefit if not now then in the future but it also stifles agricultural research and funding within Scotland. These GM technologies which if not for immediate use in Scotland could provide benefit to farmers in other areas of the world who are dealing with climatic stresses such as drought or salinated soils or who may benefit from crops with improved nutritional content. The ban though ultimately perpetuates the negative connotations that follow the research and use of GM crops. In a world of increasing population and decreasing arable land GM technologies may allow in combination with other improvements of farming practises to increase the yield and nutritional quality of our food supply globally. We should be promoting a deeper discussion and communication across borders between scientists, farmers and the general public to address concerns and increase knowledge rather than simply moving to ban in such a broad manner an entire technology.

Proposal:

We oppose the outright ban on GM crops proposed by Richard Lochhead and the SNP and instead we are in favour of the ongoing research into GM technologies across the UK.

That we support instead of an outright ban on growing GM crops we treat them on a case by case basis. If and when a crop is thought to perhaps be useful in the UK agricultural market or desired by our farmers there will be sufficient testing of each crop and an unbiased assessment of all previous documentation of its use.

That as a party we will not form opinions on scientific issues to cater to the opinion of the masses created by the wider media but will actively seek out scientific opinion and form an evidenced based opinion.

## **1. Taxation policy, Stockport,**

Conference recognises that there is an anomaly in the Economics policy which was passed by the Policy Conference held on 29 March 2014, in relation to our taxation policy. In the section which sets out immediate measures to be applied in achieving a reversal of austerity policies, paragraph number (5) it is stated that, "we would restore the 50% rate of tax on incomes above £75,000 received by the richest 2%".

However, in the subsequent detailed section on taxation policy, paragraph number 36, reference is made, not to incomes but to earnings :-

"36. Bring back the 50% tax rate and apply it to people earning over £75,000. We would introduce a 90% rate for all earnings 10 times above the median wage. We will work to lift all those earning below £20,000 a year out of tax entirely".

Conference resolves :

i) to amend paragraph 36 to read :

"36. Bring back the 50% tax rate and apply it to incomes (both earned and unearned) over £75,000.

We would introduce a 90% rate for all incomes (both earned and unearned) 10 times above the median wage. We will work to lift all those incomes (both earned and unearned) below £20,000 a year out of tax entirely”.

ii) to request the Economics Policy Commission to conduct a review of the taxation policy to examine whether we should propose different and higher intermediate and upper rates of taxation on unearned income than on earned income, as was the case with the Labour governments of the 1970s and to report back to the 2016 Conference.

### **13. amendments to Left Unity Housing Policy, Somerset and west Wilts Branch,**

Left Unity SW Wilts and Somerset Branch proposed amendments to Left Unity Housing Policy (Submitted to the Nov. 2014 conference and not heard due to time restrictions)

Existing:

To increase the building and renovation of council, and truly affordable, housing to at least 250,000 units a year.

Replace with:

To build sufficient council houses in all council districts to reduce the district's Council Housing lists to zero within 5 years. Then to build sufficient homes to ensure that no one has to wait on a council list for longer than 6 months.

To carry out a survey and renovation program to update existing council and housing association stock replacing outdated heating systems with modern eco alternatives and to ensure that homes are eco efficient to modern standards.

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Existing:

Planning for housing to be within an overall town or city plan to ensure full access to social and recreational facilities for residents.

Planning of housing to be linked to plans for schools and health care and to integrated provision for elders and to provision of outside play areas for children close to family housing.

Replace with:

All new housing must conform with the local area plan tailored to suit local conditions. The plan will ensure that there are adequate social and recreational facilities for all residents. The area plan will include a Community Development strategy to ensure that the needs and requirements of all sections of society are catered for.

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Proposed new points for inclusion:

**Housing Revenue accounts**

Local Councils Housing revenue accounts should be again be ring fenced and income from housing income be only used for the provision of housing and not used for other central government purposes.

**Council house Rent**

Rents should be reduced to at a level to cover only the cost of housing provision. The value of council houses for rent calculating purposes based on the cost of materials, labour and service provision without being linked to false market controlled values.

#### Assistance for home owners effected by negative equity

The effect of lowering Council house rents and the provision of sufficient council housing for people on housing lists will cause a fall in the value of private housing. Home owners living in private housing in the same band, of the same size and standard as local council houses (assessed locally) effected by negative equity would have the option to sell their home to the council. They could then rent their home as a council owned property.

#### Private Rents

Will be regulated and must stay within 10% of council rents for a similar property.



## **PARTY CONSTITUTION**

### **3. National Constitution, Bath and North East Somerset,**

“Bath and North East Somerset branch of Left Unity calls upon the Party’s National Council to reconsider and to reverse its decision to dedicate a whole day of the 2015 Party Conference to dealing with amendments to the Party’s Constitution.

The Constitution was democratically adopted by the founding Conference of the Party less than 2 years ago and there are far more important political matters to deal with than spending a full day reviewing it.

We furthermore request the NC to look favourably upon the recommendation made by last year’s Standing Orders Committee:

- i) That the Party Constitution Commission (PCC) be re-established as a permanent body, reporting to the NC.
- ii) That branches and individual members may, at any time submit to the PPC, proposals for amendments to the Constitution. The PCC must give consideration to all such proposals received by it.
- iii) That the PCC will produce reports on proposals for Constitutional changes, subject to adoption by the NC. The NC will submit these reports to Conference, in accordance with Article 21.
- iv) That all of the motions to amend the Constitution which were not reached at the 15/16 November 2014 Conference shall be referred to the PCC upon its establishment.
- v) that the SOC shall attempt to divide the process of submission of the PCC report and any amendments thereto to Conference, with the aim that no more than two half hour slots per day of Conference business shall be spent on proposals to amend the Constitution.”

### **6. Motion, Anthony Sween, DavidRon Luton-Brown**

Appendix 2, Model Standing Orders, clause 16 does not consider the event that the chair is the member acting in an unruly or disruptive manner. So, the words 'the chair' should be replaced by 'any member present'.

### **7. Word limits and priorities ballot, Teesside,**

Teesside LU branch is concerned by the decisions of the standing orders and executive committee to institute a 500-word limit and a priorities ballot for motions and amendments going to November 2015 conference.

We believe that

1. Any priorities ballot should be for all motions, take place after amendments are seen and be considered strongly indicative, but open to alteration by conference attendees.
2. Word limits are not a useful way to attempt to address the problem of efficient time management at conference and may very well make matters worse. A guideline to members to keep amendments to 500 words would be more useful.

We therefore strongly urge the standing orders committee to reconsider these decisions.

### **8. Code of conduct, Teesside,**

## 1. Code of conduct for LU members

### Preamble

Left Unity aims as far as possible within the deeply unequal society within which we live to combat all forms of oppression and discrimination, to develop all our members as leaders, and to develop a culture of free discussion accessible to all members. We recognise that this is most likely to be achieved by a political culture in which fully open debate, including accusations of sexism, racism, class prejudice, scabbing, etc, or saying that 'the emperor has no clothes', are possible; and in which members are free to communicate with each other and to organise themselves for common ends. This code of conduct therefore merely sets certain minimal limits which are necessary to LU's ability to function and pursue these goals.

Members may not:

- \* violate this constitution;
- \* actively disrupt LU's agreed common actions (eg, election campaigns);
- \* persistently actively disrupt LU internal meetings;
- \* intentionally assist Redwatch or similar far-right organisations which target leftists with violence and threats, employers' blacklisting organisations or mass-media witch-hunts;
- \* 'troll' LU online forums;
- \* behave in a way which brings LU into disrepute: for example, by violence against other members, persistently oppressive conduct towards other members, or the exploitation of party office for private purposes.

LU recognises that we do not have the resources to properly investigate and handle complaints of serious crimes against other members: for example, rape or wounding/GBH; and that by attempting to do so we may contaminate evidence and thereby prevent justice being obtained.

## 2. Rules for Disputes procedure

### A. Procedure

A body handling a complaint or disciplinary charges against a member must:

- \* act as promptly as possible (having regard to the following points);
- \* give the person complaining sufficient opportunity to formulate their complaint, and the person complained against sufficient notice of the nature of the complaint and sufficient opportunity to formulate their answer to it;
- \* allow both the person complaining and the person complained against to have the unpaid assistance of another person;
- \* where facts are disputed, allow both the person complaining and the person complained against to call witnesses and to ask questions of witnesses they have called and of witnesses called against them, and to offer other evidence (such as documents, emails, medical reports, etc);
- \* conduct any hearing with fairness to both sides;
- \* where the complaint is not dealt with in a branch, publish to the region (if dealt with in a regional committee) or to LU generally (if dealt with in the National Council, Disputes Committee or Appeals

Committee) a summary of the decision and the body's findings and reasons.

These procedural obligations do not prohibit dealing with complaints by voluntary negotiation, mediation or reconciliation procedures, whether before or at any stage of formal complaints procedures.

## Sanctions

Where a complaint is upheld or a disciplinary charge found proved, the sanctions imposed may range from censure of the member complained against, through other penalties, up to suspension or expulsion from membership of LU. In deciding on sanctions, account should be taken of the seriousness of the complaint, the extent to which a persistent course of conduct is involved, and of the level of political experience of the person complained against. A vote to expel a member does not take effect until ratified by the National Council or Disputes Committee on the basis of a report from the body hearing the complaint.

## 3. Equalities policy for LU internal procedures

Left Unity recognises that we live in a society characterised by profound systematic inequality, not just on the basis of class, but also of the oppression of women, discrimination against members of ethnic and religious minority groups, and LGBT people and of age hierarchies, as well as both direct discrimination and the inherent bias of market society against people with disabilities.

We aim for a party in which all people can fully participate. We also recognise, however, that there are serious limits on the extent to which the life of the party can overcome the inequalities of capitalist society or 'prefigure' the future, and the complete and disastrous failure of previous attempts to create party 'liberated zones' or 'prefigurative politics'. In addition, a number of forms of discrimination and inequality, particularly around caring responsibilities and disabilities, immediately engage the questions of material resources and time; and the recent evolution of capitalism has been to reduce the resources in both space and time available to workers generally and to workers' organisations. For instance, we may and should aim to meet in accessible rooms, but such rooms may simply be unavailable or not available at a price which small LU branches can afford. What follows is therefore an incomplete list of recommendations for LU's organisations for good practice in combating the effects of inequalities and discrimination on our decision-making. Most of these recommendations are hence subject to 'as far as possible' (generally, more will be possible for national meetings than for local meetings).

Meetings should be held in accessible spaces and with hearing loops, and so on.

Scheduling of meetings should take account of members' or potential members' caring responsibilities (for children, for people with disabilities, etc). Childcare arrangements should be provided. IT (streaming, Skype, etc) should be used to facilitate participation of those unable to attend. Agendas and motions should be circulated well in advance.

Every effort should be made to avoid overcrowded agendas, which tend to cramp participation in discussions (and hence set up conflicts between open discussion of debated issues, on the one hand, and prioritising the contributions of oppressed groups, on the other).

Chairing should be sensitive to the need to draw in contributions from those who might not 'normally' speak, as well as to the need to clarify differences and allow full debate. On the other hand, some rotation of chairing is desirable to allow other comrades to gain experience of that duty.

Meetings of any length should include appropriate access breaks.

Left Unity needs to actively promote workers' education and similar initiatives to empower those who have had less access to formal education. The party as a whole, and branches, need to develop party education for the same purpose.

#### 4. Amendments to Left Unity constitution

Clause 3, Membership, subhead (f): "abides by the principles and guidelines of behaviour set out in the safer spaces policy (appendix 1)"

– Delete.

Clause 10, Direct democratic participation ..., subhead (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)" –

Delete.

Clauses 18, Disputes Committee, and 19, Appeals Committee:

Rewrite as follows:

#### (18-19) DISPUTES AND APPEALS

##### Disputes Committee

(i) 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 in appropriate cases.

(ii) The Disputes Committee may form a sub-committee of at least three members to consider any one case.

(iii) The Disputes Committee shall adopt its own procedures and standing orders, subject to approval and amendment from time to time by national conference.

#### Appeals committee

(i) 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.

(ii) The Appeals 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. The Appeals Committee may form a sub-committee of at least three members to consider any one case.

(iii) The Appeals Committee shall adopt its own procedures and standing orders, subject to approval and amendment from time to time by national conference.

#### Disputes and disciplinary action

(i) Individual members have the right to make complaint against other members, or LU officers or organisations, complaining of violations of this constitution or of the code of conduct (appendix 1).

(ii) The National Council may refuse any applicant for membership or take disciplinary action against an individual member. The individual concerned has a right to appeal to the appeals committee. Such action must be explained in writing to the member or potential member concerned, and such explanation must include a statement that the member or applicant is entitled to appeal to the appeals committee.

(iii) Complaints should, subject to (iv) below, be dealt with at the most local possible level. Individual members' complaints against other members of the same branch should be dealt with in that branch. Complaints between members of different branches within a region may be appropriately dealt with by the relevant regional committee. Complaints against national officers or LU organisations must be dealt with by the National Council or the Disputes Committee.

(iv) A complaint or disciplinary proceeding shall be transferred from a branch to a regional committee or to the Disputes Committee, or from a regional committee to the Disputes Committee, on the request of the person complaining or complained against on the ground that the circumstances make a fair handling of the complaint in the branch or regional committee impossible. A branch or regional committee, or the National Council, may refer any complaint or disciplinary action which is to be dealt with before them to the Disputes Committee if it appears to them that this is required by the seriousness of the matter or if it appears to them that circumstances within the referring body make

fair handling of the complaint impossible.

(v) People aggrieved by a decision, disciplinary action, or refusal to act on a complaint, by a branch, regional committee, the National Council or the Disputes Committee have the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee.

(vi) Bodies handling complaints or disciplinary actions must act in accordance with the disputes procedure (appendix 4).

## **9. A constitution fit for purpose, Teesside,**

Introductory notes by Steve M:

“Left Unity’s unwieldy current constitution, widely regarded as unfit for purpose, stretches to 6,000 words (download the document at <http://bit.ly/luconstitution2013>).

“The following document is a concise alternative with fewer than 900 words that will simplify LU’s governance and, I believe, also strengthen its political culture of democracy and accountability. “It is possible there may be an issue about the motion exceeding the 500-word limit imposed by the conference standing orders committee, but I would ask comrades to support the motion in principle in the anticipation that either

(a) a challenge to the word limit will be accepted by conference delegates on the day

or

(b) an alternative approach, such as splitting the motion into smaller sections, may be put forward by its advocates.”

### **1. Aims**

Article 1. Left Unity was founded on November 30 2013 and brought together a range of individuals and organisations. Our aim is to organise the working class in order to overthrow the capitalist system, establish socialism and realise a society based on the principle of ‘From each according to their abilities; to each according to their needs’.

### **2. Membership**

Article 2. A member is one who joins the party, accepting its rules and programme, works in a party organisation and regularly pays dues.

Article 3. Barring exceptional circumstances, application for membership is submitted individually. An applicant must be accepted by the appropriate branch.

Article 4. Members are expected to be active in a party organisation.

Article 5. Members also have a right and a duty to educate themselves politically and help develop the party’s political positions.

### 3. Organisation

Article 6. Organisationally Left Unity is based on the most thorough-going democracy. This provides the solid basis for united actions. As a general principle the part is subordinate to the whole, lower committees to higher, all committees to the National Council, and the National Council to the conference.

Article 7. Except where the rules state otherwise, in all party bodies decisions are taken by the majority of members voting in the meeting (excluding abstentions). It is the right and the duty of party members to participate in the meetings of the bodies of which they are a member and to openly state their views on all matters concerning the party.

Article 8. Party bodies are established on the basis of task, locality or workplace. Within their sphere of responsibility they are autonomous.

Article 9. Members have the right to submit their views to higher committees up to the National Council for discussion. While acting in accordance with the principle of unity in action, members may publicly oppose decisions taken by higher committees, as long as agreed actions are not disrupted.

Article 10. Members have the right to form factions, platforms or tendencies with a view to changing party policy or its leadership.

### 4. Structure of the party

Article 11. The basic organisational unit of the party is the branch. Branches should be kept as small as possible to allow maximum flexibility and maximum efficiency. Branches should as a norm meet weekly.

Article 12. The National Council, or all branches in an area, city, district or region, may establish area, city, district or regional committees, which are responsible for directing the work of at least five branches.

Article 13. Conference is the highest decision-making body of the party. The conference should normally be held every year. The conference should be announced by the National Council at least three months in advance. The conference can be delayed by decision of the National Council, but the period between conference should not exceed two years.

Article 14. Special conferences can be called by a majority decision of the National Council. If more than a third of the membership demand it, the National Council is obliged to convene a special conference. It should be held within three months. Failing that, the next highest committees calling for a conference have the duty to set up an organising committee to convene one. Preparation and representation is decided by the committee convening the conference.

Article 15. The National Council may invite to the conference individuals who have speaking but not voting rights.

Article 16. Conference hears, discusses and votes upon all reports, resolutions and matters it considers relevant. Through simple majorities (excluding abstentions) it also decides upon the numbers and composition of the National Council, changes in the rules and programme, appeals on matters of discipline, etc.

Article 17. The National Council is the highest decision-making body between conferences. The National Council elects its own officers and sub-committees. If one third of its members so decide, the

chair of the National Council must convene a special meeting of the National Council.

Article 18. Decisions of the National Council are taken by a simple majority of those members voting (excluding abstentions) . The National Council has the power to dissolve and re-establish any party body or publication. The National Council may coopt new members, who will not have voting rights.

## 5. Discipline

Article 19. The following are violations of party discipline: failure to pay party dues; disrupting or sabotaging an agreed action; threatening or using violence in an internal political dispute; behaving in a way that brings discredit to the party.

Article 20. Any committee of the party can vote on a motion of censure against one of its members. The relevant higher committee must be notified. Votes by a committee to suspend or expel a member must be ratified by the National Council. A member who is suspended has no membership rights, only duties. The comrade's level of consciousness and experience should always be taken into account.

Article 21. Every member of the party who is subject to disciplinary procedures has the right to appeal to higher bodies of the party, up to and including the conference.

Article 22. The expulsion of a member of the National Council must be agreed by a two-thirds majority of its full membership.

## 6. Dues

Article 23. The National Council determines the level of membership dues. Dispensation can be negotiated in particular cases by the basic committees, but have to be ratified by the National Council.

## **17. Code of Conduct, Leeds North and East,**

1. Left Unity welcomes the participation of members of other organisations drawn from across the political spectrum on the left. In particular we welcome the membership of members of various social movements and civil society organisations, who want to take their place in a party of the broad left.

2. The Left Unity constitution specifies a one member one vote basis for participation in the party, in contrast to a coalition of different parties and groups. However the constitution does not exclude party members from membership of other organisations.

3. Nonetheless, problems can arise where members hold 'dual membership' with other political organisations or parties with aims and directives that go beyond or diverge from those of Left Unity. Other models of organisation (e.g. what is usually called 'democratic centralism') at times conflict with the one member one vote democratic mandate of our broad socialist party. Left Unity does not want to proscribe such members, but want to see all members abide by the spirit as well as the letter of our constitution.

4. To help members of other organisations to participate honestly in Left Unity we shall establish a Code of Conduct, separate from, but supported by the Safe Spaces policy. It is agreed that when engaging in Left Unity activity (in branches, in public and in open social media), members do not promote the policies and practices of another political organisation or party or seek to represent their policies as the policies of Left Unity. Left Unity meetings, stalls and activities are not to be mistaken for vehicles for the promotion of the politics or materials of other political parties or organisations.



5. Those holding membership of other political organisations and parties are asked to declare these connections publicly when making representation to and for Left Unity. One way to respect the democratic norms of Left Unity is to participate in open tendencies inside our party.

## **28. Empowering Regions part 1, Southwark,**

8c delete:

'of representatives from branches' and 'Each branch will be entitled to send two delegates with speaking and voting rights ( at least one of whom must be female) and as many observers as wish to come. Expenses of delegates to be met from regional funds, local observers from branch funds.'

insert: 'Regional Committees shall adopt its own standing orders, subject to approval by National Committee.'

8c shall now read:

In England, regional committees 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. Regional Committees shall adopt its own standing orders, subject to approval by National Committee.

## **29. Empowering Regions part 2, Southwark,**

17 e

delete 75% and insert 70%

delete 5% and insert 10%

17e will now read:

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 = 70%
- ii. region = 10%
- iii. branch = 20%

## **30. Improving Accountability, Southwark Croydon,**

Under 14)d. ( NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR INTERNAL POSITIONS WITHIN LU)

insert: iii. any other political organisation of which they are a member clause 14 (d) will now read:

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 positions in LU they do or have held
- ii. whether they are members of a tendency and if so, which
- iii. any other political organisation of which they are a member

## **31. National Committee, Southwark Croydon,**

The purpose of this amendment is to make: the NC more manageable size; the NC more flexible to respond to events; officers more accountable to the NC and abolish the EC, as an unnecessary tier.

12.a,i:

Delete '40' and insert '22'.

Delete 12.a.iii and iv,

Insert a new iii: '3 Principle officers'.

12.b

Delete '4' insert '6'.

12.g

Delete '1 year' and insert 'a maximum of 18 months'.

12.h

Delete ', subject to confirmation by National conference and thereafter elected by a national ballot of all members'

12.i

Delete ' the Executive Committee' and ' immediate'.

12.j

Delete '40' and insert '22'.

Delete ', or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference,' and

delete ' representing' and insert 'two representatives for'.

12.k

Delete all.

National Office holders and spokespeople

Delete: 'National Office holders and spokespeople' and insert 'Principle Officers'

Delete a)

In b) were is says 'National Officers' and replace with 'Principle Officers'

Delete i),iii),vi),vii.

13) Executive Committee

delete all

Renumber accordingly

#### **41. Branch Standing Orders, Croydon,**

This conference believes that the current model branch standing orders are unclear.

Conference resolves to delete the current APPENDIX 2 - MODEL STANDING ORDERS

This conference instructs and empowers the National Council to, after consultation, develop and implement a new branch standing orders. These standing orders shall be immediately enforced, subject to approval by next year's National Conference.

#### **42. Policy crowdsourcing, Croydon,**

Add new point 10e:

e) Left Unity will additionally operate an online system all year round to propose and democratically vote upon policy proposals. This system will work as follows.

i. Any Left Unity member can propose a policy on our open policy voting platform. The only requirements these policies must meet are:

1. The policy cannot contradict the party's fundamental principles – for example it cannot be discriminatory or oppressive, or attempt to overturn any part of our founding statements.

2. They must be policy questions and not structural questions about the party – so constitutional amendments are not eligible, and nor can they instruct the party to take a particular action (for example, to support or not support a particular candidate in an election).

3. There will be a 500 word limit. This is intended to make it clear that we are voting on individual policies rather than more detailed position papers.

ii. Anyone (including non-members) can sign up to say they agree with the policy. (The format for doing so will resemble e-petitions.) We will put in place reasonable checks to make sure these signatures correspond to real people and avoid artificial inflation of the numbers.

iii. Each month the policy that has the highest total of supporters at 12noon on the last day of the month is put to an online yes/no ballot of all Left Unity members. This is done in the same way as National Council elections, through email ballots with provisions for a postal ballot where it has been requested. The ballot will last two weeks to allow discussion on the website and in branches.

iv. Policy proposals that are not successful in getting into the monthly ballot will be removed from the website after one year, but may be proposed again at any time. Policy proposals that do get into the monthly ballot but receive a 'no' vote in the ballot may not be proposed again in the same form, though may be submitted to Left Unity conference.

v. Conference remains sovereign and can vote to overturn any policy made according to this procedure.

#### **44. Support for LU candidates, Croydon,**

Add at end of 3d:

Any member who stands against an officially nominated Left Unity candidate in an election is deemed to have resigned their membership.

#### **45. Delegate conferences, Croydon,**

Delete 9c and replace with new 9c:

All Left Unity national conferences from the beginning of 2016 onwards shall be delegate conferences, according to the provisions in 9d.

Delete 9f and replace with new 9f:

A group of at least five individual Left Unity members may submit a motion. However, at least one of the members must be elected as a delegate and attend conference to move the motion, otherwise it will fall.

#### **46. Solidarity Fund, Croydon,**

In point 16ci:

Delete “donating 20% of the surplus to Left Unity and 80% returned to public funds”

Replace with “donating 50% of the surplus to Left Unity and 50% to a Left Unity-administered Solidarity Fund that makes grants to campaigns and movements the party supports”

#### **51. Constitutional motion on disputes, Tom Walker, Salman Shaheen**

Section 18 – Add new point h.

h) In cases where a member persistently displays racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive or discriminatory behaviour at odds with the party's fundamental commitment to equality, and the length of the Disputes procedure would expose other members to this oppression in the intervening period or such behaviour is bringing the party into disrepute, the National Secretary may take immediate action to exclude them from membership in consultation with the Disputes Committee. The member concerned will have a full right of appeal to the Appeals Committee.

#### **76. Combating oppressive behaviour, Waltham Forest,**

1. As a party of the left, Left Unity supports the struggle of oppressed groups including black and non-white ethnic groups, women, disabled people, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans people and others.

2. Left Unity recognises that in the past some organisations on the left have developed internal cultures that have not been sufficiently welcoming of members of oppressed groups and that it is essential we strive to ensure that Left Unity is fully welcoming to all members of all oppressed groups including black and non-white ethnic groups, women, disabled people, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans people and others.

3. Left Unity believes that persistent behaviour by members of Left Unity that is directly or indirectly oppressive or discriminatory towards black and non-white ethnic groups, women, disabled people, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans people or any other oppressed group is incompatible with membership of

## Left Unity

4. Left Unity affirms that the formally and constituted bodies of Left Unity, including its national bodies, regional bodies, branches etc. together with caucuses, tendencies and individual members of Left Unity, have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate action is taken against individuals whose behaviour is consistently oppressive or discriminatory to any oppressed groups or to individual members of any of these groups.

### **82. Policy, Perspectives and Priorities, Phil Pope, Gemma Brown**

1) Conference instructs the Standing Orders Committee to publish on-line , an up-to-date policy document, including all policy motions passed by Conference.

2) Motions to change party policy should be written as amendments or additions to the current policy document.

3) Conference instructs the Standing Orders Committee to publish on-line , an up-to-date copy of the Constitution and the Standing Orders for all party bodies and committees.

4) As well as motions to change party policy or the party constitution, Conference will hold separate sessions to take motions on 'Perspectives and Priorities'. These motions will put forward proposals on the current political situation and instruct the National Executive and other party bodies what their activity and priorities should be over the coming year. In a preliminary session each motion will be presented and an indicative vote taken by conference to show what support there is for each motion. Conference delegates may vote for more than one motion in this session. In light of this vote the movers of each motion will be asked to negotiate a composite 'Unity Motion' to be taken and voted on in a second session later in Conference .

5) Perspectives and Priorities motions can only be submitted by branches, regions, caucuses, and registered tendencies of Left Unity.

6) Ask SOC to update its Procedures & Standing Orders to reflect the above.

### **83. Reforming the National Council and National Executive, Phil Pope, Gemma Brown**

Conference notes:

1) We have struggled to fill many of the Regional Representative positions.

2) Standing Committees such as SOC, Disputes and Appeals are short of members.

3) Membership of the National Council bars people from serving on these committees

4) At the moment the National Council has seventy positions.

5) The most contested positions are the directly elected members of the National Council – currently 15 positions.

Conference believes:

1) The current National Council and Executive Committee are too large.

2) Reducing the size of the National Council and National Executive will improve efficiency as well as releasing a number of members to take part in other party activities.

3) Officers and spokespeople should be elected by the EC to ensure they remain accountable throughout the year and can be replaced at short notice if necessary.

Conference resolves:

1) To amend 12a) of the constitution to read:

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. 22 regional representatives. Two from each of the European constituencies.

ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women

iii. 20 nationally elected council members

2) Delete section 12j and 12k

3) Delete the three sections in 12 under 'National Office holders and spokespeople'.

4) Re-letter section 12.

5) Amend 13b to read:

b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the 20 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.

6) add 13f:

f) The Executive Committee will elect its own officers and spokespeople as necessary to carry out its business as instructed by Conference and the National Council.

#### **84. Constitution tidying, Phil Pope, Gemma Brown**

a) re-letter section 7

should be lettered a,b,c,d

b) re-letter section 12

'National Office holders and spokespeople' at the end of section 12 should be lettered q,r,s rather than a,b,c.

c) re-letter section 14

should be lettered a,b,c,d,e,f

d) term of office

In 12g replace '1 year' with 'no longer than 13 months. This would give some flexibility in timing as we do with national conference in 9a.

e) remove reference to 'annual' or 'special' conference.

Throughout the constitution there are references to 'National Conference', 'Annual Conference', 'Special Conference', and simply 'conference'. There does not seem to be any constitutional difference between these and the different terms simply confuse. The powers under 9b would remain.

remove 'annual' from 7,10a,12k,12p,14c,17h,20a,21  
remove 'special' from 9b,9b(again),12q

f) Move section 4

Section 4 (STRUCTURE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES) consists of points that are relevant to other sections of the constitution. 4c contradicts another part of the constitution and does not reflect practice (that elections will be held annually and not necessarily at the same time as conference). It would be better if all the points were moved to their relevant sections and section 4 abolished.

4a) move to section 10e  
4b) move to section 14f  
4c) delete first sentence. move second sentence to 14g  
4d) move to 14h  
4e) move to 9j  
4f) delete as duplicated by 3f  
re-number sections 5 onward

g) delete appendix 3

This dealt with transitional arrangements after the founding conference. it should be deleted from the current constitution as it is no longer relevant.

## **DISALLOWED MOTIONS**

### **73. Hackney/Tower Hamlets, Hackney/Tower Hamlets,**

Left Unity welcomes the massive outpouring of solidarity towards people seeking refuge which has been seen across Europe in recent weeks. This has created a window of opportunity to extend discussions and actions on this issue.

We also note the fact that slogans such as 'no human is illegal' which were previously seen as somewhat 'extreme' have become more widely supported on the streets and in social media.

We strongly welcome the fact that Jeremy Corbyn's first act on being elected Labour leader was to address the pro-migrant rally in Parliament Square. The movement around Corbyn provides natural allies for campaigners against racism and for the rights of migrating people.

We want to organise stronger links with migrants and migrant organisations themselves - and to ensure they are given the opportunity to speak in their own voices. We also seek to open broader discussions on how to combat the hypocrisy of both the British and European establishment on these questions.

In particular we seek to:

- Support all actions which keep this window open longer. Campaigns for practical solidarity allow discussions to be had with new audiences.
- Strengthen links with those campaigning against immigration detention.
- Argue that anti-austerity campaigns need to make anti-racist propaganda more central to what they do. The argument needs to be made that migrants are net contributors to the economy and that within an economy based on different priorities there would be services for all. It is spending on wars, weapons and tax breaks for the rich that undermine public services.
- Raise within the trade unions how to most effectively stop public sector workers being pressured to act as immigration snoopers.

### **34. Motion on Labour Party, Alan Theasby,**

**NO TEXT**

### **85. Safe Spaces (bullying), Felicity Dowling,**

Bullying will be addressed so as to reassure the complainant and to avoid any repetition.

We recognise such situations are likely to occur and may be inadvertent. This does not lessen the impact on the person receiving the bullying but does mean repetition can be avoided.

Each area meeting should appoint one or more people as a safeguarding coordinator, and a deputy.

They have three main functions

To act as an advocate for children and for vulnerable adults.

to act independently in reporting concerns of abuse to the statutory authorities.

to oversee the implementation of the safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults and ensuring that they are regularly reviewed.

### **86. Safe Spaces(children), Felicity Dowling,**

Children

1. Members working with younger members and children accompanying party members.(below 18) will work within safeguarding and disclosure policies and procedures
3. It covers both residential and non-residential events and activities. Includes all-age



gatherings and events where children and young people are present.

4. Is for all organisers to be responsible for the management and operation of any such work.

In order to ensure safe and appropriate work with children and young people within the centrally managed work the following procedures and guidance must be in place.

5. Procedures

6. Emergency Protocol

7. First Aid

8. Insurance & Records Keeping

9. Handling of Comments, Suggestions & Complaints

10. Use of Images

11. Risk Assessment & Form

12. Pastoral Care Procedures & Pastoral Concern Form

13. Anti-Bullying Procedures

14. Consent & Information Form

15. Special Educational Needs information forms (ADD/ADHD, Autism/Asperger Syndrome, Dyslexia and General learning difficulties)

16. Incident/Accident/Concern Reporting Form

17. Guidance

18. Event Aims & Intended Outcomes

19. Boundaries

20. Smoking Guidance

21. Drugs & Prohibited Substances Guidance

22. Appropriate Games & Activities

23. Managing Behaviour Issues

24. Appropriate Physical Contact, Personal Care & Restraint

25. Provision of Medication

26. Communicating with young people using social media

27. Adult to Child Ratios

28. Participant guidance on taking photos and videos

Filming event videos

29. These procedures and guidance ensure that we meet legal obligations, follow good practice and take all reasonable care to work in safe ways, as well as considering the physical, emotional well-being of children and young people.

**87. Introduction safe spaces, Felicity Dowling,**

1. Our constitution requires that “Members are expected to adhere to the principles and guidelines set out in the Safer Spaces policy” This document should become Appendix 1 (Appendix 1).
2. Our meeting should be good places for people new to any kind of politics. “Speak your mind even if your voice shakes”
3. Our meetings should be good places to speak and be heard to act and be respected for all who face discrimination.
4. We will oppose discriminatory behaviour against people with disabilities, we will be anti-racist, and we will be cooperative to women’s voices.
5. We will add to this document such additional safeguards the LGBT caucus wish to submit
6. Comments made not within these boundaries should first be met with a low key request to re-phrase
7. Breaks in meetings after 90 minutes are essential,
8. Rooms must be accessible.
9. Child care is the responsibility of the meeting; either provided on site or shared financial responsibility with the parents involved.
10. Left Unity will make its crèches great places for children.
11. Left Unity will work on a basis of believing women and children. This is not to disbelieve men but to recognise that “women and children lie“ has been a shield for oppressors and abusers.
12. Our internal work must reflect what we strive for in society.