**Preamble:** Our current structure is based on a Steering Group (SG) with 5 standing committees. That did not work for us this year (2026) as not all members of SG found a role in the committees. We also saw the benefits of having ad hoc project groups.

The Steering Group proposes this revised structure (below) to be in place before our upcoming annual elections to the SG. The main changes we have suggested are:
- a model for SG of 2 elected co-chairs with a defined role, 8 elected members with roles to be determined by new SG in a handover meeting with outgoing SG.
- a campaigns working group and the renaming of all committees as “working groups.”
- an expanded role for the Membership working group, to be composed of delegates from the branches.

If you have any serious, substantive objections to the proposal that require attention before the proposal is brought before the National FoST meeting on November 30th, please contact Caro at: carolinethenew@gmail.com

**********

**UKFOST: Structure**

**The goal of UK Friends of Standing Together (UKFOST) is to increase support in the UK for Standing Together (ST), a grassroots movement of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel, including by raising awareness of ST’s approach, values and work, and encouraging people to donate to them. This is furthered by campaigning in the UK for peace, justice, and equality for Israelis and Palestinians in line with ST’s vision, and by promoting in the UK the power of joint struggle with Jews and Arabs working together. UKFOST is part of the global Friends of Standing Together network, and will liaise with ST to ensure its initiatives are in line with ST’s vision and values and will operate to enhance ST’s international and domestic reputation.**

**Outline:** UKFOST is a membership organisation co-ordinated by a national, elected, Steering Group. Internally UKFost is organised into branches, and working groups.

**Members**

- Members of UKFOST are people based in the UK who have joined “Friends of Standing Together” by making a regular contribution to Standing Together

- All-member meetings will be held at least bi-monthly. Only members can vote; others may join in a non-voting capacity.

**Steering Group**

- Role:
  - Implementing UKFOST's strategy by leading the branches, working groups' work to grow our membership, fundraise for ST, provide education for our members and supporters, and promote ST both locally and nationally.
  - Keeping under review UKFOST's goals, strategy and structure, including by liaising with ST, subject to approval of major decisions at all-member meetings.
  - Co-ordinate with ST
  - Administration of UKFOST
- Composition:
    - 10 members of UKFOST elected by the membership of which:
      - 2 members will be elected to serve as co-chairs of the Steering group.
      - 8 members will be elected to fill needed roles and responsibilities for UKFoST, including serving as co-chairs of working groups,
    - The Co-chairs of the Steering Group are responsible for the effective running of the Steering Group. They will: schedule (at least) monthly Steering Group meetings; ensure that meetings always have a chair and a minute taker; keep track that action points from meetings are followed through promptly; provide support and ensure that working groups are operating effectively; circulate expression of interest forms for working groups to the membership (at least) annually; organise national meetings; annual review of strategy.
    - Joining the Steering Group is a substantial time commitment involving taking on the running of a UKFoST working group and/or another significant responsibility, attending monthly Steering Group meetings, attending UKFOST national meetings and attending trainings and updates run by ST.
- Branch delegates
    - Active branches send delegates to Steering Group meetings to represent their branches' perspectives and experience and report back on the Steering Group's work.
    - The views of non-voting branch delegates are valued and will be considered by the Steering Group. With the exception of voting, branch delegates can participate fully in all Steering Group meetings, and can submit proposals to the Steering Group.

    - It is for branches to decide how to select their delegate; it need not be the same person each time, but all delegates should be members. Each branch chooses two people to be delegates each year so that there is some continuity. The two people selected should also join the Branch Liaison WhatsApp group and attend the Membership working group.
- Election and recruitment:
    - Members may put themselves forward to be members of the Steering Group (See Composition above)., They will submit a short paragraph setting out their relevant knowledge, skills and experience, indicating which working groups they would like to chair. Members may also put themselves forward as co-chairs of the steering group. Should more than two members put themselves forward for co-chair of the Steering Group, and/or more members put themselves forward than the number of seats on the Steering Group, an electronic vote will be held among all members .
    - We aim to ensure the Steering Group includes people from a range of backgrounds, including people from Jewish and Arab-Palestinian backgrounds. We recognise that we might not be able to achieve as diverse a group as we would like at this stage, but will work to address this .
    - Elections will take place at least every 12 months, unless a national meeting authorizes postponement..
    - Following annual elections to the Steering Group, there will be an annual gathering in which the current Steering Group hands over to the incoming Steering Group. During this gathering, the new Steering Group will allocate roles and responsibilities to its members. This annual gathering can be used as an opportunity to review and revise UKFoST strategy; for training; or whatever else is needed at the time.
    - The Steering Group may co-opt new members outside of elections to replace members who leave during the year or to fill roles which have become needed.

**Working groups**

- There will be at least six working groups for 2027, their number and composition to be reviewed annually :
    - Communications: running website, mailing list, social media, and leaflets, flyers, banners.
    - Membership: supporting existing branches and helping to develop new branches; engaging members without a local branch. This working group will be composed of delegates from each branch.

    - Education: improving understanding of Standing Together's work and its context for members and supporters; training its members as effective activists.
    - Fundraising: increasing membership of FOST in the UK; raising funds for ST; coordinating activity across the branches and nationally for Standing Together's Summer Fundraising drives and other drives; raising funds to cover UKFOST's costs; overseeing administration of the UKFOST bank account.
    - Influencing and advocacy: developing strategic partnerships with a view to influencing government policy and / or public opinion, building support for Standing Together and its political aims within UK civil society, including the labour movement, progressive political parties, and community organisations.
    - Campaigns working group: running periodic national campaigns, either in conjunction with Standing Together campaigns or campaigns specific to the UK context: supporting ad hoc working groups running campaigns.
- Meetings of working groups will be announced so that members can volunteer to participate in a working group at any time.
- Working group chairs will keep the size and functioning of their groups under review, keeping in mind its needs and the importance of diversity.
- Each working group should elect a co-chair from amongst the non-Steering Group volunteers. Volunteer co-chairs can attend Steering Group meetings as non-voting participants.
- Group chairs will review the operation and effectiveness of their working group each year in September/October, in preparation for annual elections to the Steering Group.

**Branches**

- Made up of supporters and members of UKFOST based in the relevant network (e.g., within a particular trade union) or local area. It is recommended that larger branches have an organising group.
- Put on events, vigils, meetings, fundraisers, socials etc within their networks or localities
- Reach out locally to and dialogue with other relevant political groupings and join relevant demonstrations as a purple contingent.
- Send a non-voting delegate to Steering Group meetings.
- Select two members as alternate delegates to the Steering Group, as members of the Membership working group and to join the "UKFOST branch

liaison” whatsapp group which facilitates co-ordination between branches and the Steering Group.
- Ask one or two members to join the “UKFOST social media” whatsapp group to share any events or photos they want posted on our social media channels.

**Ad hoc working Groups**

The SG may set up working groups with a particular political purpose and co-opt leading members to the SG for the lifetime of that project. Such ad hoc working groups will operate under the umbrella of the campaigns working group or other working groups when appropriate, ensuring representation on the Steering Group.

**Revision**

The UKFoST structure document can be changed at any time, subject to ratification by an all-member meeting.