

A proposal for Momentum's democratic structures going forward from the February conference

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We urge Momentum groups, regions, the NC, etc, to discuss this draft; amend it or use it as a basis for their proposals; and vote on it.

1. National Conference

Purpose: Our national gathering and sovereign democratic body, representing members via local groups, with most time given over the formal democratic decision-making (including motions), but also providing a chance for political education and discussion, network, etc.

Powers: To establish and amend the constitution, discuss and decide policy, elect part of the National Council and hold committees and officers to account. Must publish and circulate minutes and decisions to all members.

Composition: Delegates elected by registered local groups (this has already been agreed by the NC), on the basis of number of members in that area. 1 delegate per 25 members – with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 10, ascending in twos. Delegations must be at least half women and with at least 1 youth for delegations of 4 and above and 2 for delegations of 8 and above.

Plus: the outgoing NC.

Meets: At least once year, and no longer than 14 months after previous conference.

Unless convened by the National Committee (or in exceptional circumstances the Steering Committee) on an emergency basis; or in response to a formally agreed request voted for by one fifth of the total number of registered groups.

2. National Council

Purpose: The main democratic body for Momentum between conferences, largely focused on immediate strategic issues and policy discussions, and direct the organisation politically

Powers: To establish detailed policy documents, discussion and vote on motions, discuss strategy, elect, change and hold accountable the Steering Committee. Must publish and circulate minutes and decisions to all members.

Any delegate to the conference (or regional network) can run; someone who is not a delegate to the conference (or regional network) must be nominated by one local group or regional equality group in advance.

Composition: 20 (at least 50% of which must be women) elected by Single Transferrable Vote election at the conference; 26* elected by the regional network meetings on the basis of membership in the given region (at least 50% of each regional delegation must be women). Regions can also choose to elect alternates for when a member is unable to attend.

10 (2 each, at least 50% of whom should be women) from the four Liberation Campaigns and the Youth and Students section, elected in accordance with their autonomous structures (national office will ensure that a communication is sent out to all members to allow they can take part and stand in these elections, attend meetings, conferences of these groups); and 2 from each affiliated national Trade Union (at least half must be women). Plus: 1 (delegates must be women a minimum of alternate years) from any national political organisation that votes to affiliate and is accepted.

This would mean a National Council of 60-70 members.

Meets: 5 times per year - dates fixed for the year, unless it decides to meet more often or is convened by the Steering Committee.

3. Steering Committee

Purpose: To be responsible for the day-to-day working of Momentum, including the office, staff, operational decisions and processes, holding organisers, spokespeople, staff and central volunteers accountable; and to take responsibility for the immediate political leadership of Momentum.

Powers: To act as the governing body and voice of Momentum's membership between National Committees, while remaining accountable to the NC. Must publish and circulate minutes and decisions to all members.

Portfolios: In our view this requires more discussion. What is key is that the Steering Committee operates collectively and democratic and is not dominated by individuals reluctant to be accountable to it.

Composition: 12 (at least half women) elected by Single Transferable Vote by the National Committee from its own membership; one per affiliated Trade Union; and one rep from each Liberation Campaign and from MYS.

Meets: every 3 weeks.

4. Regional networks

Purpose: To allow coordination and policy-making by Momentum groups in particular regions, while electing part of the National Committee.

Powers: To set policy and decide activity for Momentum in each region.

Composition: Two representatives per registered local group (at least one of whom must be a woman); liberation representatives; and MYS representatives.

Meet: At least 5 times a year. (i.e. before each National Committee meeting)

5. Liberation Groups at Local and National level

Liberation groups can decide their own structures and methods of delegation but they should make the strongest possible effort to ensure they are inclusive and democratic.

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* the figure of 26 comes from the present proportion of regional delegates (i.e. 2 for 8 regions, 3 for 2 regions and 4 for London region - in proportion to size of membership, this to be reviewed by allowing all NC members a breakdown of the number of members by region to allow consideration of whether 26 is the appropriate number and whether any other regions need to be increased above 2).