Women's Equality Party Conference
26 November 2022

Title: **Constitutional Amendments Required by the Formation of Caucuses and Advocacy Groups**

Proposed by: **The WE Steering Committee**

Proposer: **The WE Steering Committee**

Type of motion: **Business motion**

(N.B. **Bold** text is new, *italic* text has been moved from another clause, ~~struck through~~ text has been deleted.)

Motion text:

1 The Steering Committee (SC) of the Women's Equality Party,

2 ● noting its inclusion on the SC of Caucus representatives, and the foundation of Recognised
3 Advocacy Groups;
4 ● wishing to embed these structures in the Party Constitution;
5 ● commends the following Constitutional amendments to Conference:

6 1) Proposing motions and/or amendments as a body:

7 Re motions: in Article 4.8.3, after: 'Branches working together' add: '**, any Caucus or Caucuses**
8 **working together'**; re amendments: after 'any Branch', add: '**, any Caucus or Caucuses working**
9 **together, any recognised Advocacy group or Advocacy groups working together**'.

10 2) Party Structure: Add new Articles:

11 **6.11   The Party has Caucuses which work at the intersection of discrimination against**
12 **women and discrimination on grounds of the protected characteristic(s) the caucus**
13 **represents within the party.**

14 **6.12   The Party has Advocacy Groups that advocate for a legally protected religion or**
15 **belief.**

16 3) Executive Committee: Add to the end of Article 7.4.4: '**, and an observer who is one of the WE**
17 **Caucus representatives, the role to rotate between Caucuses on an annual basis**'.

18 4) Review and derecognition: Move the text in italics from Article 7.5.4 to a new Article 7.5.5 and
19 insert the following new text (shown in bold): '*The Steering Committee is responsible in discussion*
20 *with groups for drawing up criteria for recognising official WE Caucuses* **and Recognised**
21 **Advocacy groups***, for specifying their rights and for approving* **and reviewing** *their status*, **which,**
22 **where required criteria are no longer met, may lead to their derecognition at the Executive**
23 **Committee's reasonable discretion**.'

24 5) Term of SC office

25 In Article 7.5.12(iv), after 'Party', add '**No term of office shall be longer than four years.**'

26 6) Limited consecutive terms

27 In Article 7.5.13 add '**, (iv)'** after '7.5.12(iii)'

28 7) Update cross-references throughout to reflect these changes

29 In Article 4.2 add: '**7.5.5**', etc.

Motion rationale:

30 It is the Steering Committee's task to keep the Constitution current and relevant, in order to have a
31 Party structure that reflects the needs and wishes of the Party and its Members.

32 These constitutional amendments are the outcome of the work done by the SC to include Caucuses
33 and Advocacy Groups in the Party.

34 1) All party bodies have the ability to submit motions and/or amendments as a body. These
35   amendments make it possible for Caucuses and Advocacy Groups to do so respectively.

36 2) A description of Caucuses and Advocacy Groups has been added to 'Party Structure'.

37 3) Caucuses will have an Observer role of the Executive Committee, to be rotated between WE
38   Caucuses annually so each has the opportunity to increase the intersectionality aspects of the
39   Party's operations.

40 4) All party bodies need to be able to be held to account as circumstances require. These
41   amendments state the measures in place for Caucuses and recognised Advocacy Groups.

42 5) All Steering Committee terms are limited to allow a regular infusion of fresh thinking and input.

43 6) Two consecutive terms will allow a Caucus representative to serve for eight years.

44 These constitutional changes embed the work of the Steering Committee in the Constitution required
45 by the motion 'Caucuses in the Women's Equality Party' passed by WE Conference 2020. The

46 Steering Committee commends this motion to Conference and asks Conference to pass this wording,
47 which it believes is required to embed the Caucuses' and Advocacy Groups' status in the Constitution.

Reference
https://www.womensequality.org.uk/recognised_groups