



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Reforming Policy Committee**

Proposed by: **Mandu Reid, Leader of the Women's Equality Party**

Christine Dean	Sarabajaya Kumar	Catherine Smith
Tabitha Morton	Ali Smith	Eileen Scholes
Cheryl Clements	Hannah Barham-Brown	Marta Brebner
Caroline Hunt	Hanna Andersen	Yasmin Hashmi
Guilene Marco	Charlotte Mead	Stella Plumbridge
Annie Rickard	Stacy Hart	
Chris Paouros	Leisa Taylor	

Proposer: **Mandu Reid**

Type of motion: **Business motion**

(**Bold** text and text within quotes is new, ~~struck-through~~ text has been deleted.)

Motion text:

- 1 Conference:
 - 2
 - 3 • Notes that Policy Committee elections were paused in 2021
 - 4 • Acknowledges that continuing without a fully functional policy team will be detrimental to the
 - 5 party
 - 6 • Resolves to form a new streamlined policy group.
 - 7 Modify articles 4.4, 4.8.3, 4.11.1, 7.5.9, 8.2:
 - 8 ...~~Policy Committee~~ **Representatives**
 - 9 Modify article 7.1.1:
 - 10 The Leader... is responsible for developing and articulating the Party's vision and strategy in
 - 11 consultation with the Steering Committee, ~~the Policy Committee~~ **Party Conference** and the Executive Committee.
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12 Modify article 7.5.10:

13 The Steering Committee shall approve the manifestos and policy proposals ~~by the Policy Committee~~

14 ~~between party conferences~~

15 Replace article 7.6 with the following:

16 **‘7.6 Policy Representatives**

17 **7.6.1** There will be six policy representatives responsible for developing party policy, serving two

18 year terms beginning at Conference:

19 i) Four elected by a simple majority vote at Conference;

20 ii) One by rolling appointment* from branches that meet all requirements subject to article 7.8

21 below, in discussion with the Steering Committee;

22 iii) One by rolling appointment from official party caucuses, in discussion with the Steering

23 Committee.

24 **7.6.2** Policy representatives will develop party policy, in discussion with Central Office, the Steering

25 Committee and the Leader, for approval by conference. Representatives will be required to:

26 i) Attend a group induction;

27 ii) Attend biannual meetings;

28 iii) Work with members, branches and caucuses to support the development of party policy.

29 **7.6.3** Representatives who fail to meet the requirements above for six months, without an exemption

30 agreed by the SC, will be automatically removed.

31 **7.6.4** In the event of mid-term vacancies, policy representatives may be appointed by the SC until

32 the next conference.

33 **7.6.5** Policy Representatives will elect a Chair by a simple majority vote, who shall convene their

34 meetings.’

Motion rationale:

35 In the face of an unprecedented cost of living crisis, and in the face of the global rise of the far right

36 it is more important than ever that our party leads the way in reimagining politics with innovative and

37 impactful policy. This motion aims to streamline the Women’s Equality Party Policy group to ensure

38 that it is able to represent member voices and to deliver for women.

39 It is important to have a fully functional group within the party to focus on policy that is accountable to

40 members, and committed to engaging with the membership on policy development. The new policy

41 group will have the sole objective of developing ambitious policy to further women’s equality for

42 approval by members. They will agree their priorities in conversation with Central Office, the Party

43 Leader and the Steering Committee and will be empowered to work with members, branches,
44 caucuses and experts.

45 The previous iteration of the policy committee achieved a lot for the movement, but had a broad
46 remit that could be difficult to prioritise and this meant it wasn't always able to deliver on its
47 objectives. Drawing on lessons learned over the last seven years, the proposed group's remit will be
48 much narrower. This is to ensure: that the workload is reasonable and manageable for volunteers,
49 particularly those with caring responsibilities; and that the group has a laser-like focus on delivering
50 radical policy motions for our members and our movement. Individual policy representatives will not
51 be responsible for specific policy areas, as such the group will be able to work together to respond
52 to political and social developments and to work as a team on high quality, long-term policy
53 development for approval by conference, or the steering committee between conferences.

54 The representatives will be required to consult with the Party Leader, Members, Branches and
55 Caucuses in the development of policy. The group will consist of four directly elected members, a
56 representative from a randomly selected branch (rolling appointment), and a representative from one
57 of the party's caucuses to ensure representation from across our movement.

58 The central policy-making engine of this party will always be Conference and our membership, but
59 policy representatives will be able to supplement member input by supporting in-depth policy
60 development, ensuring we have all the support we need to reimagine politics.

References:

61 *Note: *A rolling appointment is defined as an individual democratically selected by a branch or caucus*
62 *membership to represent their interests, in discussion with Steering Committee. A different branch or caucus,*
63 *in an order that is randomly selected, will have the opportunity to appoint a representative each term.*
