

Constitution of the Socialist Network

1. The organisation, its basis and activities

The Socialist Network is an organisation for socialists who find common cause in our “Statement of Aims and Principles”. The Socialist Network aims to provide a place where socialists can discuss and debate in a comradely environment and carry out practical tasks to build support for the ideas of socialism.

a. Statement of Aims and Principles of the Socialist Network

- i. We stand for a mass socialist party, the aim of which will be to bring about the end of capitalism and its replacement by socialism.
- ii. Under capitalism, production is carried out solely to make a profit for the few, regardless of the needs of society or damage to the environment. Capitalism does not and cannot be made to work in the interests of the majority. Its state and institutions will have to be replaced by ones that act in the interests of the majority.
- iii. Socialism means complete political, social and economic democracy. It requires a fundamental breach with capitalism. It means a society in which the wealth and the means of production are no longer in private hands but are owned in common. Everyone will have the right to participate in deciding how the wealth of society is used and how production is planned to meet the needs of all and to protect the natural world on which we depend. We reject the idea that the undemocratic regimes that existed in the former Soviet Union and other countries were socialist.
- iv. The mass socialist party will oppose all oppression and discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, nationality, ethnicity, disability, religion or sexual orientation and aim to create a society in which such oppression and discrimination no longer exist.
- v. Socialism has to be international. The interests of the working class are the same everywhere. The mass socialist party will oppose all imperialist wars and military interventions. It will reject the idea that there is a national solution to the problems of capitalism. It will stand for the maximum solidarity and cooperation between the working class in Britain and elsewhere. It will work with others across Europe to replace the European Union with a voluntary European federation of socialist societies.
- vi. The mass socialist party will aim to win support from the working class and all those who want to bring about the socialist transformation of society, which can only be accomplished by the working class itself acting democratically as the majority in society.

- vii. The mass socialist party will aim to win political power to end capitalism, not to manage it. It will not participate in governmental coalitions with capitalist parties at national or local level.
- viii. So long as the working class is not able to win political power for itself the mass socialist party will participate in working class campaigns to defend all past gains and to improve living standards and democratic rights. But it should recognise that any reforms will only be partial and temporary so long as capitalism continues.
- ix. The mass socialist party will use both parliamentary and extraparliamentary means to build support for its ultimate goal: the socialist transformation of society.
- x. All elected representatives will be accountable to the party membership and will receive no payment above the average wage of a skilled worker (the exact level to be determined by the party conference) plus legitimate expenses.

2. Structure

- a. The Socialist Network's sovereign body is the national members' meeting. These are held at least four times a year, one of which is an Annual General Meeting (AGM). Meetings are open to members, registered supporters, and other visitors who are independent socialists.
- b. The national body responsible for the day-to-day running of the Socialist Network is the Steering Committee (SC).
- c. Wherever there are an appropriate number of members in a location or region, the SC may at its own discretion encourage the creation of a local members & supporters group. Local groups should meet whenever possible to co-ordinate local implementation of the Socialist Network's work, and other activities e.g. public debates which may increase engagement with the Socialist Network.
 - i. No group's geographical remit may overlap with another.
 - ii. Groups are responsible for deciding their own standing orders, as long as they do not contravene any of the provisions in this constitution and are in accordance with basic democratic norms.
- d. The Socialist Network's constitution is subject to amendment at AGMs with a simple majority.
- e. Final decision on all these provisions lies with the SC.

3. The Steering Committee

- a. The SC consists of the Secretary, Chair, Treasurer, and other members whose number will be determined by the AGM at which they are elected. Elections to all these positions are held at the AGM.
 - i. If there are more candidates than available positions, then the three officer positions will be elected using the Alternative Vote system; the

other positions will be elected as a group using the Single Transferrable Vote.

- b. The SC is responsible for:
 - i. organising members' meetings;
 - ii. finances;
 - iii. assisting the work of local groups and individual members;
 - iv. corresponding with other organisations and individuals;
 - v. implementing the decisions of the membership, and:
 - vi. taking decisions when circumstances dictate and no clear policy exists.
- c. The SC convenes via conference call once a week, and holds face-to-face meetings at least quarterly. Decisions may be taken unless fewer than four members are in attendance, in which case decisions must be agreed by email. The conference call alternates each week between business meetings, and meetings based around political discussion. The latter are held jointly with members of the EB, and should result in commissioning of articles and/or editorials where appropriate.

4. The Project Editorial Board

- a. The EB operates as a collective.
- b. EB members are elected by Single Transferable Vote at the AGM.
- c. In its editorial positions, the EB aims to reflect the political opinion of the Socialist Network or its leading bodies.
- d. The EB will convene via conference call as is appropriate and necessary in order to meet publication deadlines.
- e. The EB may co-opt associate members to facilitate its practical work and/or to give input into its political development. These associate members will not have voting rights over editorial decisions. The approval, rejection or renewal of the associate members' status is decided at successive members' meetings.

5. Membership of the Socialist Network

- a. A member is anyone who abides by this constitution, accepts the Statement of Aims and Principles, and pays at least the minimum subscription as determined by the SC (currently £1 monthly). Membership is subject to approval by the SC.
- b. Anyone in sympathy with the Socialist Network may become a registered supporter (subject to SC approval), with which there is no financial commitment, but also no right to vote.
- c. Members of so-called "democratic centralist" groups are not eligible for membership or registered supporter status.