

National Women's Committee

Terms of Reference

Background

A new National Women's Committee was elected by the National Women's Conference on 26 June 2021, in line with the new rules introduced by the NEC Organisation Subcommittee in March 2020.

The Aims and Values of the National Women's Committee are outlined in those rules. This paper outlines resources, delegation of responsibilities and interactions with existing Labour Party structures.

Resources

The General Secretary will make available a member of staff (the National Women's Officer) to service the National Women's Committee. The member of staff will remain answerable to the NEC and will be required to perform other duties, in line with the responsibilities outlined in their job description.

The Labour Party will remain responsible for the financing of National Women's Conference. In addition, a budget will be provided to facilitate the operation of the National Women's Committee.

The National Women's Committee may raise additional funds, provided this is undertaken in consultation with the Labour Party's Fundraising Team and wider fundraising strategy.

The National Women's Structure, Women's Organisation & Women's Branches

The NEC delegates powers relating to the general organisation of the National Women's Structure and Women's Branches to the National Women's Committee. The National Women's Committee may therefore issue guidance relating to these structures, providing it is agreed with the Governance & Legal Unit.

A list of all agreed Women's Branches will be maintained by the NEC Equalities Committee and will be made available to the National Women's Committee as well as relevant Regional Directors/General Secretaries.

The Equalities Committee will make available a list of constituted Women's Branches to facilitate the NWC role in overseeing the national women's organisation.

The National Women's Committee will take a strategic role in advising the Party about women's organisation and involvement, within the Labour Party, and electorally.

All powers relating to changes to the Labour Party Rule Book and/or related procedural guidance will be reserved by the NEC.

The NEC Women's Sub-Committee

The NEC Women's Committee will meet on an ad hoc basis, as and when required. Meetings can be convened by the NEC Vice Chair for Women.

In order to ensure effective communication and joint working across different parts of the Party, women members of the NEC are Ex Officio members of the National Women's Committee.

Ex officio members shall not have voting rights, but women members of the NEC are invited to National Women's Committee meetings to offer support and guidance, particularly as the committee establishes itself.

Regularity of meetings

The Labour Party National Women's Committee will meet at least three times a year, with strategic input and guidance being provided at key decision-making junctures, such as setting the timetable and overall direction of the National Annual Women's Organisation.

National Annual Women's Conference

The National Women's Committee shall agree a timetable for National Annual Women's Conference however, this should be done in consultation with the NEC and WCAC. Such consultation is to ensure that the timetable is in line with the rest of the Party's annual business.

Other aspects of National Annual Women's Conference will be within the remit of the WCAC, mirroring the role undertaken by the CAC in relation to Annual Conference.