



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Motion to include members and supporters more collaboratively in the formation of policy motions**

Proposed by: **WE Richmond Branch**

Proposer: **Katelyn Severn**

Type of motion: **Policy motion**

(N.B. **Bold** text is new)

Motion text:

1 Conference agrees the Policy Committee will convene and facilitate virtual twice yearly open
2 meetings (Policy Forums) for each of the 7 policy objectives. Attendance is open to the entire
3 member and supporter base.

4 Article 7.6 is amended as follows:

5 A new article 7.6.10 is added after current 7.6.9:

6 **"7.6.10 Policy Committee will convene and facilitate two virtual Policy Forums per year where**
7 **members and supporters can share their ideas as input to future policy development. Policy**
8 **Forums are open to all members and supporters. Policy Committee is responsible for**
9 **supporting members/branches to develop and submit policy motions which emerge during**
10 **Policy Forums to Conference."**

Motion rationale:

11 We seek to create better motions and policy development that draws on the expertise and
12 experiences of members and supporters and allows for more collaboration and debate between
13 members and branches. To this end we propose creating Policy Forums for each of the party's
14 seven core objectives. The outcome is to deliver strong policy motions to Conference. Strong is
15 defined as inclusive of the lived experiences and expertise of the Party's member and supporter
16 base. Strong is further defined as identifiably advancing gender equality in the policy area.

17 The creation of Policy Forums has the benefit of collaborative policy development and a continuous
18 policy debate between Conference, as well as being a forum to generate motions for Conference
19 deliberation.

20 The current approach to policy motion submission does not facilitate collaboration or positive debate
21 between members and branches, leading to the 'policy via amendment' we have seen at recent
22 Conferences. We believe many motions lose support based on omissions and misunderstanding
23 rather than disagreement about intent, as there is no way to ask for clarification or further rationale on
24 a motion prior to it being debated for vote. We believe that if there were time and space allocated
25 between Conferences for interested members to discuss policy ideas, many motions would be
26 stronger, more representative, and more inclusive of women's needs.

27 We believe this proposal would activate the diverse base of expertise and experience in the Party's
28 membership and create better policy motions. We believe the Policy Forums would aid members and
29 supporters interested in a specific policy area to come together to develop ideas and actions to
30 advance our policy aims more effectively. It would allow for open discussions between members and
31 supporters who would otherwise never get the opportunity to work together. We believe keeping
32 members active and passionate about the causes that drew them to the party in the first place, and
33 alongside feelings of kinship and allyship, supports our membership and makes the Party a stronger
34 collaborative force.

35 Furthermore, by keeping these meetings focused on a single policy area, we believe the motions
36 brought forward to the next Conference would be more pertinent to the party's main political objectives,
37 and result in stronger, potentially more radical, policy motions for debate. We have noted the process
38 around motions development criteria this year includes a significant effort to keep motions focused on
39 our core goals and to consider the quality of debate. We put forward this motion to see similar
40 improvement in our policy motions development and debate processes voted on democratically at
41 Conference by members.

42 The motion does not make the Policy Committee accountable for submitting motions to Conference.
43 Branches and members remain accountable for submitting motions to Conference. This motion
44 does not exclude branches and members from submitting policy motions generated outside the
45 Policy Forums.

46 We believe the proposal stays true to the goals and intentions of the Party, whilst increasing openness
47 and ground up policy building.
