

PROPOSED DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR RIC - SCOTLAND

1. Purpose:- Radical Independence Campaign (RIC) is a campaigning coalition working for democracy, social justice, environmental sustainability and peace. RIC believes that these aims can best be met in a Scottish republic based on the sovereignty of the people and as part of a wider internationalism from below movement.

2. Composition:- RIC is composed of **Individual Members, Local Groups** and **Affiliated Groups** who agree to RIC's 5 principles:-

- a) For a social alternative to austerity and privatisation
- b) Green and environmentally sustainable
- c) A modern republic for real democracy
- d) Committed to equality and opposed to all forms of discrimination
- e) Internationalist and opposed to war, NATO and Trident

3. Individual Members

All Individual members:-

- a) subscribe to RIC's 5 principles.
- b) pay an agreed minimum annual subscription
- c) are encouraged to join local RIC groups
- d) can attend and speak at AGMs in a non-voting capacity and National Forums
- e) receive minutes of national AGMs and National Forums and notification of all national activities

4. Local Groups

- a) are autonomous
- b) are made up of individual members in their areas
- c) can involve others beyond their individual members
- d) submit their members' names to the Secretary for their existence to be recognised at the next National Forum as a nationally participating group
- e) raise their own funds
- f) can send motions to the AGM and National Forums
- g) can send 2 voting delegates to AGMs and National Forums

- h) should send Local Group reports to National Forums
- i) can host local wider **Conferences** inviting other Local Groups and Individual Members to participate
- j) can have notification and reports of their activities posted on the national blog

5. Virtual Groups

- a) Individual Members in remote areas can constitute themselves into a Virtual Group using on-line communication. They can then submit their members' names to the Secretary for their existence to be recognised as a nationally participating group at the next National Forum
- b) Virtual Groups have the same rights as Local Groups.

6. Affiliated Groups

- a) subscribe to RIC's 5 principles and pay £50 annual affiliation fee
- b) can send 1 motion to the AGM and to National Forums
- c) can send a voting delegate to the AGM and National Forums and a non-voting delegate when a specific proposal is being raised
- d) can hire a stall at AGM and National Forums for £10 and at National Conferences for £25 (these sums can be modified at National Forums but should be no more half of stall hire to non-affiliated organisations)
- e) can have a link for their group on the National Blog

6. The National Forum

- a) The National Forum will be the general decision making body
- b) The National Forum will receive reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Local Groups and Working groups, approve their activities, and discuss issues proposed by Local Groups, Affiliated Groups or Working Groups
- c) All members will be notified of the dates and location (general area) of the annual cycle of bimonthly National Forum meetings to be decided at the AGM
- d) Additional National Forums can be arranged by prior National Forums or by a submission to the Secretary from 5 Local Groups
- e) Proposals should normally be submitted two weeks in advance of a National Forum.
- f) An agenda and the full text of proposals and discussion papers will normally be circulated ten days in advance of a National Forum, to allow local groups time to discuss.

- g) Voting is by a simple majority. Any dissenting Local Group or Affiliated Group can express this dissent in the Minutes and by taking their own action/non-action on their own name.
- h) The National Forum Chair is chosen by the previous National Forum
- i) The National Forum can organise wider **National Conferences**

7. Annual General Meeting

- a) The AGM will normally be held once per calendar year, ten to fifteen months since the previous AGM, normally on the date of a National Forum. It has the same powers as a National Forum. The National Forum will decide on the date of the AGM at least two months in advance.
- b) Proposals for the AGM should normally be submitted at least five weeks in advance. An agenda, proposals and discussion papers will normally be circulated one month in advance.
- c) In addition the AGM will:-
 - i) review annual reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Local Groups and Working Groups, approve accounts, and discuss issues proposed by Local Groups, Affiliated Groups or Working Groups. It will also be able to amend the constitution.
 - ii) elect four office bearers - the Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer and Blog Coordinator. When the Secretary, Minutes Secretary or Treasurer is unable to attend an AGM or National Forum they should arrange a replacement. Failure to attend two National Forums or to arrange a replacement at any National Forum will lead to the election of a replacement office bearer at the National Forum. The Blog Coordinator need only attend a National Forum if there is a specific request to do so.
- d) Nominations for office bearer posts to be sent to the Secretary 7 days in advance of the AGM
- e) The Secretary is responsible for drawing up meeting agendas, all outside internal and communications, except for minutes of meetings. The Secretary shall make a report of all correspondence to the next National Forum.
- f) The Minutes Secretary circulates the draft minutes to all those attending National Forum meetings and the AGM within 7 days. There will be further 5 days in which amendments can be made.

The amended version will be circulated to members within a further 5 days. Any disagreement over minutes to be resolved at next National Forum.

- g) The Treasurer will be responsible for opening and running the RIC bank account and for providing an up-to-date statement at each National Forum and the AGM
- h) The Blog Coordinator is responsible for posting national RIC activities, and for posting nationally relevant activities from Local Groups.
- i) The AGM Chair is chosen by the previous National Forum

8. Working Groups

- a) The National Forum can form Working Groups.
- b) The composition of each Working Group to be decided by the National Forum
- c) Working Groups should provide reports of their activities to each National Forum
- d) Working Groups can be for:-
 - i) Internal Tasks (e.g. drawing up constitutional amendments, presenting a strategy paper. Their written suggestions are designed to facilitate discussion and are open to amendment by any Local or Affiliated Group)
 - ii) Activities, e.g. media and communications, fund raising, Safer Spaces
 - iii) Projects., e.g. organising National Conferences
 - iv) Themes, e.g. Catalan solidarity, Housing, Land Reform

9. Safer Spaces

See accompanying notes.