



# WE Party Conference

15 – 17 October 2020

**Title:** Steering Committee Business

**Proposed by:** The Women's Equality Party's Steering Committee

**Proposer:** Steering Committee

**Type of motion:** Business

**Motion text:**

**[N.B.** This revised version of the motion has been published because an earlier version which was over the word limit was mistakenly uploaded. Text has been moved from the motion to the rationale – no substantive changes have been made. A version with tracked changes is available on request by emailing [agenda@womensequality.org.uk](mailto:agenda@womensequality.org.uk)]

1 The Women's Equality Party resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

2 **A** In Article 7.5.2, delete 'is chaired by the Party Leader or another chair elected by the committee' and  
3 insert 'will elect a chair', to read: 'will elect a chair by a simple majority vote'.

4 **B** In Article 7.5.14, replace 'three' with 'four', to read: 'but no term of office shall ever be longer than four  
5 years.'

6 **C** In Article 7.5.12 (v),

- 7 1) replace 'three' with 'two', and  
8 2) replace 'three-year' with 'two-year',

9 to read: 'for a term of two years or until the next Party Conference following [...] the expiry of that two-year  
10 term'.

11 **D** In Article 7.5.17,

- 12 1) after 'Steering Committee', insert 'those present of',  
13 2) after 'President', replace 'and' with a comma, and  
14 3) after 'M.C.' add 'and the Chair',

15 to read: 'those present of the Leader, the President, the M.C. and the Chair shall together agree on the  
16 casting vote.'



17 **E** 1) Conference gives the Steering Committee the discretion to agree minor amendments (e.g. clause  
18 renumbering), provided they are not substantive changes, to allow the Steering Committee to provide a  
19 consistent working Constitution between Conferences; and

20 2) Conference allows the Steering Committee to make substantive amendments on a temporary basis,  
21 pending ratification by the following Conference, provided that such changes are a direct consequence of  
22 such Constitutional changes.

**Motion rationale:**

23 As the Steering Committee (SC) gathers experience and hones its ways of working, it has become clear  
24 that some provisions of the Constitution need to be altered for more efficient Committee management.

25 A brief explanation of each measure has been added to explain the Constitutional changes requested.

26 **A** The Party Leader chairing the SC may create anomalies/conflicts of interest (see e.g. Articles 7.1 and  
27 7.5.11). With her agreement, we recommend that the Leader may no longer be chair of the Steering  
28 Committee.

29 **B** As Conference takes place biennially, not annually, SC terms can last four years, rather than the three  
30 initially envisaged.

31 **C** The SC has decided that randomly selected SC members should serve terms of office of two years.

32 **D** The Leader, the President and the MC cannot always all be present at SC meetings, yet together have the  
33 casting vote. It is recommended that 1) the SC Chair is added to their number, and 2) those of the above  
34 people present at the meeting have the casting vote.

35 **E** Constitutional amendments brought by Conference often have implications for other Articles of the  
36 Constitution, which may need to be changed as a consequence but cannot be until the following Conference,  
37 so rendering the Constitution not current. This will not require a change to the Constitution.

38 We commend these changes to you for your ratification.