

56TH CONGRESS  
56TH CÒMHDHAIL  
56TH CYNGRES



COMMUNIST  
PARTY

## CONGRESS LETTER #3

To all Party members

July 28, 2021

### Nominations for the new Executive Committee

The election of a new EC for the next two years is one of the most important functions of the Party Congress.

Inner-Party Democracy (1997) explains that the Communist Party:

“... needs a leading committee which is a united and disciplined collective. It needs to have an understanding of Marxist-Leninist theory and capacity to utilise it for political analysis and to provide creative leadership, as well as experience of political and industrial struggles. contacts with the labour movement and other main forces of the democratic anti-monopoly alliance, contact with Party organisations in the separate countries and main regions, the freshness of new ideas and young people.

No one member of the collective can have all these qualities; it is the combination of the different qualities brought into the committee by the individual members that makes an effective collective leadership.”

In short, we need an EC which brings together comrades who collectively display that combination of theory and practice, of experience and creativity. This means having comrades with a record of work in the trade union, women's, peace, anti-austerity, housing, international solidarity and other movements; with a knowledge and understanding of Marxist theory, political economy and the political class struggle.

We need a bigger composition of women, young and Black and minority ethnic members on the new EC. Although there are no reserved places on it for nations and districts as such, a broad geographical representation on the EC helps to ensure a direct link between the Party leadership and Party members at every level.

***That is why, when nominating comrades, Branches and District and Nation Committees are urged to make a wide choice of candidates available to Congress delegates who will elect the new EC at the Congress by secret ballot.***



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Therefore, Party organisations need not restrict themselves to nominating only members of their own Branch, District or Nation, or only people they know personally. Comrades at the meeting will know about others from their own involvement in Party and broad movement activities, or from reading the *Morning Star*, the *Communist Review* or *Unity!* The question is: should a particular comrade's name go forward as a candidate for the EC? Are they worthy of consideration? If the majority of the meeting votes in favour of someone, then that nomination (and the voting figures) should go forward to Party centre.

To assist in the process of electing a balanced and disciplined new EC, an Elections Preparations Committee (comprising delegates from every Nation and District as well as from the outgoing EC) will sit before and during the Congress to discuss representations from delegates for and against particular candidates. Its recommendations to Congress delegates are advisory and can be accepted or rejected wholly or in part.

Every District and Nation Committee and Branch now has until Friday, October 1 to nominate the names of candidates for election to the EC. Those named will be contacted by Party centre to see if they accept nomination.

### **Attendance at outgoing EC**

Between January 2019 and July 2021, the outgoing EC held 19 meetings on a total of 27 days. The attendance record has been circulated to all members.

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### **Amendments to Rules and Standing Orders**

The following amendments have been received for consideration at the 56th Congress:

**A. RULE 1 (Newcastle & Gateshead Branch)**

Add at end:

*known for electoral purposes as the Communist Party.*

**B. RULES 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17, 24, 26 (Newcastle & Gateshead Branch)**

Replace 'National Congress' by 'All-Britain Congress'

**C. RULE 4 (London District Committee)**

Add at end:

*On acceptance of membership a Welcome Pack will be sent out to new members*



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*and will include a copy of the Party's aims and constitution. YCL members who are 16 and over are welcome to apply for party membership.*

**D. RULE 23 (Executive Committee)**

Amend the opening paragraph to read:

*Party members alleged to be in breach of Party rules or engaged in any other conduct detrimental to the Party shall be subject to investigation by a panel of members in good standing appointed by their Branch, District or Nation organisation or by the Executive Committee. In order to protect the Party, its rules and the integrity of the investigative process, the Executive Committee may suspend a member from all Party activities without prejudice while the investigation takes place. Action against any member found guilty of misconduct shall be carried out according to the following procedure:*

**E. RULE 23 (London District Committee)**

Amend the opening paragraph to read:

*Action against any member guilty of breaches of Party Rules or any other conduct detrimental to the Party shall be carried out in accordance with the party's agreed procedures. These procedures will be available to all party members and will be added to this document.*

**F. RULE 23 (London District Committee)**

Amend para (c) to read:

*(c) In the case of suspension from membership, the member shall be barred from all party activities until the responsible party organisation has lifted the suspension and it shall be the responsibility of the Party organisation to have discussions with the comrade concerned before the period of suspension is at an end.*

**G. RULE 24 (Executive Committee)**

Add at the end of paras (b) and (c):

*in accordance with Congress Standing Order 9.*

**H. RULE 24 (London District Committee)**

Add at end of para (d):

*and confidentiality will be maintained at the discretion of the appropriate body.*

**I. CONGRESS STANDING ORDER 9 (Executive Committee)**

Delete 'by the Executive Committee' to read:

*In the event of an appeal against disciplinary action coming before Congress*



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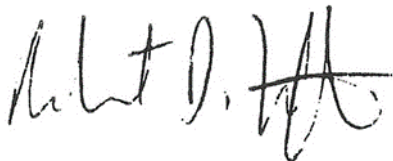
**J. CONGRESS STANDING ORDER 9 (Executive Committee)**

Insert new clause:

*b) The appellant shall have the right to make a case against the disciplinary action to the Congress Appeals Committee in person.*

The deadline for further amendments is now closed.

In comradeship,



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