



Make Votes Matter Update - October 2021

Summary

The Labour side of our campaign is now focused on winning over affiliated trade unions, beginning with Unite's policy conference. We have lots of new MVM groups forming, including the launch of MVM Leicester and MVM Overseas, to engage new activists with our campaign. Our Alliance team is preparing to launch their 'Equal Votes' film and planning the first in a series of 'Democracy Loves...' events, all about the link between PR and climate crisis action.

Labour Contact: labour4pr@makevotesmatter.org.uk / hello@labourforanewdemocracy.org.uk

As the dust settled after Labour conference, we held our All Activists Call on the 4th October to talk in more detail about what happened and where the movement will go next. Our next task is to convince the unions affiliated to Labour as well as we did the Labour membership. A key part of this is Unite's policy conference, from 18th-22nd October in Liverpool. We held a fringe on the union case for PR, have been leafleting delegates, and talked with the General Secretary in advance of what will be an open vote on PR.

Grassroots movement

Contact: local@makevotesmatter.org.uk

We've been holding lots more cross-party speaker practice sessions, and have welcomed several new volunteer speakers as a result. This is good news as our cross-party speaker programme is picking up again after a lull over the summer. Why not [invite a speaker](#) to your next local party meeting? A number of groups have also started doing street stalls again with Plymouth, York, Lancaster and Oxford local groups all attending their local University freshers fairs.

New MVM groups started in Nottingham, Leicester and Kirklees. We have an exciting new Overseas MVM group. Hopefully, people living in countries with PR will share their experiences. Visit our [events calendar](#) for full details on local group meetings and street stalls near you.

Alliance

Contact: alliance@makevotesmatter.org.uk

This month the Alliance team has been busy putting the finishing touches to our film 'Equal Votes.' We have a presence at the Unite and Green Party conferences, including a fringe with Unlock Democracy, new co-leader Carla Denyer, Baroness Natalie Bennett and Zack Polanski AM. We are planning the first in the series of our 'Democracy Loves' events, entitled 'Democracy Loves Climate Justice' which will focus on how electoral reform will be essential in fighting the climate crisis.

We have also been liaising with other allies in the democracy sector in order to appropriately combat the extension of First Past the Post in the Elections Bill. We have conducted internal research debunking myths about the Supplementary Vote system, and have sent in a submission to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, in partnership with a number of other democracy organisations.

We are also pleased to welcome Upgrade Holyrood and the3million to the Make Votes Matter Alliance! Our next Alliance meeting will be taking place on the 26th October at 2pm. This will be a Zoom meeting, though we are hoping from 2022 to start meeting more in person.

Ensuring a coherent, growing and sustainable movement

This month sees the launch of our 2021 Crowdfunder - watch this space!