

Emergency resolution

Democratic Participation in the Foundation of Your Party

Moved by the elected steering committee of the Sheffield proto-branch

Accepted by an overwhelming majority of the assembly

1. This regional assembly of Your Party members in South Yorkshire notes:

- a) There is a desperate need for a proudly socialist and thoroughly democratic, member-led mass party of the working class.
- b) There have been a number of problems in the founding process of Your Party, chief among them a lack of transparency and no real mechanisms for members to make meaningful contributions or concrete amendments to the four draft founding documents.
- c) It remains entirely unclear what, if anything, will happen to the copious amounts of notes facilitators are taking at the regional assemblies. The same goes for the 'edits' members are making in the crowdfunding portal. It is up to HQ to decide which (if any) edits go through to the next stage.
- d) We still do not know if at least 'sortitioned' participants at the launch conference are able to make concrete amendments.
- e) The draft founding documents contain many contentious issues that members should be able to discuss properly and collectively vote on amendments: for example a proposed ban on members of left groups, no guaranteed funding for branches and a leadership structure that replicates that of the Labour Party.
- f) The founding documents make no mention of accessibility or disability.

2. This regional assembly believes:

- a) It is essential to establish Your Party on a foundation of democratic practice, ensuring the maximum participation of local members and branches. An online vote of all members following the founding conference is no substitute for a meaningful democratic process.
- b) Sortition is far from the best form of democracy, chiefly because it does not involve all members. We favour a system where delegates are elected by the branches, utilising the Single Transferable Vote under the Droop quota (more commonly known as Scottish STV).
- c) Democracy requires the facility to participate fully by all members. All meetings and processes, including voting, should be made as accessible as reasonably possible to all members.

3. This regional assembly calls on HQ to rework the founding documents along the following lines:

- a) **Your Party should become a party of the whole left!** We reject the proposed ban of left groups. All left organisations, large and small, should be positively welcomed. Only members of parties who run candidates against Your Party should be banned from joining. YP members should have the right to organise openly into tendencies and platforms.

- b) **For free speech and openness!** Democracy requires transparency. We reject the demand to keep “internal party matters confidential”. All leadership bodies should publish detailed minutes.
- c) **Power to the branches!** We cannot wait until after the leadership elections in March 2026 before YP branches are officially set up. There are dozens of vibrant proto-branches that have been meeting for many months and there is no need for the CEC to “oversee” the establishment of branches. Branches should be established immediately by inviting all local members to a foundation meeting. If there are rival groups or other problems, HQ may facilitate such a meeting, if requested by at least one of the branches. Further, branches should receive at least 50% of local members’ fees, to be split at different levels, eg ward and constituency etc. They should be formed along real community lines, not just electoral boundaries. Where possible workplace branches should also be formed. Local branches should decide how they organise, if they want to set up local assemblies - and how those should be run.
- d) **For a collective leadership!** We must avoid a replica of Labour’s unaccountable structures. Our entire leadership body should be elected at annual conference, by branch delegates. All officers should be elected from within the CEC, so they can be held accountable. There should be no automatic seats on the leadership body. All CEC members should be recallable – at conference and by branch petition. Trades unions and other bodies should not have separate arrangements or special privileges.
- e) **For a fair and independent disciplinary process!** There is no mention of a disciplinary process in the four documents. We need clear rules focusing on an independent process, with natural justice, clear timelines and easy appeals procedures.
- f) **We need to hold our representatives to account!** The current proposal states that it would require *40% of all local members* to sign a recall petition - that is impossible to meet. Branches should be able to decide by simple majority vote to start recall proceedings. MPs and officeholders should receive no more than the average wage of a skilled worker.
- g) **Meetings and processes should be as accessible as reasonably possible to all members.** The founding documents should specify this as a requirement
- h) **Local campaigns should be run by branches according to local priorities and conditions** and should not be vetted or directed by a central unit, nor should branches be expected to run a wide ranging and frequent community forum where these already exist.