

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE – 28/29 MARCH 2015, SCOTTISH EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Saturday 28 March

Session 1

10h30 Welcome Address

10h45 Report of the Standing Orders and Agenda Committee

10h50 Resolutions

12h15 Close

1 A FAIRER, MORE PROSPEROUS SCOTLAND

Conference welcomes the growth of Scotland's economy and that we are leading the way with the highest employment and lowest unemployment rate in the UK.

Conference welcomes that the SNP Scottish Government continues to use all the powers at its disposal to grow the economy, increase employment and tackle inequality.

Conference recognises, however, that while key economic and social levers remain reserved to Westminster, inequality in Scotland has widened, and remains one of the biggest barriers to Scotland achieving its full economic and potential.

Conference believes that only a strong team of SNP MPs can force Westminster to deliver the suite of powers the Scottish Parliament needs to create jobs and tackle inequality in line with the will of the people of Scotland.

STEWART HOSIE MP

LINDA FABIANI MSP

2 SCOTLAND'S INTERESTS IN TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Conference notes that the European Union (EU) and the United States have started negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), expresses concern over the lack of transparency in these negotiations and that the stated ambitions for TTIP go well beyond traditional goals of trade agreements and seek to encompass a wide spectrum of public policies. These include the harmonisation of regulatory standards; opening markets in the service sector which could potentially include public services such as health, social services and higher education; opening up of public procurement markets; and a massive expansion of the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism allowing corporate investors to challenge state actions which they perceive as threatening their investments.

Conference expresses its strong dissatisfaction both with the process and content of TTIP proposals so far, reaffirms party policy that the outcome of these talks must not alter the ability of democratically elected national governments and parliaments to organise public services in the way that best fits their needs, must not undermine European standards in the fields of public health, social and employment

rights, health and safety and the environment and other fields, must not prevent the development of "buy local" marketing, such as in the food sector and requests our MEPs to:

- 1) Work with the TUC, STUC, EPSU and PSI to raise awareness of the reality of TTIP and the impact it will have on Scotland;
- 2) Continue to promote the benefits of in – house delivery and work against any attempts by public bodies to avoid public procurement rules whilst outsourcing;
- 3) Raise awareness of TTIP with all our party members and make it a major part of our Westminster campaign for 2015 as part of our political education programme given that within the EU Council of Ministers Scotland is represented by a UK government that is actively seeking to undermine public provision of services; and
- 4) Bring forward a substantive position on TTIP to a later Conference or National Assembly so that Conference can instruct MEPs in whether to support, or not, the eventual Treaty on the basis of its actual eventual content.

ALYN SMITH MEP
CHRIS STEPHENS

3 THIRD SECTOR CAMPAIGNING

Conference notes that new rules on campaigning came into force on 19 September 2014 as a result of the UK Government's Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014.

Conference expresses concern at their impact on the ability of third sector organisations to campaign on important political issues, and considers this to be an attack on the freedom of expression of organisations who undertake legitimate campaign activity as part of our democratic society.

Conference believes it is no coincidence that at a time when the UK Government is dismantling the welfare state and the Conservative Party is threatening to repeal the Human Rights Act that they are effectively attempting to silence those organisations at the forefront of defending our rights, and therefore declares our opposition to these new regulations and calls for this undemocratic Act to be repealed.

CUMBERNAULD BRANCH

4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Conference notes that the Conservative Party has announced plans to repeal the Human Rights Act should they form the next UK Government, and replace it with a "Bill of Rights".

Conference believes the Human Rights Act is an important piece of legislation, which protects our civic and political rights, such as free speech and freedom of assembly.

Conference notes that the Human Rights Act is embedded in the Scotland Act that established the Scottish Parliament, which would give Scotland a degree of protection in devolved areas in the event of repeal, but this would still leave Scotland exposed in key reserved areas like welfare, where welfare reforms are undermining basic human rights with policies like the Bedroom Tax over which the UK Government will still hold a veto following any implementation of the Smith proposals.

Conference opposes any moves which would remove the rights guaranteed by existing laws, notes what it considers to be recent examples of sensible dialogue between the ECHR and national courts, and therefore strongly opposes proposals to repeal the Human Rights Act.

RODERICK CAMPBELL MSP
BOB DORIS MSP

5 SMITH COMMISSION

Conference notes with disappointment the lack of genuine progress offered by the Smith Commission in delivering the promise of "Devo Max" to the Scottish Parliament; recognises the actions of the Unionist Parties in the final days of the referendum campaign have now been seen to be false vows and broken promises; acknowledges the limited additional powers the Smith Commission does recommend, but; agrees the only way to ensure real progress in the transfer of new powers to the Scottish Parliament is by electing the strongest possible team of SNP MPs in the General Election this May.

BONNYRIGG & LOANHEAD BRANCH

Session 2

14h15 Resolutions
14h40 Topical and Emergency Resolutions
15h00 Address by Nicola Sturgeon, Leader
15h35 Resolutions
16h45 Close

6 TRIDENT AND AUSTERITY

Conference condemns Westminster's plan to spend £100 billion on renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Conference believes this is immoral, outdated and a grotesque waste of taxpayers' money at a time when people in Scotland are dealing with cuts and austerity imposed by the Westminster government.

Conference notes that Scottish Labour MPs voted for the renewal of trident a week after they voted with the Tories for further cuts and more austerity.

Conference believes that only a strong group of SNP MPs at Westminster will oppose a new generation of nuclear weapons being dumped on the Clyde.

BILL KIDD MSP
MIKE WEIR MP

7 HOME CARE SECTOR

Conference recognises the outstanding contribution of the home care sector in their vital role which enables vulnerable people to remain in their own homes.

Conference believes that the Scottish Government should do all within its power to promote, protect and enhance the working conditions of those employed in the sector.

Conference condemns the reduction in social care spending in England and is proud of Scotland's record in providing free personal care to individuals over 65. We should continue our commitment to aim for the very best social care for all our citizens and one way of doing this is to support the home care sector in their work.

LOSSIEMOUTH, HOPEMAN & BURGHEAD BRANCH

AMENDMENT

Paragraph 2 after "those employed in the home care sector" add the following:

They should not be employed on "zero hours" contracts but should be given the security of set hours.

PAISLEY TANNAHILL BRANCH

8 UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXTRACTION

Conference recognises the huge efforts made by Community groups across Scotland to raise the profile of Unconventional Gas Extraction.

Conference applauds the decision by the Scottish Government to apply a moratorium on planning consents for unconventional onshore oil & gas wells, including fracking.

Conference also welcomes the announcement that a full public consultation and public health impact assessment on unconventional oil & gas extraction will be held to ensure that the voices of communities across Scotland are heard on the issue.

The solid evidence-based approach of the Scottish Government to allow all factors, environmental, social and economic to be taken into full consideration stands in marked contrast to the naked opportunism of the unionist parties.

TRYST BRANCH

9 LAND REFORM

Conference notes the positive economic and social benefits of a diverse, de-centralised property owning democracy – as demonstrated in progressive European nations such as Norway and Denmark.

Conference believes that in order to boost the rural economy and bring about more diverse landownership, measures should be brought forward in the forthcoming Land Reform Bill to achieve this.

Conference calls for consideration of granting secure agricultural tenants the statutory right to buy their holding in the public interest, thus moving to a European model of land tenure and ownership – with all the economic and social benefits which will accrue from such a move.

STRATHENDRICK BRANCH

AMENDMENT

'Insert after first paragraph:

"Conference therefore welcomes the report of the Scottish Land Reform Review Group and the consultation by the Scottish Government on the future of land reform.

Conference believes that the consultation presents a tremendous opportunity to transform and regenerate both rural and urban communities."

HIGHLAND COUNCIL GROUP

Conference notes that disabled people are under-represented in all legislatures including the Scottish Parliament and local government. It is widely recognised that disabled people face additional support needs that are associated with their disability and their participation in activity which is essential to standing for selection as a candidate by a political party, and activity which is essential to standing for elected office. Without such support, a disabled person may face an extra barrier that a non-disabled person who also wants to stand for elected office would not have to face. With Scottish Parliament elections next year and Local Government elections in 2017, this issue requires a swift response to increase the number of disabled people in elected office.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to consider establishing a strategy which would improve access for disabled people in standing for elected office and to actively participate in politics.

STIRLING CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION

AMENDMENT

"Conferences further notes that assistance and support has existed for disabled people standing in UK elections through the 'Access to Elected Office' fund but that this support does not extend to elections to the Scottish Parliament and to Scottish Local Authorities."

MORAY CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION

Sunday 29 March

Session 3 - INTERNAL

09h00 Office Bearer Reports
09h15 Constitution and Rules Amendments
10h25 Close

11 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section 9.2 (a)

Currently:

delegates from each Branch; each Branch having two delegates for the first twenty members in the branch and one additional delegate for each additional twenty members, or part thereof, in the Branch;

Delete "first twenty" and replace with "first one hundred"
Delete "additional twenty" and replace with "additional fifty".

INVERNESS CITY BRANCH

12 STANDING ORDERS FOR THE SNP GROUP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT

Delete all existing clauses and replace with:

1. Membership of the Group

1.1. Membership of the Group will be open to approved Scottish National Party candidates at the time of their election and who accept or have accepted in writing the Standing Orders of the group. In all other cases membership shall be extended only to those members who have applied for membership and accept the aims and policy of the SNP, as well as the Standing Orders of the Group.

2. Responsibilities and Conduct of Members

2.1. Members will:

2.1.1. Abide by and support the SNP's policies. Group discipline and Group decisions.

2.1.2. Treat the position as a full-time commitment with an attendance and work rate commensurate with that status. The Chief Whip will be responsible for advising the Group if the performance of any member is inconsistent with this standard.

2.1.3. Adhere to the Code of Conduct for Members of the UK Parliament

2.1.4. Accept that no member shall within, or outwith the Parliament, publicly criticise a Group decision, policy or another member of the Group.

2.1.5. Accept that Members will be expected to establish a constituency office, preferably together with the local SNP MSP and to liaise with the Party organisations covering their constituency.

2.1.6. Recognise the importance of the group staff in providing support to the SNP Group in Parliament. All members of the Group will therefore be required to contribute equally from their Office Cost Allowance to the cost of maintaining the Group Staff, at a level set by the Group.

2.1.7. Adhere to all decisions taken democratically by the Group. Any Member registering their dissent at the time of the group decision must meet with the Chief Whip as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

2.1.8. Ensure that, in the event that a Member is unable to meet their commitments as a Member due to personal circumstances or illness, that the Chief Whip should be notified as soon as possible.

2.1.9. Note that if Pairing arrangements are in place, requests for Pairing should be lodged with the Chief Whip using the Requests for Pairing Form as soon as possible prior to the day when a Pair is requested. No verbal requests for Pairing can be accepted. Members are advised that a request for Pairing may not result in a Pair being given.

2.1.10. Recognise that members who have been paired or given dispensation by the Chief Whip to be absent from Parliament on sitting days, must be prepared to return immediately at the Members own expense to the Parliament on the direction of the Chief Whip.

2.1.11. Be required to attend all Group meetings unless given prior dispensation has been granted by the Chief Whip. Accept that it is the responsibility of any Member who has prior dispensation to miss a group meeting to make themselves aware of Group decisions on all decisions and to support such decisions, which have been taken.

2.1.12. Recognise that failure to comply with the above will result in disciplinary action being taken against the Member.

3. Leader of the Group

3.1. The Leader of the Group will be elected by the Group after the General Election and on an annual basis thereafter.

4. Deputy Leader of the Group

4.1. The Deputy Leader of the Group will be elected by the Group after the General Election and on an annual basis thereafter.

5. Group Executive

5.1. On an annual basis the group shall elect its Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary and two further members who will form the Group Executive. The Group Executive will meet regularly when the UK Parliament is in session.

5.2. On an annual basis the group will elect members to internal organisations of the SNP as appropriate and as defined in the Constitution and Rules of the Scottish National Party.

5.3. The Group shall appoint a Treasurer who shall adhere to procedures laid down in the Financial Scheme for the purpose of compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

6. Group meetings

6.1. The Group will meet on a regular basis when the UK Parliament is in session to:

6.1.1. Consider future parliamentary business and the stance to be adopted by the Group;

6.1.2. Hear reports from the Leader, Chief Whip and Group Spokespeople;

6.1.3. Deal with matters of internal discipline; and

6.1.4. Elect nominees from the Group for appropriate positions not determined by the Group Leader or Chief Whip

6.2. To ensure continuity with the SNP Groups in the Scottish and European Parliaments, members from these Groups will be eligible to attend meetings of the Westminster SNP group on a non-voting basis and vice versa. Any other individual may be invited to attend the Group only by invitation of the Group. Non-Members attending the Group would be required to accept the constraints of confidentiality of the business that will be required of members in that Group.

6.3. The Quorum of Members required to constitute a meeting of the Group shall be 40% of Group Members.

7. Appointments by the Leader of the Group

7.1. The Leader of the Group will make the following appointments:

7.1.1. Group Spokespeople and their specific portfolios;

7.1.2. Chief Whip, subject to the approval of the Group;

7.1.3. Chairmanship of Parliamentary Committees

7.1.4. Parliamentary Posts to be nominated by the SNP

8. Appointments by the Chief Whip

8.1. The Chief Whip will make the following appointments:

8.1.1. Places on Committees

8.1.2. Members will abide by the decision of the Chief Whip regarding placement on Committees and any changes that may be required. Attendance and contribution at Committees will be monitored and recorded by the Chief Whip.

9. Exercise of a Group Whip

9.1. All matters not designated by the Group as being free votes or matters of conscience, shall be subject to the full Group Whip. The Group will define when Members can exercise a free vote.

9.2. Matters of Conscience are matters where there is clear Party policy but also which touch on personal conscience or religious faith. Members shall be free, with the agreement of the group, to exercise

a conscience vote on such matters, provided the viewpoint is expressed with moderation and care, and acknowledgement is given to Party policy. If such a viewpoint is to be expressed it must be discussed in advance with the Chief whip. Such areas can also include areas of vital constituency interest.

9.3. The Chief Whip must be timeously informed if an individual wishes to exercise a conscience vote and will advise the member if consent has been granted.

10. Discipline

10.1. Principles of Disciplinary procedures

10.1.1. The Chief Whip will take action in accordance with the Standing Orders

10.1.2. The Chief Whip is responsible for monitoring breaches of Standing Orders and for the application of the disciplinary process against Members. The appropriate forms of disciplinary action shall be a verbal warning, a written warning, a final written warning, suspension or expulsion from the Group or any other disciplinary action considered appropriate.

10.1.3. The Chief Whip will have power to suspend a Member between scheduled meetings of the Group, and will be required to bring the case to the Group for approval at a special meeting convened for the purpose of discussing the disciplinary process.

10.1.4. Members may be suspended or expelled from the Group on a recommendation of the Group Leader or Chief Whip, and supported by a two-thirds majority of those attending a duly constituted meeting of the Group.

10.1.5. Suspension will be for a given period.

10.1.6. Notification of the reason for suspension or expulsion will be explained to the Member concerned by the Group Whip prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Group, at which, Members will discuss the case.

10.1.7. A full record of all disciplinary action against any member will be held by the Chief Whip, including details of each charge, a note of what action was taken, and copies of any correspondence or notes detailing the outcome of disciplinary action. The record will, at the discretion of the Chief Whip, be made available to the relevant constituency association of the SNP. It will also be made available to the National Assessment Committee before consideration of any application to become an approved Scottish National Party candidate by the Member in the future.

11. Staff Relations

11.1. SNP members will:

11.1.1. Treat all staff in accordance with guidance by the Personnel Advice Service and Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) for members of UK Parliament

11.1.2. Recognise the right of all staff to be a member of a Trade Union whether employed by the Member or the Group. Staff should be advised of this right, and a clause should be included in their Contract of Employment.

11.2. The employer of Group staff, unless otherwise delegated, is the Leader of the Group

11.3. Members should recognise the complexity of employment legislation and should, in the interests of common employment practice, seek the assistance of Group or Parliament staff in dealing with any staff disputes, subject to existing Trade Union involvement.

12. Approval and Amendment of Standing Orders

12.1. Any amendments to these Standing Orders will be subject to approval by National Council or National Conference. The Group will review Standing Orders after each election to the UK Parliament.

12.2. By signing these Standing Orders, you are accepting that you have read and understood the terms and conditions of group membership, recognise the duties and responsibilities you have as a Scottish National Party Member of the UK Parliament, and accept that you are bound by its contents.

Members Full Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Two copies of this document should be signed. One copy will be held by the member and one by the Scottish National Party

ANGUS ROBERTSON MP
PETE WISHART MP

13 AMENDMENT TO RULES ON VETTING AND SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES

Add new appendix at end:

Gender Balance Mechanisms for selection of candidates for the 2016 Scottish Parliament Election

1. Where any incumbent SNP constituency MSP announces their intention to stand down, the National Executive Committee may direct that an all-women shortlist should be submitted by the Constituency Branch or Association.
2. In any constituency where more than one candidate is nominated, at least one of those candidates must be female. The National Executive Committee will have authority to add candidates to shortlists to achieve this.
3. The National Executive Committee may take steps to balance the number of male and female candidates being submitted for Regional List rankings, and will have authority to nominate additional candidates to achieve this.

This appendix will be deleted at 5 May 2016.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT A

Para. 1 Delete in its entirety.

Para. 2 In the second line, delete 'must' and substitute ' should preferably'.

AVONDALE BRANCH

AMENDMENT B

“Add at Bullet point 3 the following;

The Regional List will be constructed on the following basis;

Where the top slot is allocated to a man then the second placed slot will be allocated to a woman, If a woman is allocated to the top slot then the second placed slot is open to either gender.....and so on thereafter”

SNP TRADE UNION GROUP

14 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

14.1 – delete Clause (e) and re-label subsequently

15.1 – insert:

(j) the National Women's and Equalities Convener

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT

at 15.1 delete 'The National Women's and Equalities Convener' and replace with 'Equalities Convener'

PAISLEY TANNAHILL BRANCH

15 AMENDMENT TO THE RULES PROVIDING NATIONAL OFFICE BEARER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Add new clause:

10. National Women's and Equalities Convener

10.1 Responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of equality strategies, approved by the NEC, to cover under-represented and minority groups. Support constituency and branch Women's Officers. Chair the SNP Women's Academy. Advise on equality issues relating to internal procedures, such as vetting and selection.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT

at 10. delete 'National Women's and Equalities Convener' and replace with 'Equalities Convener'

at 10.1 delete 'Women's Officers' and replace with 'Equalities Officers'

PAISLEY TANNAHILL BRANCH

Session 4

10h30 Resolutions

11h15 Our Progress in Government – John Swinney

11h45 Resolutions

12h30 Close

16 IMMIGRATION RULES

Conference notes that current UK Immigration Rules' financial (minimum income) requirement in the application for Leave to Enter/Remain in the UK are discriminatory against those who live outside the European Economic Area, and are in danger of ripping families apart.

Conference calls on the UK Government to change immigration rules to reflect Scottish needs and circumstances. Believes that Scotland needs an immigration system which is in the Scotland's best economic, academic and social interest that is driven by compassion and common sense.

GLASGOW PROVAN CONSTITUENCY BRANCH

17 GENERAL ELECTION 2015 – STRONGER FOR SCOTLAND

Conference welcomes the talented and diverse group of candidates selected to stand for the Scottish National Party at the 2015 General Election. Conference believes that only the election of SNP MPs in May will ensure that the Westminster parties deliver their promise of a powerhouse parliament that can create more jobs and protect our public services.

Conference further believes that a strong group of SNP MPs holding the balance of power at Westminster will force Labour to think again on austerity and the renewal of Trident nuclear weapons. Conference resolves that Scottish National Party MPs elected in May will never put the Tories into government and will always fight Scotland's corner.

ANGUS ROBERTSON MP
STEWART HOSIE MP

18 CARERS

Conference recognises the immense contribution carers make to our society and notes the ongoing commitment of the Scottish Government to support carers through legislation.

Conference notes that caring responsibilities for a loved one can arise at any time, and that this role can have vastly differing and transformative impacts on any aspect of daily life. The SNP believes that the role of caring should be supported by intervention from public agencies, where necessary, to ensure that carers can continue to fulfil the caring role for as long and as fully as possible.

Conference recognises that for those living with loved ones affected by debilitating physical conditions, housing needs can often be difficult to adequately address. Local authority provision of aids and adaptations often does not match what is required by way of domestic alterations to assist with caring for loved ones and providing a home environment which meets the needs and aspirations of those living

with disability. Scottish guidance on the most efficient and supportive environment in the home can be read in “Housing for Varying Needs”.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to consider introducing a fund to support the adaptation or reconstruction of houses to support those with disabilities – and their carers – to live a full and active home life. Where property owners seek assistance, the scheme could support equity transfers to deliver the required alterations; where tenants require support the fund could provide assistance to housing providers, such as registered social landlords.

GRAEME DEY MSP
MARK MCDONALD MSP

19 SUPPORTING WOMEN AGAINST MISOGYNISTIC ABUSE

Conference notes with concern the rising number of reports of online abuse targeted at women, particularly women who raise issues related to gender equality, rape and domestic violence.

Conference also notes that a small minority participates in the verbal harassment of women, and that many of these incidents go unreported.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government and all relevant public authorities to consider how to implement measures to tackle misogynistic abuse in all relevant policy areas and tendering processes.

TROON BRANCH

20 FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS

Conference regrets that recommendations by the Smith Commission that would allow action to tackle Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in Scotland have been significantly watered down by the UK Government.

Conference believes that Fixed Odds Betting Terminals cause harm and hardship in communities across Scotland, agrees that the Scottish Government needs legislative powers to control the growth and impact of these machines, and calls on the UK government to devolve these powers in full.

GLASGOW SNP COUNCIL GROUP

Session 5

14h00 Resolutions

14h40 Topical and Emergency Resolutions

15h00 Address by Stewart Hosie, Depute Leader

15h45 Close

21 FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Conference reaffirms its commitment to making Scotland the best place in the world to grow up; welcomes the SNP Scottish Government's investment in our nation's future by providing a free school lunch for every P1-3 child in Scotland; understands that this will benefit over 135,000 additional pupils and save families at least £330 per year per eligible child; and notes the impact that this investment will have towards eliminating the scourge of child poverty in Scotland.

GEORGE ADAM MSP

GORDON MACDONALD MSP

22 PROTECTING SCOTLAND'S POOREST

That Conference welcomes the investment from the Scottish Government of £300 million between 2013-14 and 2015-16 to mitigate the UK Government's devastating welfare cuts. Conference notes that this includes £90 million to fully mitigate the iniquitous Bedroom Tax and £114 million for the Scottish Welfare Fund which has helped almost 120,000 households since April 2013. Conference nevertheless notes that this investment is in the face of total welfare cuts in Scotland of £6 billion by 2016 - £4.5 billion of which will fall on the incomes of women.

Conference believes this highlights why full economic and welfare powers should be in Scotland's hands rather than Westminster's – and why UK Ministers holding any kind of veto on Scottish welfare policy is completely unacceptable.

EILIDH WHITEFORD MP

KEVIN STEWART MSP