

**Virtual Autumn Conference**  
**9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

# AGENDA

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**Joint Conference with the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

- 10:00**      **Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
Local Government: Priorities and Reforms
- 10:40**      **Speech by Naomi Long MLA**  
Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
- 10:50**      **Topical Debate**  
School Qualifications – how should achievement be measured?
- 11:45**      **Speech by Sir Ed Davey MP**  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats
- 12:00**      **Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
Improving Healthcare in Wales and Scotland
- 12:45**      **Lunch**  
Fringes
- 14:00**      **Speech by Jane Dodds MS**  
Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats
- 14:20**      **Topical Debate**  
A vision for Scotland and Wales

- 15:15**      **Speech by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP**  
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats
- 15:35**      **Joint Motion**  
COP26
- 16:20**      **Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
The Future of Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland as part of the UK
- 17:30**      **Tea Break**  
Fringes
- 18:30**      **In Conversation with Willie Rennie MSP**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Welsh Liberal Democrats AGM and Business**

- 10:20**      **Opening of Conference**
- 10:30**      **Panel Discussion:**  
The Local Election Campaign
- 11:00**      **Business Motions**
- Constitutional Amendment: Vacant Committee Representatives
  - Constitutional Amendment: Election of Chair of Conference Committee
  - Nomination to Welsh Appeals Panel
- 11:15**      **Panel Discussion:**  
The Work of Party Officers and Committees
- 12:00**      **Lunch**
- 13:00**      **Speech by Mark Pack**  
Followed by Questions on the Work of the Federal Liberal Democrats
- 13:45**      **Business Motions**
- Constitutional Amendment: Conflicts of Interest
  - Constitutional Amendment: Support for Welsh Government involving other parties
  - Constitutional Amendment: Removing references to the European Union
- 14:10**      **Business and Topical/Emergency Motion**
- Topical Motion: Ending Violence Against Women in Wales
  - Topical Motion: Say No to COVID Passports
  - Emergency Motion
  - Committing to Community Politics

- 15:20**      **Panel Discussion:**  
The Work of the Welsh Liberal Democrats in the Senedd and Westminster
- 15:50**      **Close of Conference**

# DETAILED AGENDA

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

## **Joint Conference with the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

**10:00 Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
**Local Government: Priorities and Reforms**

**10:40 Speech by Naomi Long MLA**  
**Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland**

**10:50 Topical Debate**  
**School Qualifications – how should achievement be measured?**

The Covid pandemic has caused serious disruption to education, resulting in the cancellation of external examinations in both 2020 and 2021. A level, Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications have been awarded largely on the basis of teacher grades, moderated, or not, by algorithms, evidence of pupil performance or in-school and cross-school scrutiny. It is fair to say that the resulting significant improvement in final grades has been met with scepticism, delight or dismay, depending on individual attitudes to both the examinations themselves, and the purpose they serve.

Examination systems have developed over time. The current systems in both Scotland and Wales have changed in numerous small ways – additional subjects, the introduction of more practical or investigative elements, length of exams and specific nature of questions, but the final awards are largely unchanged, and the importance of an externally examined element has remained, relatively unchallenged. The cancellation of exams has changed this. In educational circles, and in the wider public, fundamental questions are now being asked about the nature of end of school assessments and qualifications.

As Liberal Democrats, where do we stand on the fundamental questions?

What are school qualifications for? Are they to acknowledge individual achievement or enable the selection process for universities, colleges, training providers or employers? Are they to provide the starting point for future study or a more general measure of ability? Are these aims mutually exclusive?

Do we need examinations at the end of each of the final three years of school education, or is one set in the final year enough? And should we assess only curriculum content or the wider aspects of education associated with active citizenship – confidence, responsibility, contributing to the community?

Which is paramount, the fairness associated with examination conditions and independent marking or the more comprehensive knowledge of the teacher? Should the needs of less advantaged students influence the assessment system? Are these contradictory aims?

Should the frailties of human nature be a consideration? Do examinations have a motivating impact on young people? Is it possible to eliminate bias from teacher grades? Can we eliminate 'teaching to the test'?

How important is public confidence in the awards system? Would the public trust a system based entirely on teacher grades? Is it possible to quality assure standards between teachers and between schools?

If the pandemic has opened up the opportunity for fresh thinking, what do liberals think about assessment and qualifications? How should we shape policy?

The education system is fundamental to the prosperity of individuals and to society as a whole. It influences the nature of society and the quality of life. How do we make the assessment system fit for the young people it serves?

**11:45**     **Speech by Sir Ed Davey MP**  
**Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

**12:00**     **Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
**Improving Healthcare in Wales and Scotland**

**12:45**     **Lunch**

**12:50**     **Fringes** (Found in the Sessions section of Hopin)

**Social Liberal Forum**  
**The Future of Liberalism in Europe**



Join Christine Jardine MP & Alexandre Holroyd - En Marche French Député for Northern Europe in conversation about the Future of Liberalism in Europe. With populism rising globally in the past decade and advancing Euroscepticism, what are the ideals and values that will not only create a more stable and prosperous Europe but build a winning strategy for Liberals across the continent?

**Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform**  
**Electoral reform in Scotland and Wales**



Join a panel of experts as we compare progress in the two countries, and opportunities for cross-country and cross-party cooperation to achieve more.

**14:00 Speech by Jane Dodds MS**  
**Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats**

**14:20 Topical Debate**  
**A vision for Scotland and Wales**

This Joint Conference of the Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats notes that:

1. Our political system has failed to hold Governments across the United Kingdom accountable, and has increasingly failed to provide: political, social or economic fairness for our country and our citizens; competence, probity or trust in our leaders; and public confidence in the institutions of our democracy
2. The lives of too many people are scarred by poverty incomes, poor health and lifestyles, lack of economic and personal opportunity and housing challenges
3. Longstanding structural economic imbalances between the richer and poorer parts of the United Kingdom have been made worse by neo-conservative economic theories, and over-reliance on a few sectors such as financial services
4. The international standing of the United Kingdom has been damaged by the populism, disdain for the Rule of Law and international treaties, poor relations with other world leaders and the cuts in international aid which have marked the tenure of the current Conservative Government.

Our vision is of a country where wellbeing is underpinned by a vibrant economy based on enterprise and fair employment practices. We wish to see a society where security and respect is afforded to all residents regardless of background, supported by a fair and clear way of paying for investment that includes taxing wealth and property. We wish to see a country founded on environmental sustainability where the journey to zero carbon is characterised by a just transition. We believe in self-government for Scotland and Wales within a Federal UK, within the EU, and within the wider international community.

To implement this vision, conference asserts that:

1. The constitutional structure of the United Kingdom requires fundamental reform to enable it to serve the needs of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England in the future.
2. Such reform must be based on principles of federalism, partnership, fairness, mutual respect, subsidiarity, and the establishment of a written constitution.
3. The aims and purpose of the United Kingdom, and its nations and regions, should be set out in a Federation Agreement, embodying a social contract that ensures:

- a. the delivery of personal liberty, opportunity, physical and economic security, environmental sustainability, and justice for all our citizens;
  - b. the fair taxation of income and wealth and closure of the loopholes which meantime permit massive tax avoidance;
  - c. the sustainable delivery of high class public services;
  - d. rapid movement towards environmental sustainability and net zero targets in a way that spreads the costs of this fairly;
  - e. respect for diversity and creativity;
  - f. investment wherever necessary to raise education, early years provision and parenting skills to levels where functional illiteracy and innumeracy are eliminated and aspirations flourish; and
  - g. enhancement of the dignity and wellbeing of individuals and their right to develop their talents to the full
4. The economy is a means to shared prosperity rather than an end in itself, social justice should be central to how it operates and a broader concept of civic capitalism should underpin our economic strategy.
  5. One of the core missions of Liberalism should be to harness the power of the State for the benefit of those most disadvantaged in society, and to ensure that each individual has an equal chance to realise his or her own potential.
  6. The Scottish and Welsh Parties have a particular duty to use their powers to the fullest extent to widen the life chances of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in Scotland and Wales. They should seek and campaign for political, economic and democratic reforms that enhance the public good, wellbeing and constitutional standing of Scotland and Wales.
  7. Scotland and Wales are best served by the UK being in the European Economic Area (EEA), re-joining the Single Market immediately, and the European Union at the first practical opportunity (recognising the need for sustained public support for this).

Conference notes that the Scottish and Welsh Parties are both developing their future strategies and believes that these should aim:

- to develop and maintain a broad, radical centre-left political strategy for our parties, enabling the Liberal Democrats and Liberalism to exert growing influence in local, national and federal government;
- to use the vision set out in this motion as the basis for a distinctive narrative which supports all of our campaigning;
- to campaign for, and to build, wide civic and political support for a federal partnership between the nations and regions of the United Kingdom as the lynchpin of much-needed constitutional reform;
- to identify the groups of voters most likely to be attracted by our message, and demonstrate clearly how radical Liberal policies can benefit our people;
- to use the Scottish and Welsh Parliament voting systems more effectively, targetting the Regional List votes of electors some of whom may have supported another party with their constituency vote
- to apply all of this in our approach to forthcoming Council elections, which

are important in themselves and a crucial staging post towards the next Holyrood and Senedd elections; and

- to refocus our mission, campaigning in all our communities for Liberal Democracy and individual and community empowerment.

**15:15 Speech by Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP  
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

**15:35 Joint Motion  
COP26**

*Proposed by The Scottish Policy Committee*

Conference notes:

1. The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October - 12 November 2021 and its goals on mitigation, adaptation, finance and collaboration.
2. The findings of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC), warning of a “code red for humanity” with evidence of the irrefutable link between human emissions and catastrophic environmental impacts.
3. The Paris Agreement commits countries to limiting temperature rises to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, but that the world has already warmed by 1.1°C degrees.
4. Emissions reductions in both Scotland and Wales have not been distributed evenly across sectors. Both achieved significant emissions reductions through decarbonising power and the closure of coal-fired power stations, but this has served to mask a complete absence of progress in other areas such as transport where emissions remain stubbornly high and virtually unchanged since 1990 levels.

Conference believes:

1. That the scale of action in both Scotland and Wales has been insufficient and that the urgency of the twin climate and nature emergencies must compel the Scottish and Welsh Governments to rapidly accelerate their responses.
2. Both Scottish and Welsh governments hold power over key policy levers such as agriculture, tree planting, waste management, buildings efficiency, public transport and active travel, and that without radical policy reform in these areas the ambition of Net Zero will be unreachable.

Conference calls on the Scottish and Welsh governments to:

1. Rapidly accelerate the decarbonisation of those sectors that have recorded little or no emissions reduction targets since 1990.
2. Establish routemaps with milestones for sectors to ensure that each plays their full part in achieving targets for net zero.
3. Sense check all future policy commitments in light of the climate and nature emergencies, and in recognition of the gravity and urgency of the situations.
4. Commit to calls 1-3 in advance of COP26.

**16:20 Panel Discussion: A Liberal UK in 2030**  
**What does the UK look like for State Parties?**

**17:30 Tea Break**  
**Fringes** (Found in the Sessions section of Hopin)

**Liberal Democrats European Group**  
**The Future of Europe**



Post Brexit, the future of Scotland, Wales and the UK in Europe is an important topic.

Join LDEG Chair, David Chalmers, Sir Graham Watson (Former ALDE President and MEP) and Renew MEP TBC for a lively discussion. This discussion is one of a number of state and regional events being held around the UK before a full day LDEG Conference of the Future of Europe to be held online on 30th October.

**18:30 In Conversation with Willie Rennie MSP**

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Training**

(Found in the Sessions section of Hopin)

**10:30 - Finding Council Candidates**  
**11:30** with ALDC

**11:30 - Introduction to Lighthouse**  
**12:30**

**12:00 - Digital Drop-In**  
**12:45**

**14:00 - Growing Your Team**  
**15:00** With ALDC

**15:30 - Advanced Lighthouse Training**  
**16:30**

# DETAILED AGENDA

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

## **Welsh Liberal Democrats AGM and Business**

**10:20 Opening of Conference**

**10:30 Panel Discussion:  
The Local Election Campaign**

**11:00 Business Motions**

### **Constitutional Amendment: Vacant Committee Representatives**

*Proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee*

Conference notes the discrepancy in the constitution regarding cross-over representation from one committee to another, and that logic dictates that they cannot all be in place at the same time to be able to elect officers and other committee representatives.

Conference therefore ratifies the decision of the decision of the Constitutional Affairs Committee to make the following amendment to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats:

In clause G.8 Insert "They shall also elect a Permanent voting alternate should the representative not be able to attend a meeting of that committee," at the end.

Insert new clause G.9 and renumber subsequent clauses:

"The President or an Executive Officer may substitute for a representative or the elected permanent alternate from the committee which they chair to another committee at meetings of the other committee, if either:

- a) The representative or alternate cannot attend a meeting of the other committee.
- b) The positions of representative or alternate to another committee are vacant."

### **Constitutional Amendment: Election of Chair of Conference Committee**

*Proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee*

Conference notes that the Conference Committee is the only party committee that doesn't have a directly elected chair.

Conference supports removing this discrepancy so that the Chair of the Conference Committee is directly elected by members.

Conference therefore ratifies the decision of the decision of the Constitutional Affairs Committee to make the following amendment to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats:

In clause G.1.2 add new sub-clause ix and renumber subsequent clauses:  
"The Chair of the Conference Committee"

In Clause G.5.2.b add new sub-clause at the end:  
"The Chair of the Conference Committee"

In Clause G.6.2 add new sub-clause i and renumber subsequent clauses:  
"The Chair of the Conference Committee"

In existing clause G.11 insert "Chair and" before "Ordinary Members of the Conference Committee".

## **Nomination to Welsh Appeals Panel**

*Proposed by the Welsh Party Board*

Acting under section L.1 of the Welsh Party Constitution, the Welsh Board invites Conference to note:

1. The many years of service given to the party by Alan Masters QC, in many capacities, from being agent in Cardiff Central in 1979 to the present day;
2. That he has recently completed a full term as Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel;
3. That he has adjudicated on a number of important constitutional issues, including the date of last year's leadership election;
4. That he is an expert in constitutional issues, including a redrafting of the Welsh Party Constitution some 10 years ago;
5. That he is currently working with the Constitutional Affairs Committee to bring the annexes of the constitution into line with the constitution agreed by Conference.

With this in mind Conference agrees to confirm the Welsh Board's nomination of Alan Masters as a member of the Welsh Appeals Panel.

**11:15 Panel Discussion:**  
**The Work of Party Officers and Committees**  
**12:00 Lunch**

**13:00 Speech by Mark Pack**  
**Federal President of the Liberal Democrats**  
**Followed by Questions on the Work of the Federal Liberal Democrats**

**13:45 Business Motions**

### **Constitutional Amendment: Conflicts of Interest**

*Proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee*

Conference notes Action 16 of the Report on the implementation of the 2019 General Election review recommendations in Wales, which reads “To strengthen the process for managing conflicts of interests affecting Party Officers and committee members - to include a public register of interests similar to that required of Local Councillors.”

Conference also notes the actions taken by the Board to set-up and maintain a register of interests for officers, members of committees and staff.

Conference supports making the requirement for the Board to agree a Conflicts of Interest Policy a requirement under the constitution to ensure it is maintained long-term.

Conference therefore ratifies the decision of the Constitutional Affairs Committee to make the following amendment to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats:

Add in new Clause G.18 and renumber:

“The Board shall agree a Conflicts of Interests Policy which will be reviewed at least every three years, and published as an annex to this constitution. It will be applicable to all members of the Board, Party Committees, any working groups established by the Board or a Party Committee, and Returning Officers in all Party elections and selections.”

### **Constitutional Amendment: Support for Welsh Government involving other parties**

*Proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee*

Conference notes Action 18 of the Report on the implementation of the 2019 General Election review recommendations in Wales, which reads “To (re-)introduce

a protocol for agreeing to support a Welsh Government which contains other political parties, similar to Article 24 of the Federal Constitution.”

Conference further notes that while there is a clearly set out process within the Federal Constitution of the Liberal Democrats for agreeing support for a government involving other parties in Westminster, the process in Wales is based on a motion agreed by Conference ahead of the first coalition administration in the National Assembly for Wales.

Conference therefore resolves to make the following amendment to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats:

Add new Section M and renumber subsequent sections:

The Party Group in the Senedd (“The Senedd Group”), or an individual Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the Senedd, may not form a government involving other parties in the Senedd, nor individual Members of the Senedd who are not Welsh Liberal Democrats, without the support of the Conference. The motion to support such a government must be proposed to the Conference by both the Senedd Group and the Board. The Senedd Group and the Board should agree a process to negotiate the terms of such a government ahead of each Senedd election.

## **Constitutional Amendment: Removing references to the European Union**

*Proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee*

Conference notes with regret that the United Kingdom left the European Union on 31st January 2020.

Conference ratifies the decision of the Constitutional Affairs Committee to make the following amendment to the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats:

### **1. In the Constitution of the Welsh Liberal Democrats**

- a. In clause A.5.c delete “and Members of the European Parliament for the Wales Region”
- b. In clause B.2 delete “of the European Parliament;”
- c. In clause B.11 delete “, European Parliamentary”
- d. In clause C.5 delete “A member who is an MS, MP, MEP, prospective Senedd, Parliamentary or European Parliamentary candidate or member of a Local Authority may re-register as of right in a relevant

Local Party” and replace with “A member who is an MS, MP, prospective Senedd or Parliamentary candidate, or member of a Local Authority may re-register as of right in a relevant Local Party.

- e. In C.7.c delete “standing against the candidate of the Party in any Senedd, Parliamentary or European Parliamentary election” and replace with “standing against the candidate of the Party in any Senedd or Parliamentary election”
- f. Delete clause E.1.f and renumber all subsequent clauses.
- g. In clause E.2.a delete both occurrence of “European Parliament,”
- h. In clause E.2.b delete “or Elections to the European Parliament” and also delete “European Parliament,”
- i. In clause E.2.c delete “European Parliament,”
- j. Delete all of clause E.5 and renumber subsequent clauses.
- k. In clause E.10 delete “Officers of the Party other than the Leader of the Party, the Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group, the Leader of the National Assembly Group and the Leader of the European Parliamentary Group shall be liable to removal from office” and replace with “Officers of the Party other than the Leader of the Party, the Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group or the Leader of the Senedd Group shall be liable to removal from office”
- l. In clause F.1.c delete “including a report from the Party’s Senedd Group, Westminster Group and MEPs” and replace with “including a report from the Party’s Senedd and Westminster Groups”
- m. In clause F.2 delete “, the Group of Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament”
- n. In G.2.3.a delete “, European”
- o. In G.13 delete “The Representatives of the group in the Senedd, the group in the UK Parliament and the group in the European Parliament” and replace with “The Representatives of the group in the Senedd and the group in the UK Parliament”

- p. In clause J.1 delete “Senedd, the House of Commons and the European Parliament” and replace with “Senedd and the House of Commons”
- q. In clause J.5 delete “Prospective Candidates of the European Parliament,”
- r. In clause J.6 delete “for the Welsh European region,”
- s. In clause J.9 delete “European candidates and”
- t. In clause J.10 delete “The Rules for the Selection and adoption of Candidates for the European Parliament Elections in the European Electoral Region of Wales,”
- u. In clause L.5 delete “MEP,”

**2. In the Rules for ballots of the whole party section of the Election Rules annex:**

- a. In Section A delete “MEPs,”
- b. In Clause B.2.a delete “MSs, MPs and MEPs” and replace with “MSs and MPs”
- c. In Clause D.2 delete “MEP,”

**3. In the Membership Rules annex:**

- a. In clause G.2 delete “the European Parliament,”

**4. In the Candidate Selection Rules annex:**

- a. In the second paragraph of “Introduction and the Constitutional Position” delete “for the Welsh European Region,”

**5. In the Rules for the Selection of List Candidates section of the Candidate Selection Rules annex:**

- a. In the title delete “AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT”

- b. In the first paragraph of the introduction delete “and Wales Regional List Candidates for the European Parliament” and delete “or European”.
- c. In the second paragraph of the introduction delete “(at a UK level for the Senedd or at a European Level for the European Parliament)”
- d. In the third paragraph of the introduction delete “or European Parliament Election”
- e. In the fifth paragraph delete “For the Senedd,” and delete the whole of the sixth paragraph.
- f. In clause 3 delete “or the Welsh Party (if a European Selection)”
- g. In clause 6 delete “or the Welsh Party (if a European Selection)”
- h. In clause 7 delete “, save that the European Returning Officer may be a member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats”
- i. In clause 10 delete “or the Welsh Party (if a European Selection)”
- j. In clause 12 delete “, or, in the case of a European Selection, Wales and the Welsh Party,”
- k. Delete all of clause 16 and renumber subsequent clauses
- l. In clause 20 delete “for Senedd list selections and a minimum of three formal members’ meetings for European Parliament list selections”
- m. Delete all of clause 21 and renumber subsequent clauses
- n. Delete all of clause 27 and renumber subsequent clauses
- o. Delete all of clause 28 and renumber subsequent clauses
- p. In clause 37 delete “or European Parliament Elections,”
- q. In clause 38 delete “or European Parliament Elections”
- r. In clause 40 delete “For European Parliament Selections this rule shall not apply.”

- s. In clause 41 delete “For European Selections, this rule shall not apply.”
- t. In clause 45.e delete “For European Selections, this rule shall not apply.”
- u. In clause 60 delete “or Wales as whole, in the case of European Candidate Selections”
- v. In clause 64.e delete “save that employees of the Welsh Liberal Democrats shall remain neutral at all times during a European Candidate Selection”
- w. In clause 70 delete “There shall be a minimum of three, and a maximum of five, formal members’ meetings for the selection of European Candidates.”
- x. In clause 90 delete “or the European Parliament”
- y. In clause 91 delete “save for any provisions in the Federal Constitution for the filling of vacancies to the European Parliament”
- z. In clause 92 delete “or to the European Parliament”

## **6. In Conference Standing Orders:**

- a. In the definition of Federal Members delete “or its sister Parties in the wider liberal family as defined by either ELDR (European Liberal Democrats) or Liberal International (LI),”
- b. In clause A.1.1 delete “including a report from the Party’s Senedd Group, Westminster Group and MEPs” and replace with “including a report from the Party’s Senedd and Westminster Groups”
- c. Delete sub-clause B.1.4.c and renumber subsequent subclauses of clause B.1.4
- d. In clause C.1.1 delete “the Group of Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament”
- e. In clause I.1 delete “selections for the European Parliament List,”

- f. In clause I.5 delete “MS/MP/MEP” and replace with “MS or MP”

## **7. In the Model Constitution for Local Parties:**

- a. In clause 3.1.c delete “UK Members of the European Parliament,”
- b. In clause 4.2.c delete “MEP,” and delete “or European”

## **14:10 Business and Topical/Emergency Motions**

### **Topical Motion: Ending Violence Against Women in Wales**

*Proposed by Welsh Young Liberals*

Conference regrets:

1. The murder of Sarah Everard by a serving Police Officer who was able to abuse his power to detain her unlawfully.
2. That another 79 women have been killed in acts of violence or in suspicious circumstances since Sarah Everard’s murder.
3. That sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain endemic in our society.
4. The impact of extreme misogynistic groups online.
5. That the justice system is failing many victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Conference believes:

- A. Everyone, regardless of identity, has the right to live a life free from fear and violence.
- B. Disclosures of abuse must be made easier and always taken seriously by authorities who offer a trauma-informed response.
- C. An intersectional approach is imperative to provide high level care and support to the most vulnerable victims of gender-based violence.

Conference calls on Welsh Government to:

- i. Establish a Commission to look at ways of preventing men’s violence against women and girls in all its forms to report within one year.
- ii. Secure long-term funding for specialist services for victims of violence, including BAME and LGBT+ services.
- iii. Ensure that the duty on public services to ‘Ask and Act’ is used and embedded across our communities.

Conference calls on UK Government to:

- a. Make misogyny a hate crime.
- b. Introduce mandatory training for police and those involved in the justice system in understanding the impact of trauma on victims.
- c. Improve access to independent legal support for victims, including those with no recourse to public funds.

## **Topical Motion: Say No to COVID Passports**

*Proposed by the Policy Development Committee*

Conference notes with regret:

1. The Welsh Labour Government's decision to implement a Covid Passport for people attending certain public events;

Conference believes:

- I. That the response to COVID must be proportionate, evidenced and fair.
- II. That vaccination must be at the heart of Wales' Covid strategy.
- III. That COVID passports are unfair and restrict civil liberties. In particular:
  - a. That the case for Covid passports remains scientifically unproven, and that their effect is likely to be no more than marginal at best;
  - b. That the introduction of COVID passports is likely to result in further exclusion for already marginalised social groups;
  - c. That a COVID passport requires individuals to provide private sector organisations with personal health information in an unprecedented way, and is therefore an infringement of civil liberties;
  - d. That the system adopted by the Welsh Labour Government, dependent on the reporting of lateral flow tests, is an invitation to fraudulent reporting;
  - e. That the implementation of COVID passports will impose unacceptable burdens on businesses, especially small businesses that have already been badly hit by the pandemic.

Conference resolves:

To call on Welsh Labour Government to reconsider its decision to introduce COVID passports.

## **Emergency Motion**

### **Committing to Community Politics**

*Proposed by 22 Members of the Party*

Conference notes:

- 1) That the Liberal Party committed itself to the principle and practice of Community Politics over 50 years ago and that those core principles remain as relevant today as they were then.
- 2) That communities take many forms. There are not just communities of place, but communities at work, communities of belief, culture, ethnic identity, and communities of interest. We seek to engage with communities wherever they exist to ensure that they can empower their members to find a voice to deliver change.

Conference believes and affirms:

- A. That each person can only meet their potential in strong communities existing outside the formal structure of state institutions. We work therefore to build strong communities within which all people can flourish.
- B. That through community politics, Liberal Democrats don't just win elections. We build communities to enable people to bring about change themselves.
- C. Our role as community politicians is not just to change public authorities, but to enable communities to deliver change themselves.
- D. That the following principles act as building blocks of Community Politics, empowering communities:
  - a. Education in citizenship. People need to know how to exercise their rights and responsibilities.
  - b. Freedom of information. Knowledge empowers people.
  - c. Accountability. Institutions need to be open to public challenge and scrutiny.
  - d. The devolution of power. Not just to states, regions, and councils, but to communities at lowest level possible.

Conference resolves to:

- I. Welcome the creation of ALDC Cymru to promote the principles of Community Politics in Wales.
- II. Call upon Welsh Liberal Democrat representatives at all levels to advance the principles and practice of Community Politics in their day-to-day activities.

**15:20 Panel Discussion:  
The Work of the Welsh Liberal Democrats in the Senedd and Westminster**

**15:50 Close of Conference**

