

# Conference Daily

## Sunday 19 March 2023

Spring Conference York



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 19 March. Please read in conjunction with the **Agenda & Directory** and **Conference Extra**.

## Timetable and contents

**Report back for Saturday 18 March** 2

### Timetable for Sunday 19 March

09.00–09.45	F16 Emergency motion: A Better Alternative to the Small Boats Legislation	
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	F17B Report: Federal Campaigns and Election Committee	8
	F17C Report: Federal Council	9
	F17D Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	9
10.25–11.30	F18 Policy motion: A More Caring Society	10
11.30–11.45	F19 Party Awards	
11.45–13.00	F20 Speech: Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
13.00	Close of Conference	

# Report back for Saturday 18 March

F2A	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F2B	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F2C	Report: Federal International Relations Committee	Approved
F3	Business motion: FIRC	Passed
F4	Business motion: Constitutional Housekeeping and International Work	Passed
F5	Policy motion: Access to Dental Services	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F6	Business motion: Code of Conduct	Passed
F7	Standing order amendment: Selection of Policy	Defeated
F8	Policy motion: The UK's Nuclear Deterrent	Passed (Amendment One defeated)
F10	Policy motion: Solving the Energy Crisis for the Long Term	Passed (Amendment One, Two, Three passed)
F12	Policy motion: Towards a Fairer Society	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed; Option 2 passed)
F14	Report: Parliamentary Party – Commons	Received
F14	Report: Parliamentary Party – Lords	Received
F15	Constitutional amendment: Diversity on Party Committees	Conference voted not to debate this motion.

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# Sunday 19 March

## F16 Emergency Motion: A Better Alternative to the Small Boats Legislation

10 members

Mover: Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson for Home Affairs).

Summation: Tim Farron MP.

1 Conference notes with concern the Conservative Government's alarming Illegal Migration  
2 Bill, which was introduced to Parliament on 7th March.

3 Conference further notes that:

4 i) Under this policy, anyone who enters the UK via a small boat crossing will be  
5 immediately detained and deported to another country as soon as possible.

6 ii) An analysis of Home Office statistics by the Refugee Council showed that in 2022 48%  
7 of those who crossed the channel were from just 5 countries, all with asylum grant  
8 rates over 80% – Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria and Iran.

9 iii) The 1951 Refugee Convention, of which the UK is a signatory, confirms that asylum  
10 seekers have a right to not be penalised for illegal entry to a country.

11 Conference believes that the Government's plans to stop small boats:

12 A. Are immoral, ineffective and incredibly costly for taxpayers.

13 B. Will do nothing to address the criminal gangs responsible for arranging these  
14 dangerous crossings, and instead punishes the victims of human trafficking.

15 C. Betray the UK's proud tradition of providing sanctuary to refugees fleeing war and  
16 persecution, and breaches our commitments under international law.

17 Conference further believes that the best way to stop these dangerous crossings and  
18 tackle smuggling and trafficking is to provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for  
19 refugees.

20 Conference calls on the Government to:

21 1. Immediately scrap the Illegal Migration Bill.

22 2. Fix the broken asylum system by taking powers away from the Home Office and  
23 establishing a new, dedicated unit to make decisions quickly and fairly.

24 3. Provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for refugees from all countries, including:

25 a) An expanded, properly-funded refugee resettlement scheme.

26 b) A new scheme to resettle unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in Europe.

27 c) Reuniting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe with family members  
28 in the UK.

29 d) Expanding the scope of refugee family reunion, including enabling unaccompanied

30 child refugees in the UK to sponsor close family members to join them.

31 e) Humanitarian visas that would allow asylum seekers to travel to the UK safely to  
32 proceed with their claims.

*Applicability: Federal.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on refugees, as well as creating new policy in response to the government's Illegal Migration Bill.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *Safe and Legal Routes to Save Lives* (March 2021).

### **F17A Federal Board Report**

*We have an unusually large number of questions to reports at this conference. In order to try to address as many of the issues raised as possible in the time available, questions will be grouped and the movers of reports will try to answer each group collectively. Supplementary questions will then be taken from the first questioner in each group.*

#### **Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson**

When are we going to see an end of meetings conducted by zoomocracy?

#### **Q2. Submitted by Judith Bailey**

Does the Board consider the proposed 6.4B presents any risk of imposing sanctions improperly with the lack of opportunity for real dialogue through a hearing?

#### **Q3. Submitted by Lucas North**

The Young Liberals are the only enrolling body who don't have meaningful access to our membership data. When will this be fixed?

#### **Q4. Submitted by Lucas North**

When and why was the decision made that the Young Liberals would not have access to Connect, and so cannot use Fleet to host petitions or surveys?

#### **Q5. Submitted by Lucas North**

We've heard a lot about one of the benefits of Fleet being that petition data will flow into Connect. Why are the Young Liberals excluded from this?

**Q6. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

With six weeks to go until the biggest round of English local elections, where is the promised compelling and distinctive narrative?

**Q7. Submitted by Greg Webb**

Given we are the only opposition party polling below our 2019 result, what is the Board's view of the Party's strategy to correct this?

**Q8. Submitted by Greg Webb**

Given our party's current low polling in spite of specifically targeting the Conservatives, what does FCEC believe is failing in the current Party strategy?

**Q9. Submitted by Katherine Macy**

How can we make sure we are championing liberal policies such as trans rights and pro internationalism and not just being the anti Tory party?

**Q10. Submitted by James Green**

Why are we failing to promote a liberal vision that supports house building, trans rights and workers rights in favour of just being anti-Tory?

**Q11. Submitted by Zoe Hollowood**

Will FB dissociate the Party from incendiary assertions by a Party committee that gender-critical beliefs are "equivalent to...white supremacist or anti-semitic views"?

**Q12. Submitted by Jennie Rigg**

In light of the ruling in B Randall Vs Trent College are Board going to refer so-called "gender critical" members to the Prevent programme to be de-radicalised before the party becomes even more of a hostile environment for trans people?

**Q13. Submitted by Alana Mullen**

In light of the B Randall vs Trent College ruling, will Board adopt a stronger policy against transphobia that protects trans people not hate mongers?

**Q14. Submitted by Toby Keynes**

Does FB recognise the rights of members holding gender critical beliefs to be consulted about matters – including the Transphobia Definition – directly affecting them as members?

**Q15. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What are Federal Board doing to manage the issue of transphobia in the party? How are you keeping trans members safe from harassment/abuse at conference?

**Q16. Submitted by Jon Ball**

How is the Federal Board ensuring that the party remains a safe place for trans members and how is it engaging with the concerns of many trans members over the ongoing transphobia problem?

**Q17. Submitted by Timothy Oliver**

When will the Federal Board complete work on a definition of transphobia that LGBT members of this party can have confidence in?

**Q18. Submitted by John Grout**

How does Federal Board intend to improve communication with SAOs around the decision making process?

**Q19. Submitted by Mark Johnston**

How many vacant positions remain on the Federal Appeals Panel? What is the break-down of FAP vacancies under each federal and state party category?

**Q20. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

As there has not been a Conference for a whole year, how can there be less to report, and why is the report shorter than usual?

**Q21. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Does the Federal Board now see itself as accountable to the new Federal Council, rather than to Conference?

**Q22. Submitted by Olly Craven**

How are you ensuring that disadvantaged groups can take part in your committee without being discriminated against or subjected to discriminatory rants from other members?

**Q23. Submitted by Olly Craven**

How can we improve our membership recruitment and engagement in Labour facing areas? Are there policies/campaigns that are already party policy that might cut through?

**Q24. Submitted by Chris Northwood**

The new rebate system for online donations/tickets is causing major cashflow issues for local parties. Was this considered when setting it up, and what will be done to address this going forward?

**Q25. Submitted by Joe Toovey**

How do we motivate demoralised campaigners worried that core liberal issues - Europe, drug policy, trans rights - are being deemphasised in our campaigns due to fear of controversy?

**Q26. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

Does the Board recognise how demoralised many members are at our lack voice on progressive Liberal issues for fear of upsetting potential Tory swing voters?

**Q27. Submitted by Daniel Jones**

Given increasing penetration of conspiracy and extreme ideas into the mainstream, what is the party doing to ensure candidates at all levels are properly vetted?

**Q28. Submitted by Greg Webb**

With Brexit support collapsing, Conservatives tainted and Labour split - why have we stopped talking about our policy when it so massively outpolls our Party?

**Q29. Submitted by Jared Jeyaretnam**

How can we ensure local parties stick to our national values when it comes to tackling the housing crisis or stopping pollution?

*There will also be votes to approve new members of the Federal Appeals Panel - see page 23 of the Reports to Conference booklet.*

**F17B Federal Campaigns and Election Committee Report**

**Q1. Submitted by John Grout**

How is FCEC planning to help PPCs and local parties in the upcoming election handle the current right-wing culture war, especially as it relates to vulnerable minorities (asylum seekers, trans people, etc.)?



**Q2. Submitted by Mark Johnston**

Measured in net seat gains as compared to 2019, what is your (or your committee's) minimum definition of success in the next general election?

**Q3. Submitted by James Bliss**

Other federal committees (like FB formally and FPC on an ad hoc basis) have a seat on the committee for the Young Liberals, would you support adding one for FCEC to help with engagement of young party members and to help develop the next generation of committee members?

**Q4. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What is the party doing to ensure we have a distinct narrative, that extends past just being "anti-Tory" going into the next GE?

**Q5. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

How can we best support members wanting to campaign but unable to participate in physical activities such as canvassing/door-to-door?

**Q6. Submitted by Sean Bennett**

Despite the hard work of our comms professionals, the party's voice isn't being heard by the public. What are we doing to change that?

**Q7. Submitted by Jon Ball**

What are you doing to ensure that campaigns and federal messaging is relevant to Labour-facing areas as well as Blue Wall seats?

**F17C Federal Council Report**

**Q1. Submitted by John Grout**

After its first few months of full operation, how does FC see its role developing over the rest of its first term?

**F17D Campaign for Gender Balance Report**

**Q1. Submitted by John Grout**

How does CGB intend to work with women's organisations such as the WI to rebut the misogynistic and transphobic narratives emerging in the current right-wing culture war?

**Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham**

Do you agree that Non-Binary individuals being included in internal election quotas is not a threat to creating gender balance within our party committees?

**Q3. Submitted by Greg Webb**

How are CGB working to ensure all women and non-binary people can succeed, unhindered by small but vocal groups of 'gender-critical' people?

**Q4. Submitted by Tara Foster**

Does the panel agree that the way the NHS currently "cares" for trans people is inherently transphobic?

**Q5. Submitted by Tara Foster**

Does the panel agree that a liberal party should not entertain non-inclusive views within its membership?

**Q6. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What specific actions is CGB taking to ensure we're supporting intersectionality/diversity of candidates beyond just cis, white, abled women?

**Q7. Submitted by Hina Bokhari**

What support or training will be provided for women from ethnic minorities to become PPCs and councillors?

**F18 A More Caring Society**

*The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:*

1 *After V. (line 18), insert:*

2 VI. Failure to address the unnecessary occupancy of thousands of acute hospital beds by  
3 people awaiting a suitable care package with consequential ambulance delays,  
4 hospital treatment delays and unnecessary suffering, with sometimes tragic  
5 consequences, for hundreds of people each week.

6 *After 3. (line 28), insert:*

7 4. Establish the UK as a leader in the sensitive use of emerging assistive and telecare  
8 technologies, harnessing. IT, robotics, and AI to improve the quality of care and  
9 prolong independence.

## Amendment One

11 members

Mover: Munira Wilson MP.

Summation: Baroness Tyler.

1 *After C. (line 6), insert:*

2 D. Children in care or at risk of being taken into care also deserve a great start in life so  
3 they have the support, relationships, skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

4 *After V. (line 18), insert:*

5 VI. Their failure to grasp the scale of the crisis in children's social care, committing less  
6 than a tenth of the more than £2 billion that the Government-commissioned  
7 Independent Review of Children's Social Care says is necessary for whole system  
8 reform.

9 *After 7. f) (line 57), insert:*

10 8. Conference further calls on the Government to support the 150,000 children in  
11 England being raised by grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, other relatives or friends  
12 (known as kinship carers), by:

13 a) Providing all kinship carers with a weekly allowance for each child they care for,  
14 equivalent to the national minimum weekly allowance for foster carers.

15 b) Giving kinship carers the right to paid employment leave when a child starts living  
16 with them on terms equivalent to those for adoptive parents.

17 c) Supporting the education of children in kinship care, such as by making them  
18 eligible for Pupil Premium Plus and amending the school admissions code so that  
19 children in kinship care are given a higher priority when a school is oversubscribed.

20 d) Creating a statutory definition of kinship care and establishing a passporting  
21 process through which kinship carers may prove to a public body that they are  
22 entitled to the support listed above.

## Amendment Two

*North West Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Andrew Haldane.

Summation: Sam Al-Hamdani.

1 *After 5. b) (line 34), insert:*

2 c) Utilise local partnerships to develop short-stay convalescence and rehabilitation  
3 provision in community hospitals, or other transitional care centres, sufficient to end  
4 unnecessary acute bed occupancy and better prepare patients to return home.

## Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on social care, reaffirming existing policy on unpaid

carers, as well as introducing a package of measures to improve the lives of carers.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *Standing Up for Unpaid Carers* (March 2021), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 137 *Save the NHS and Social Care by Stopping Brexit* (September 2019).

# 2023 York Spring Conference Appeal

## Help us win big in May

We can mark our fightback and show we can win across the country in the local elections this May. Success in the May elections will clear our path to success in the next General Election. But we need your help.

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