

# Radical Independence Campaign Scotland – Constitution

*Proposed Updates from RIC Aberdeen, January 2021 (final draft)*

1. **Purpose.** Radical Independence Campaign Scotland (referred to below as RIC) is a campaigning organisation working for democracy, social justice, environmental sustainability and peace. RIC believes that these aims can best be met in an independent Scotland, and campaigns in accordance with five founding principles.

## **We stand for a Scotland that is:**

- 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 opposition to discrimination on grounds of gender, race, disability, sexuality or age
  - e) Internationalist and opposed to war, NATO and Trident
2. **Composition.** RIC is composed of individual members, local groups, and affiliated groups.

## **3. Individual Members.** All individual members:

- a) subscribe to RIC's five principles;
- b) may make donations to RIC;
- c) can take part in local groups, working groups, etc;
- d) can attend and speak at National Forums and AGMs in a non-voting capacity;
- e) will receive minutes of national meetings and notification of national activities;
- f) may cancel their membership at any time.

**g) Membership data** will be stored securely in accordance with relevant data protection laws. Under no circumstances will the membership list be made public or shared with any other organisations.

4. **Local Groups** have the same aims and founding principles as RIC, and may also focus on local issues. All local groups:

- a) are autonomous, self-organising and self-funding;
- b) comprise individual members in their areas, and non-RIC members at their discretion;
- c) should send reports on their activities to National Forums and AGMs;
- d) can send two voting delegates to National Forums, and four to AGMs;
- e) can send motions to National Forums and AGMs;
- f) can contribute to the RIC website and social media channels, directly or through syndication.

5. **Virtual Groups.** Individual members in remote areas, or sharing common interests, can constitute as a virtual group with the agreement of the National Forum. Virtual groups will have the same rights and responsibilities as local groups. Where local groups are referred to below, this includes virtual groups.

6. **Affiliated Groups.** Affiliated groups may be political parties or other campaigning organisations that support RIC's aims and founding principles. All affiliated groups:

- a) can affiliate with the agreement of a National Forum;
- b) must pay an agreed annual fee (currently £50);

- c) can send one voting delegate to National Forums, and two to AGMs;
- d) can send motions to National Forums and AGMs, along with an additional, non-voting delegate to present them;
- e) will be listed on the RIC website and linked on RIC social media channels;

7. **National Forum & Annual General Meeting (national meetings).** The National Forum will be the general decision-making body of RIC. There will also be an Annual General Meeting (AGM).

a) The National Forum will normally meet every other calendar month, in rotating locations. Normally no city should host more than two National Forums per year. Dates and locations for the year's National Forums will normally be decided at the AGM.

b) An Interim National Forum may be held in exceptional circumstances, when agreed by consensus or 2/3 majority of delegates at the previous National Forum. This may be done over email if necessary.

c) 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. The National Forum will decide on the date and location of the AGM at least two months in advance.

d) Any RIC member and any delegate of an affiliated group may attend national meetings, in a non-voting capacity.

e) Each local group will decide which of their members will hold voting powers at national meetings, in accordance with their local decision-making processes.

f) All national meetings will have the facility to engage remotely.

g) Proposals should normally be submitted two weeks in advance of a National Forum, and four weeks in advance of an AGM.

h) An agenda and the full text of proposals and discussion papers will normally be circulated ten days in advance of a National Forum, and three weeks in advance of an AGM, to allow groups time to discuss. Minutes will normally be circulated one week after.

h) The facilitator for each national meeting will be decided at the previous one.

8. **Details: National Forum.** Each National Forum will include:

- a) brief verbal or written updates from local groups and working groups on their activities;
- b) discussion of proposals from local groups, affiliated groups and working groups.

9. **Details: Annual General Meeting.** Each AGM:

- a) will review annual reports from working groups;
- b) will approve accounts;
- c) will discuss matters of strategic importance, as proposed by local or affiliated groups;
- d) may amend the RIC constitution.

10. **Emergency General Meetings.** The National Forum will be able to call an Emergency General Meeting (EGM) at any point by consensus or two-thirds majority. An EGM will have the same

powers as an AGM. Any local group may propose that the National Forum calls an EGM.

11. **Decision-Making.** Decision-making at the National Forum and the AGM will be by consensus of voting delegates present. If consensus cannot be reached, then a two-thirds majority of voting delegates will be required. Contentious proposals may be deferred to the next National Forum to allow more time for discussion and clarification.

a) For National Forums, voting delegates comprise up to two members from each local group, and up to one delegate from each affiliated group.

b) For AGMs, voting delegates comprise up to four members from each local group, and up to two delegates from each affiliated group.

c) If a local group cannot send members to a National Forum or AGM, they may send a brief statement with their views on a proposal or an issue. Statements will then be read out, and if relevant will count as a group's decision in the event of a vote.

12. **Specific Roles.** RIC will decide, by consensus, on two or more individual members, from different local groups, to fulfil the roles below. This process will normally take place at the AGM, but may also take place at a National Forum where necessary.

a) No individual will hold the same role for more than three years.

b) If a pair is struggling to carry out a role, the National Forum may appoint another person to help them.

c) In exceptional circumstances, the National Forum may ask an individual to step down from their role.

d) Co-Secretaries: responsible for drawing up meeting agendas, circulating materials to members, maintaining the RIC email list, and conducting routine communications.

e) Co-Minutes-Secretaries: responsible for taking and circulating minutes for national meetings.

f) Co-Treasurers: responsible for keeping financial records, reporting all income and expenditure to national meetings, paying invoices for expenditure approved by the National Forum, and collecting membership fees from affiliated groups.

g) Co-Treasurers will have the power to sign cheques (or electronic equivalent) on behalf of RIC, for expenditure agreed in advance at a national meeting. All cheques must be signed by both co-Treasurers.

13. **Working Groups.** RIC will have several standing Working Groups to handle operational tasks, as listed below. Additional working groups may be established at a national meeting to organise specific projects, focus on specific themes, etc.

#### **All working groups:**

a) comprise members from at least three local groups;

b) are autonomous and self-organising;

c) will select at least two convenors, to be confirmed at a national meeting;

d) will submit reports to each National Forum, and an annual report to the AGM;  
e) can propose agenda items for national meetings.

#### **Standing working groups include:**

f) **Media Working Group:** will maintain national social media accounts, maintain the RIC website, collect content from local groups, create national promotional materials, leaflets, press releases, etc, and handle media enquiries.

g) **Safer Spaces Working Group:** will deal with violations of the Safer Spaces policy. Reports to the National Forum and AGM will contain suitably anonymised summaries of any concerns raised and action taken.

14. **Oversight.** The National Forum will have oversight responsibility for working groups. Members and local groups will have access to all reports for scrutiny.
15. **Powers.** RIC will have the power to raise funds, hold assets, open bank accounts, enter contracts and engage in such activities as are necessary to further our aims and principles.
16. **Safer Spaces.** RIC's Safer Spaces policy will apply to all meetings and activities at national level, including online discussions on social media or by email:

*Violent, threatening, or deliberately offensive behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated by the Radical Independence Campaign (RIC). Individuals who engage in these behaviours will be excluded from our gatherings and online discussions.*

a) A full text version of the Safer Spaces policy is available on the RIC website.

b) The Safer Spaces Working Group will have responsibility for dealing with any Safer Spaces issues that arise. If a member of the Safer Spaces Working Group is involved in the group where an issue arises, that member will not be involved in dealing with the issue.

c) At the guidance of the Safer Spaces Working Group, the National Forum or AGM may cancel a person's membership at any time if they are found to have seriously or continually violated the Safer Spaces Policy.