



# YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

## FOR PEACE, JOBS AND SOCIALISM IN OUR LIFETIME

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# CONSTITUTION

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### Young Communist League of Britain (YCL)

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## **I. Name and Basis of the Organisation**

- a) The organisation shall be known as the Young Communist League of Britain (referred to hereafter as “the League”).
- b) The League is a revolutionary youth organisation, which operates on the basis of the creative application of Marxism-Leninism.
- c) The League is organisationally independent; it decides its own policy, controls its own finances and elects its own structures. It is the youth organisation of the Communist Party of Britain (hereafter referred to as “the Communist Party”).
- d) The organisation is based on the principle of democratic centralism.

## **II. The Aims of the League**

To fight for peace, democracy and socialism in accordance with the strategy set out in the Communist Party’s programme Britain’s Road to Socialism, and to build mass support for this strategy among young people.

## **III. Structure**

- a) The sovereign body of the League shall be the Congress.
- b) Between Congresses the sovereign body shall be the Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as “the EC”).
- c) The EC shall be elected by Congress.

#### **IV. Membership**

a) Membership is open to all within the age limit that support the aims of the League and abide by this constitution.

b) The upper age limit shall be 29 and membership shall terminate at the end of the year in which members reach their 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. There shall be a lower age limit of 12. Dispensation may be granted by the EC to members over the age of 29 years who wish to continue in League membership.

c) Branches may refuse admission to the League for a period not exceeding two months from an application to join, subject to the next EC meeting.

d) Members shall pay their dues by an annual subscription.

e) Members shall be expected to:

- Sell, read and encourage other young people to read Challenge and other League publications, and contribute to them.
- Members shall be encouraged to read and support the Morning Star.
- Participate in the work of the League.
- Belong to their student or trade union and help to develop these organisations.
- Play an active, helpful and constructive and democratic part in other campaigning organisations.

- Improve their political knowledge and understanding of Marxism-Leninism, take part in the discussion and formulation of League policy.
- Win support for the aims of the League, and win new members to it.
- Join the Communist Party wherever possible.
- Vote in elections in which they are entitled.

## **V. Internal Democracy**

- a) Congress decides policy for the whole League.
- b) The EC shall work for the implementation of all decisions of Congress. It shall encourage all League bodies and members to carry out the decisions of Congress and of the EC. The EC shall be accountable to Congress.
- c) All League members shall have the right to vote and stand as candidates in elections provided for in accordance with this constitution.
- d) All decisions at League meetings shall be made on the basis of a simple majority vote except where otherwise stated in this constitution. The chairperson shall participate in the vote. In the case of a tied vote, the amendment or proposal shall fall.

## **VI. Congress**

- a) The Congress shall be convened by the EC biennially. It shall decide League policy.

- b) Congress shall be composed of delegates elected by the branches. Delegates' entitlement shall be allocated by the EC on the basis of representation in proportion to membership. Branches shall discuss the Congress at specially convened meetings for which all members shall, by absolute majority vote, make nominations for the EC, and by simple majority vote, submit resolutions and amendments to draft resolutions and elect delegates to Congress.
- c) The Congress shall form a Congress Working Committee to assist with the practical and organisational side of its activity.
- d) After the Congress, the old EC shall be responsible for the implementation of Congress decisions until the first meeting of the new EC. It shall organise the first meeting of the new EC, at a date no later than two months after the Congress.
- e) Branches shall convene a report-back meeting no later than two months after the Congress for which all members must receive at least ten days' notice.
- f) Full details of Congress procedures shall be explained in the Congress Standing Orders.
- g) The EC shall have powers to convene a Special Congress.
- h) The EC must convene a Special Congress at the request of not less than one third of branches.

## **VII. The Executive Committee**

- a) The EC shall meet bimonthly, and must meet if a majority of EC members demand.
- b) The EC shall have the power to decide on new policy matters when events make this necessary, whenever possible consulting branches and initiating discussion beforehand.

- c) Any EC member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without submitting a written apology shall be automatically deemed to have resigned from the EC, unless a satisfactory reason can be established after discussion with the EC member.
- d) The EC shall carry out the policy of the League in line with the decisions of the Congress, and assist the work of branches.
- e) The EC shall elect such office bearers as are necessary to conduct the work of the League and the editorial team of Challenge.
- f) Where possible, the EC shall establish advisories to undertake specific areas of work; these will not be policy-making bodies. Advisories are formed by the EC, which appoints a convenor from each advisory (who may or may not be an EC member). Convenors should submit a report of work of their advisory to each EC meeting. League members should attend their respective advisories whenever possible.
- g) The EC shall be responsible for the production of Challenge and other League publications.
- h) The EC may co-opt members to form not more one third of its full membership.
- i) The EC shall manage the central funds of the League.

### **VIII. Nations**

- a) League members are enrolled in a nation (England, Scotland or Wales-Cymru) on the basis of their branch or place of residence. Nation organisers co-ordinate the work of members in each nation, consulting with branch secretaries.
- b) Where possible, nations should hold regular aggregates of all League members.

c) The EC should regularly review the development of branches within each nation.

## **IX. Branches**

a) Members shall be organised in branches, which are constituted by the EC.

b) A branch may be formed by at least three League members on the basis of territory, workplace or campus. It elects a branch secretary.

c) All branches must be kept informed of League activity and policy.

d) Each branch shall convene an Annual General Meeting to which all members must receive at least ten days' written notice. The AGM shall elect such officers as it deems necessary and where necessary a branch committee.

e) Branches shall be expected to:

- Organise League activities in their area, workplace or place of study.
- Produce a programme of political, educational, social and cultural activity.
- Organise the widest possible distribution of Challenge and other League publications. Critical discussions of and contributions to these publications should be encouraged inside the branch.
- Use all available means to publicise League activities locally.
- Work in conjunction with other progressive organisations wherever possible in local campaigns.

- Ensure that all members receive their card, arrange the branch funds and ensure that members' subscriptions and the branch's financial commitments are paid.

## **X. Discipline**

a) Any member who breaches this constitution or brings the League into disrepute may be disciplined by their branch in the following ways:

- By vote of censure.
- By disqualification from office for a period not exceeding three months.
- By suspension from membership for a period not exceeding three months.
- By being recommended to the EC for expulsion.

b) The EC may expel a member from the League.

c) Any member against whom disciplinary procedure is being invoked must be invited to the meeting which will consider it, with ten days written notice being given, and must have the right to address the meeting. Full details of the reasons for the disciplinary procedure being considered must be given in writing to the member no later than ten days prior to the meeting at which the action will be considered. No additional reasons other than those notified to the member will be introduced into the meeting.

d) All disciplinary actions must be reported in writing to the EC.

e) Once disciplinary actions have been taken against a member they must be taken into account by any League organisation considering the member for any position.



## **XI. Appeals**

a) Members wishing to appeal against any disciplinary action taken against them by the branch may appeal to the EC.

b) Members wishing to appeal against any disciplinary action taken against them by the EC may appeal to the Congress at which the EC must convene a Congress Appeals Committee. This shall comprise a delegate from each branch with the exception of the member's branch. No EC member may be a member of the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee shall make its recommendation to the Congress.

## **XII. Changes to the Constitution**

a) This constitution may be altered only at Congress. Proposals for amendments to the Constitution or standing orders must be submitted to the EC in time to be sent to all branches as part of the Congress discussion period. The EC is authorised to decide any questions not specifically covered by it.

b) The EC shall notify all branches of procedure to change the constitution prior to each Congress.

End of constitution