



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Title: **Scottish Representation on the Steering Committee**

Proposed by: **Edinburgh Branch**

Proposer: **Charlotte Gilbert**

Seconder: Jasmine Woolley

Type of motion: **Business motion**

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

Motion text:

- 1 1. Insert in to the WE Constitution a new sub-section 7.5.12 (v) reading:
 - 2 2. 'A Representative (or their appointed deputy) of WE Branches in Scotland. The members of WE
 - 3 Branches in Scotland shall be responsible for electing their Representative (and deputy);'
 - 4 3. Re-number the existing sub-section 7.5.12 (v), and subsequent sub-sections, accordingly.
 - 5 4. Amend section 7.5.13 accordingly as follows:
 - 6 Members of the Steering Committee joining under Articles 7.5.12 (iii), ~~(v)~~, (vi), (vii) **and (viii)**
 - 7 above may sit on the Steering Committee for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
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Motion rationale:

- 8 The steering committee is there to guide the party's activities and outcomes against its mission, aims
 - 9 and objectives. It also has the power to decide when members stand in elections. Given that equality
 - 10 is a prominent feature in the party's mission, it seems prudent to ensure representation of all its
 - 11 members i.e. having a Scottish representative. It is also impossible to decide what elections WEP will
 - 12 participate in in Scotland without a Scottish representative to advise, especially since the fundamental
 - 13 structure of government and general party politics is so different in Scotland to the rest of the UK.
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14 In fact, most of the issues that WEP are concerned with in Scotland happen to be devolved e.g. health,
15 social care, and education. Scotland makes its own laws and due to its current stance in government
16 – i.e. left wing – it is fair to say that it is more likely to pass laws which will be of an advantage to
17 women. Only recently, Scotland became the first country in the world to introduce free period products.
18 This sets an example within the rest of the UK and could affect how WEP markets campaigns.

19 The Scottish government also publishes many consultations per year on the bills it plans to pass
20 through parliament. Again, these are devolved so without a Scottish representative with knowledge
21 on the topics, WEP will find itself short of the knowledge required to represent a proportion of its
22 subscribers.
