



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Reserve Voting Rights for the Membership of the Women's Equality Party**

Proposed by: **WE Leicester Branch**

Proposer: **Rae E. Webster**

Seconder: Helen Everett

Type of motion: **Business motion**

Motion text:

- 1 Conference notes that the Women's Equality Party constitution states in Article 4.2 that conference
2 is the "supreme governing body of the Party saving only in those areas in which the Steering
3 Committee has the final say and is responsible for policy- and decision-making, subject only to the
4 terms of this Constitution".
- 5 The constitution also states at 3.1: "There are two categories of Membership of the Party, namely
6 Full Member and Affiliate Member, together, the "Membership".
- 7 Conference acknowledges that currently it is possible for the Steering Committee to allow non-
8 members (Registered Supporters) to vote on conference motions and leadership elections.
- 9 Conference resolves to alter the constitution to ensure that only Members and Affiliate Members are
10 able to vote on Party Business by the following three changes.
- 11 1. Remove Article 3.3.2 which states Registered Supporters may be invited to participate in
12 decision-making upon the approval of Party Conference or of the Steering Committee on its
13 behalf, including in leadership elections.
- 14 2. Alter the words of Article 4.6.3 to "Registered Supporters are entitled to attend Party
15 Conference, subject to Article 4.6.2 above, and to participate in debates, but cannot put forward
16 motions or amendments to motions and do not have voting rights" by removal of the words
17 "unless that is specifically decided on by the Steering Committee".
-

-
- 18 3. Remove Article 4.11.4 of the Constitution which allows registered supporters to be included in
19 electronic voting.
-

Motion rationale:

20 There are two main reasons for this Business Motion.

21 A)

22 The Women's Equality Party states that "members are the life blood of the party". This is
23 particularly important in terms of contributing to the Party's finances.

24 Members include Affiliate Members so that those who belong to another political party are
25 not excluded from the Women's Equality Party.

26 If Registered Supporters are allowed to vote on Conference Motions or in Leadership
27 elections, there is no incentive to actually join the Women's Equality Party.

28 B)

29 Giving voting rights to Registered Supporters risks the problem of "entryism". This is a term
30 used to describe the process or policy of members of a political group joining another party
31 or group with the intention, often secret, of changing its principles and plans.

32 The Women's Equality Party prides itself on "doing politics differently". Ensuring that
33 Members and Affiliate Members are the sole determinants of Party Policy and Leadership
34 decisions should be an important part of this.
