

Proposed amendments to the draft RIC constitution

By Connor Beaton

Office-bearer elections

Explanation: This amendment would provide for the election of national office-bearers by an online ballot of all individual members rather than an election at an AGM. It would also make clear that nominations for office-bearers must come from local groups or affiliated groups.

Remove section 7(c)(ii) and replace section 7(d) as follows:

Four office-bearers, namely secretary, minutes secretary, treasurer and media officer, will be elected by a secret online ballot of all individual members, with the outcome announced at the AGM. There will be a 7-day window for local groups and affiliated groups to nominate RIC members for election to any of the offices. The ballot will run for 7 days leading up to the AGM.

Insert new subsection after section 7(d):

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 by a secret online ballot of all individual members with one week for nominations and one week for voting. The media officer need only attend a National Forum if there is a specific request to do so.

Replace section 7(h) as follows:

The media officer has responsibility for maintaining the RIC website and social media pages, including by sharing national RIC activities and nationally relevant activities from local groups. The media officer is not a public spokesperson for RIC.

Online meetings

Explanation: The draft constitution's provision for 'virtual groups' has been dated by the Covid-19 pandemic, during which many local groups have been meeting online. We can simply remove the section on virtual groups and explicitly affirm that local groups may meet online.

Remove section 5 and insert new section 4(k): [Local groups] can hold meetings in person or using an online video meeting platform of their choice.

Suggested amended RIC 5 Principles agreed at RSP meeting, 21.11.12

- 1) For the Republican Sovereignty of the People living in Scotland – Opposition to the anti-democratic UK state and its Crown Powers**
- 2) For a Constituent Assembly and a Democratic, Secular, Social, Inclusive, Environmentally Sustainable, Scottish Republic**
- 3) For equality and opposition to discrimination on grounds of sex, gender, sexuality, race, disability, or age**
- 4) For Social Justice – End to means testing, for universal social provision of health, care, education, housing, income, pensions, trade union rights , land reform and an end to environmental degradation**
- 5) For Internationalism from below - Opposition to imperialist wars, NATO and Trident and solidarity with the struggles for democracy, freedom, workers' rights, and self-determination in Wales, Ireland, England, Europe and across the world**

Existing RIC 5 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**

Amendment to proposed new 5 Principles form Glasgow RIC

"Add "ethnicity" to point 3 so that it reads:

- 3. For equality and opposition to discrimination on grounds of sex, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, disability, or age."**