

PEACE & PROGRESS

CONSTITUTION

1) PARTY NAME

The name of the Party shall be 'Peace and Progress: a party for human rights' hereafter referred to as the 'Party'.

2) AIMS AND OBJECTS

The aim of the Party is the resolution of conflict and the advancement of peace through the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, biological, and chemical and the sale for export of conventional weapons; the social progress of society from inequality and competition to equality and the sharing of resources, both natural and manmade.

The object of the Party is to organise, educate, argue for, and achieve all the principles of Human Rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in all subsequent international Human Rights Conventions and treaties to which this country is signatory and by which it must be bound.

3) MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership of the Party shall be open to any person agreeing with the aims and objects of the Party paying an annual subscription fee, the amount of which will be determined by the Annual Conference. Any member who has not paid the annual subscription fee without special dispensation from the Party Treasurer within 30 days of the renewal date will no longer be a party member.

4) PARTY POLICIES

- a. The policies of the Party shall accord with the Aims and Objects of the Party in clause 2 above.
- b. The policies of the Party will be determined by the Annual Conference, a General Meeting of the Party or by the General Council as per the constitution of the Party.

5) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- a. The supreme authority of the Party is the Annual Conference.

- b. An Annual Conference shall be held at least once per calendar year.
- c. All members of the Party who have paid their annual subscription fee shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Conference and any General Meeting.
- d. All decisions of the Annual Conference or a General Meeting shall be reached by a simple majority vote either on a show of hands or – if the result based on a show of hands is contested – by voting slip. In the event of a tied vote, the Party Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- e. The Annual Conference shall elect a General Council.
- f. The General Council will consist of 25 members. This will include the Party Chairperson, Secretary and Party Treasurer and 22 members elected at the Annual Conference.
- g. Nominations for election to the General Council must be submitted to the GC prior to the start of the Annual Conference (In accordance with clause 6h). Nominees receiving the highest number of votes at the Annual Conference will be declared elected to the General Council.
- h. Nominations for Party Chairperson, Party Secretary and Party Treasurer must be submitted to the General Council prior to the Annual Conference.
- i. Only the Annual Conference shall have the power to alter the constitution of the Party.

6) GENERAL COUNCIL

- a. The General Council shall be responsible for the running of the Party between Conferences and shall carry out the decisions of the Annual Conference or General Meeting of the Party. It shall meet at least once every three months. 13 General Council members will constitute a quorum.
- b. The General Council shall have the authority to call General Meetings of the Party as necessary.
- c. The General Council shall convene a General Meeting of the Party when requested to do so in a signed resolution by 51% of the membership of the Party.
- d. The General Council shall elect from amongst its number an Executive Committee which shall meet in between meetings of the General Council as necessary. The Executive Committee will carry out the decisions of the General Council and report to it on its work. The Executive Committee will have the authority to call a meeting of the General Council or a General Meeting when agreed by resolution.
- e. The Party Chair, Party Secretary, and the Party Treasurer must be members of the Executive Committee. However, the size of the Executive Committee shall not exceed fifty per cent less one of the General Council. 7 members of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum.

- f. The General Council shall have the authority to use the Party's funds to further the Aims, Objects and policies of the Party and to facilitate meetings of the Party at national, regional and local levels.
- g. The General Council will have the power to create any committees or sub-committees within the Party as necessary in order to further Aims and Objects of the Party.
- h. The General Council shall draw up standing orders for the process by which nominations for elections, resolutions to the Annual Conference and General Meeting and other matters of Party policy and proposed amendments to the constitution will be submitted and circulated to Party members in advance of the Annual Conference or the General Meeting. These standing orders shall in all cases accord with any relevant previous decisions of the Annual Conference or General Meeting.
- i. The National General Council will establish a Standing Orders Committee. The Standing Orders Committee will be made up of 2 members of the General Council and 3 members nominated from the floor at the previous Annual Conference. The Standing Orders Committee will manage the agenda and procedures at the Annual Conference or General Meetings and ensure that standing orders are adhered to. The Standing Orders Committee will present a standing orders report to members for approval or amendment at the opening of the Annual Conference or General Meeting.

7) GENERAL MEETING

General Meetings of the Party will be organised on the same principles as the Annual Conference and shall have all the powers of the Annual Conference except the power to amend the constitution of the Party and elect the Party leadership.

8) PARTY CHAIR

- a. The Party Chairperson shall be responsible for chairing General Council and Executive Committee meetings.
- b. The Party Chairperson will work with the Party Secretary to prepare the agenda for General Council and Executive Committee meetings.
- c. The Party Chairperson and the Party Secretary together will have the power to call a meeting of the Executive Committee at their discretion.
- d. In the event of a tied vote at the General Council or Executive Committee the Party Chairperson will have a casting vote.
- e. Further duties and responsibilities of the Party Leader will be determined by decisions of the Annual Conference, General Meetings and by decisions of the General Council.
- f. The Chair will be deemed to be the Party leader in accordance with the requirements of UK electoral legislation.

9) THE PARTY SECRETARY

- a. The Party Secretary will work with the Party Chairperson to prepare the agenda for General Council and Executive Committee meetings.
- b. The Party Secretary and the Party Chairperson together will have the power to call a meeting of the Executive Committee at their discretion.
- c. The Party Secretary will convene meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Council.
- d. Further duties and responsibilities of the Party Secretary will be determined by decisions of the Annual Conference, General Meetings and by decisions of the General Council.

10) PARTY TREASURER

- a. The Party Treasurer will have the authority to delegate responsibility to others for overseeing fundraising strategies and campaigns.
- b. The Party Treasurer shall report on the Party's finances at all meetings of the General Council and shall submit a written financial report to the Annual Conference.
- c. Any further responsibilities and duties of the Party Treasurer shall be determined by decisions of the Annual Conference, General Meetings and by decisions of the General Council.
- d. The Party Treasurer shall ensure that the Party complies with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

11) PARTY ORGANISATION

- b. Political activity by individual members of the Party will be undertaken with the guidance and support of the Executive Committee and General Council. Members must always act in accordance with the aims and objects of the Party.
- c. Wherever possible and with the agreement of the General Council, the Party will organise its members in branches. Branches will be formed in regions, cities, towns, workplaces, universities and colleges or anywhere else deemed necessary subject to the agreement of the General Council.
- d. Party branches will be bound by the constitution.

- e. All Party branches shall elect a Secretary and Treasurer. The treasurer of Party branches shall be responsible for overseeing members' payment of annual subscription fees or other monies into the Party's national accounts.
- f. Branches shall consist of at least three members of the Party.
- g. The General Council will oversee the establishment of regional Party branches, committees or other organisations in England, Scotland, and Wales. These bodies will be required to elect the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Treasurers will report on all payments made into the national accounts to the Party Treasurer at least once per calendar month.
- h. The General Council or a committee thereof will establish fraternal relations with overseas political parties and organisations which share the Party's aims and objects.

12) AFFILIATIONS

Other organisations that share the aims and objects in clause 2 may be permitted to affiliate to the Party subject to the agreement of the General Council and ultimately subject to the agreement of the Annual Conference. Each affiliated organisation will be entitled to send representatives to Party Annual Conferences and General Meetings. However, only Party members shall be able to vote at such meetings.