

Conference Resolutions 1995-2007 (by year)

1995

This Conference supports any lawful action to protect the legal identity and funds of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

We will consult our Companion Parties when considering accepting a further Companion Party.

That a Branch directory giving the times and places of all branch meetings shall appear in every issue of the Socialist Standard if practicable.

That this Conference supports all moves to establish commercial distribution of the Socialist Standard as long as this does not interfere with existing sales, and is likely to increase circulation.

That this Conference regards Clause 4 of our Declaration of Principles as committing socialists to opposition to all prejudices, based on gender, race or sexual orientation.

1996

That this conference re-affirms the need for potential members to be examined by the branch they wish to join as instructed in Rule one, and instructs branches to ensure that applicants are in agreement with the Party's object and principles before recommending acceptance of their application.

That this conference instructs the EC to prepare, in consultation with the branches, a Development Plan to be presented to the next AGM for possible adoption and that, in order to ensure that this Plan is realistically based, it should be preceded by a Survey to establish the resources we have, in terms of members, commitment, skills, finances and equipment.

This conference notes that contesting elections can be a positive advantage to socialist activity by:

- 1) Raising our profile and narrowing the credibility gap.
- 2) Providing an opportunity to publicise the socialist case, make socialists, recruit members and motivate and encourage existing members.
- 3) Ascertaining an approximate measure of support for socialist ideas.
- 4) Confirming our commitment to a revolutionary transformation of society by democratic means.

This conference also notes that at this stage of class struggle our main task is to make socialists by promoting the benefits of socialism to the working class, and that an election campaign which seeks support by 'vote appeal' alone is a passive commitment to socialism and can produce a negative effect for socialist ideas by failing to promote the need for class struggle and social democracy.

This conference therefore instructs the EC to adopt an election policy and strategy, to take effect forthwith, which concentrates our election activity on 1) and 2) of the above

so that the working class are encouraged to seek further information on the socialist case, rather than encouraged to use the ballot box as a passive vote for socialism. To this end the EC shall ensure that the emphasis in all party literature shall be in socialist principles and ideas.

That this conference favours contesting up to five constituencies at the next General Election and that such campaigns be as far as possible self financing.

That this conference instructs the EC to raise the selling price of the Socialist Standard to 70p.

That this conference favours the recommendation of the 1995 ADM 'that this ADM recommends One World. One People as a theme for a special issue of the Socialist Standard and instructs the EC to publish this special issue in Summer 96.

1997

This Conference instructs the Executive Committee to establish a Working Party to examine party organisation with a view to involving more members of Central Branch in the activities of branches and groups, the Working Party to report to the 1997 ADM

This Conference instructs the Executive Committee to establish a Working Party to review arrangements for Annual Conference, paying particular attention to conference procedures, behaviour and representation, the Working Party to report to the 1997 ADM.

Members of Central Branch shall automatically receive Conference and ADM reports but EC minutes be sent only to those members who specifically request it

That this Conference affirms that all departments and sub-committees of the EC, as well as the EC itself, are accountable and must report to Annual Conference and ADM as are Party Officers

This conference affirms that the Socialist Standard should include more articles on the practical ways in which Socialism could solve problems, and could be organised.

That for placing amendments to rule, resolutions and items for discussion on the Conference and ADM agendas and to be represented by delegates, Central Branch shall be organised as a Branch. The procedure to be as follows:-

1. The administration of Central Branch shall remain with the Central Branch Secretary except in respect of the participation of Central Branch members in Conference and ADM which will become the work of a Central Branch Organiser.
2. The Central Branch Organiser to be elected annually by Central Branch members. Names shall be called for by the EC.
3. Amendments to rule, resolutions, items for discussion and the names of delegates may be proposed by individual members but made available to be voted on by all Central Branch members.
4. Successful items and the names of elected delegates shall be forwarded to the Standing

Orders Committee by the Central Branch Organiser in a timetable compatible with the issue of the Preliminary and Final Agendas of Conference and ADM Agenda.

5. The number of delegates at Conference to be in accordance with the maximum number of Central Branch members voting, i.e., two for the first ten and one for every further ten.

6. The Central Branch Organiser shall have the power to co-op assistance.

1998

That access to the list of Party Members be decided by the EC.

That this Conference instructs the EC to launch a WSP (India) fund; to circulate all members telling them of the urgent need of financial aid to our Comrades in Calcutta: and that a notice appear in the Socialist Standard.

That this Conference instructs the EC to arrange, with the Central Organiser, a feasibility study on forming new branches based on Central Branch members living in the same geographic area, and report back progress to the Annual Delegate Meeting.

That this Conference instructs the EC to delay any major expenditure on publicity and advertising until it is satisfied that a sensible long-term, but flexible plan has been outlined, the organisational arrangements to implement it are properly integrated, and adequate means for dealing with the response are in place. Reasonable expenditure for interim routine advertising should be continued.

That this Conference instructs the EC and its sub-committees, in consultation with Branches, to draw up plans to contest at least four constituencies at the next General election and further instructs them to report progress to the Autumn Delegate Meeting.

This Conference affirms that any law concerned with the enforcement of class relations or property interests could have no place in socialist society, but that any regulation which may serve the needs of the community could become part of democratic organisation in socialism.

That a committee be set up to examine the problem of 'Year 2000 Computer Crash' with reference to any problems which might be caused to the Party from outside failures or disruption.

1999

That the Audit Committee be wound up.

That the Development Plan Committee be instructed to keep the theorising about procedures to a minimum and to come up with a set of concrete proposals for socialist activity over the next four years.

That the Conference Procedures Working Party be wound up.

That in future all complaints about the work of departments and subcommittees of the EC

shall be handled by the EC itself, rather than directly by the subcommittees concerned.

That at the start of each year an overall budget statement covering all party activity in that year, as recommended by the 1998 ADM report from the Finance Working Party.

2000

That this conference, while recognising that the Party cannot accept string attached donations, sees no objection in principle to the Party appealing for funds for a specified purpose (e.g. the Socialist Standard, a new Companion Party, an election) and accounting for these in a separate notional fund, on the understanding that in an emergency money donated for such specified purpose can be borrowed or used to cover the general costs of the Party.

This Conference hereby amends previous Conference resolution on the subject so as to make the submission of supporting statements along with nominations for the EC and Party Officers optional rather than compulsory.

That the EC be instructed to investigate the possibility of leasing out Head Office and the Party renting another more suitable premises for use as Head Office.

That the party's 'registered leader' for the purpose of registering as a political party be chosen by lot.

For the coming census in 2001 the Party adopt the same policy regarding the question on so-called 'race/ethnic origin' as for the 1991 census, namely that members and others should be urged to answer 'Other – Member of the Human Race'.

Conference denounces the Labour government's Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Bill which introduces State regulation of the finances of political parties and bans donations from those it labels foreigners. As a democratic working class organisation we assert our right to manage our internal affairs, including our finance, free from State interference, and to accept donations from our fellow workers and socialists in any part of the world.

This Conference thanks the Development Plan Committee for their work, and calls upon the EC to instruct its Propaganda Subcommittee to recommend an overall propaganda plan for the EC's consideration.

This Conference proposes the Socialist Party contact other companion parties of the WSM, with a view to formally establishing the World Socialist Movement and its democratic and administrative structure.

That the EC be instructed to write to all the Companions Parties of Socialism to ask their views on setting up a World Socialist Movement. Any replies to be circulated to branches and any interested member as well as the Party's web sites.

That the Party help to establish a socialist journal in Africa to assist our rapidly growing African membership.

2001

This Conference instructs that, in order for the Party to be better informed of the views and activities of the Companion Parties, their minutes be circulated to Branches together with the EC Minutes.

This Conference instructs the EC to call for nominations for a committee to consider further work on the question of the positive proposals that the party can put forward on the organisation of socialism, and report to ADM.

That this Conference instructs that nominations for Party Officers and EC members who have not previously held office must be accompanied by a supporting statement. In cases where members have previously held office, this is optional.

2002

This Conference notes:

1. That attendance at political events remains low as a proportion of the population.
2. That one person can distribute 200 leaflets door to door in one hour,
3. That designs and artwork can be stored and distributed via our website.

This Conference believes:

1. That we need to get our message as far across the different sections of the working class as possible.
2. That this message is best put across through a regular and continuous contact.

This Conference resolves therefore, to:

- 1) encourage members and Branches to take and distribute 200 leaflets a month each.
- 2) ascertain from members and Branches how many leaflets a month they would need to take for distribution, and arrange for a relevant print run. Preference should be given, wherever possible, to articles from the current month's Socialist Standard and the leaflet should include an invitation to apply for the three months trial.
- 3) Instruct the EC to place this leaflet in an appropriate format, on the Party web site for others to download and distribute.

This Conference instructs the EC to institute plans for a special publication for June 2004 and prepare information/outline programme to pass to the press, radio and television for articles/programmes on the Party's 100th anniversary. This needs to be ready mid 2003 at the latest to allow for possible programming.

This conference supports the formal establishment of the World Socialist Movement. The object of the WSM is the spread of socialist ideas, particularly the founding of new Companion Parties and cooperative activity among its Companion Parties. The precise organisation of the WSM is to be decided subsequently. Conference instructs the EC to send copies of this resolution to each Companion Party, with a view to their also supporting the formal establishment of the WSM.

This Conference affirms that the job of speakers when appointed to represent the Party is to state the agreed Party policy. Controversial matters should be discussed within the normal channels of internal Party debate.

Following the report of Comrades Lambert and Otter, this Conference recognises the Ukrainian Group of comrades as a Companion Party of the World Socialist Movement, subject to endorsement by other Companion Parties

2003

That branch standing orders be amended with regard to requirements for a quorum to read: In order for a properly constituted branch meeting to take place the members attending shall have to be three for the first ten or part of ten and one for every part of ten.

On matters of urgency, where branches have no scheduled branch meeting before closing dates the secretary shall be empowered to obtain the members support by post, phone or email. Such actions must be ratified by the next branch meeting.

This Conference instructs the EC to investigate the digitisation of back issues of the Socialist Standard.

That this conference endorses the editorial Committee's reply to a correspondent's letter in the May 2002 Socialist Standard and holds that it is a good brief summing up of the party's position. 'The Socialist Party takes a non-theistic, materialist approach to things, in particular to society and social change. Religious people believe in the existence of at least one supernatural entity that intervenes in nature and human affairs. Socialists hold that we only live once. Religious people believe in some afterlife. Clearly the two are incompatible'.

This Conference authorises the expenditure of up to £800 to either insert a leaflet detailing Party Literature in 10,000 copies of the New Internationalist or taking a quarter page advertisement in the same journal.

This Conference instructs the EC to:

- 1) Place and keep an up-to-date version of the Party rule book on the Party web site, in a suitable format.
- 2) Prepare, place and keep a display of substantive motions carried by conference, party poll or general meetings of the Party, on the same, where it is practicable to recover them from the records.

2004

This Conference accepts the principle of the Socialist Party of Gt. Britain registering fully as a political party and instructs the EC to implement this when the first of either of these two eventualities occurs: (a) the next general election is announced or (b) the category of 'minor party' is abolished.

That the Party organise classes in the correct organisation and running of Party business meetings.

That the 1984 Conference Resolution, 'This Conference affirms that socialism will entail the immediate abolition and not the gradual decline of the State', be rescinded and replaced with: 'That as the State is an expression of and enforcer of class society, the capture of political power by the working class and the subsequent conversion of the means of living into common property will necessarily lead to the abolition of the state, as its function as the custodian of class rule will have ended. Those intrinsically useful functions of the state machine in capitalism will be retained by socialist society but re-organised and democratised to meet the needs of a society based on production for use'

2005

This Conference affirms that the Terms of Reference of the PFU Committee shall be as follows -

1 The Committee shall consider further work on the question of the positive proposals that the Party can put forward on the organisation of socialism, with a view to producing reports, papers, etc. for wider Party discussion.

2 The Committee shall consist of 3 members, with powers to co-opt additional members where appropriate.

3 The Committee shall try to keep the Party informed of the progress of its work, shall invite participation and consider contributions from branches and members.

4 The Committee shall seek opportunities to involve the wider WSM Movement in its work, shall be empowered, with Party approval, to request the production of suitable material from sources outside the movement.

5 The Committee shall report to Branches and the EC prior to Conference and ADM, and more frequently as necessary.

As from 1st July 2005 the party dues be increased to £5 per month.

This Conference instructs the EC to investigate the willingness of members to produce, and the need for a discussion journal to be titled 'Journal for World Socialism' to be produced under the following terms of reference-

1 The Editorial Committee shall consist of 3 members and should aim at the inclusion of a Companion Party member.

2 The Journal should provide a record of discussion between members of the Companion Parties aimed at the development of socialist arguments and should include discussion on general aspects of World Socialist Movement theory and policy, capitalist development in relation to socialism, and world socialism as a practical alternative to capitalism.

3 The Journal should include a correspondence section.

4 The Journal to be issued initially half yearly, with options on more frequent issues as appropriate.

5 The journal to be issued at minimal cost with format and lay out by members and printing on Party facilities.

6 The contents also to be published in electronic form on the Party's web site or other

internet sites.

7 In liaison with the EC the Journal may provide limited space for guest (non-member) writers.

In view of the failure of existing advertising, Conference instructs the EC to adopt a more adventurous policy, including in particular loose inserts of Party material in a range of publications.

That any items for ADM and Conference shall not be accepted onto the agenda unless accompanied by a supporting statement or unless in the opinion of Standing Orders it is self-explanatory.

This Conference endorses the recommendation of 2004 ADM that the front of Head Office should be refurbished, including an appropriate replacement of the bricked area.

2006

This Conference rules that the Party shall cease sending money grants to overseas groups or individuals, but shall continue to give every assistance to socialist activities abroad by way of printing and dispatching campaign material from Head Office.

That no more by-elections be contested as they appear to be a waste of money.

This Conference is in favour of Head Office being used for the purposes of regular evenings of musical/cabaret/political events.

This Conference rules that it is policy that any socially useful regulatory measures will be retained in Socialism.

2007

That in view of the action of certain E.C. members in disregarding a decision taken at Annual Conference 2006, Conference hereby re-affirms its over-riding democratic authority.

That the Party sets up a Members Dues account and issues new Standing Order forms for the collection of dues so that these funds may be more easily identified.

This Conference authorises the EC to increase the number of pages in the Socialist Standard to 24 and to increase the cover price to £1.50.

That the Internet Department be held responsible for connecting members to Spintcom/Spopen.

Be it resolved that all material created and published by the Party shall be licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs copyright licence.

This Conference decides that henceforth all central Party membership votes shall be conducted as secret ballots.

