

RIC EDINBURGH REPORT FOR NATIONAL FORUM, 8.12.19

This is to be held Perth

1. Preparations for National Forum

The RIC-Edinburgh Assembly on 30.10.19 had suggested that the wording for two motions be drawn up at the Organising Meeting.

Ray Burnett had asked for backing for motion to create a virtual group covering remote islands and isolated individuals

Since the Assembly R.B. had been in contact with Inverness RIC to help get this set up.

Agreed Motions

a) December 12th Westminster General Election

This National Forum agrees to issue the following General Election statement:-

The Radical Independence Campaign has members in the SNP, Greens, socialist organisations, and a majority in no party at all. Therefore, as in the 2015 and 2017 Westminster and the 2016 Holyrood elections we will not be making specific party voting recommendations for the June 4th general election.

Nevertheless, we call on RIC supporters to recognise the Tories' attempt to turn this election into a plebiscite to centralise UK state power. This will be wielded on behalf of corporate business and open up Scotland and the UK to a US Trump deal which threatens the NHS, workers' rights, environmental and consumer safeguards, promotes more wars, and introduces even more draconian racist immigration laws. The Tories intend to remove large sections of the working class from the electoral register to further their plans.

Two prime Tory targets are the democratic right of the Scottish people to exercise our right to self-determination. and the limited post 1997 devolution-all-round settlement. A Tory Brexit will be used to reinforce all the most reactionary features of Britishness. Instead of a Tory Brexit fiasco we need an Ex-Brit (or break-up the UK) strategy to help us break free. In RIC's spirit of internationalism from below, this also involves the people of Ireland, Wales and England too. Therefore, we call for the rejection of all Unionist candidates in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and recommend our Labour and Green supporters in England to ask their candidates if they support the right of the Scottish parliaments to hold an early independence referendum.

We will continue to work in and with trade unions, community organisations and international solidarity campaigns to prepare a defence against their planned attacks and to create our new society based on RIC's 5 Principles:-

- 1) For a social alternative to austerity and privatisation
- 2) Green and environmentally sustainable
- 3) A modern republic for real democracy
- 4) Committed to equality and opposition to discrimination on grounds of gender, race, disability, sexuality or age
- 5) Internationalist and opposed to war, NATO and Trident

We remain adamant that Another Scotland, Another Europe and Another World are Possible.

(This motion is based on RIC-Edinburgh activities in the 2015 Holyrood and 2017 Westminster general elections)

2. All Under One Banner

This National Forum agrees that:-

- a) There should be an organised RIC presence on next year's 'All Under One Banner' demonstrations.
- b) Local RIC groups, where possible, should co-ordinate all RIC participants at an AUOB demo (e.g. inform other local groups of the chosen assembly point for RIC supporters)
- c) RIC-Scotland and local groups where AUOB demos are being held should also seek representation on the AUOB organising committee

3) **Proposals for the conduct of business at the National Forum in Perth. Mucky Mulligans, 97, Canal Street, on 7.12.19, 13.00-16.00**

- a) **The agreed purpose of this meeting is to re-establish local RIC groups, and begin to establish national policy t**
- b) **Those attending** (based on past practice and the constitution)
 - i) **Delegates from local groups** (practice already established for National Forums)
 - ii) **Individuals from local groups** (already de facto position for some local groups that have ceased to operate)
 - iii) **Any individual member of RIC** (this is part of RIC's constitution, although no one has taken up this right)

c) Conduct of meeting

- i) Election of chair and minutes secretary
- ii) A brief report back of RIC's October 26th National Conference in Glasgow. (Members who wish to make their own assessments can bring these along in paper form for circulation at the meeting)
- iii) Reports of local group activities since 2015 should be submitted in paper form or circulated online beforehand (This is because priority should be given to members' proposals)
- iv) Membership proposals

Two sessions, with local groups proposals first, but with the proviso, that where a local group submits more than one motion, their 2nd and subsequent proposals are only taken after the first proposals from the other local groups. The second session would be given over to individual members proposals.

- v) Proposals over the future of the RIC lists
- vi) Arranging a date and venue for the next AGM at which the suitability of the current constitution will be considered.
- vii) Arranging the date and venue of the next National Forum.

d) Timing of each of the sessions i) to ii) and iv) to vii) above

- i) 10 minutes**, (also allowing to welcome of delegates and individuals)
- ii) 20 minutes**
- iv) 90 minutes** (this could allow for a 15 minutes break, and if all the proposals cannot be dealt with within these time limits, the National Forum will agree another date to complete the business)
- v) 20 minutes**
- vi-vii) 10 minutes**

**e) Last date for submission of motions or amendments –
November 30th**

2. The National Roadshow, Friday 4th `October – hosted by The National with Lesley Riddoch as speaker

RIC-Edinburgh, agreed to be a co-sponsor for this event (along with Pensioners for Independence'. After the collections, £54 expensed remained, and RIC-Edinburgh contributed £27 to this.

C) RIC- Edinburgh delegate to AUOB National Meeting in Glasgow on November 16th

It was agreed that Iain Robertson should be the RIC-Edinburgh delegate

D. Other matters

i) Other activities – members to be e-mailed about:-

a) Scottish Radical Book Fair. Assembly Roxy, Roxburgh Street

SCOTLAND: ONE NATION, MANY HISTORIES

Thursday, Nov 14th 19:00 - 20:30,

Lesley Riddoch, Sir Geoff Palmer, Andrew Barr, Sarah Sheridan

<https://www.lighthousebookshop.com/events/2019-11-14-scotland-one-nation-many-histories>

GLOBAL IN THE LOCAL - CLIMATE JUSTICE AT HOME

Friday, Nov 15 17:00 - 18:15

Nish Doshi

(<https://www.lighthousebookshop.com/events/2019-11-15-global-in-the-local-climate-justice-at-home>)

THE CASE FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL Friday, Nov 15 ,18:30 - 19:30

Ann Pettifor (<https://www.lighthousebookshop.com/events/2019-11-15-the-case-for-the-green-new-deal-with-ann-pettifor>)

NORTHERN IRELAND & THE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

Saturday, Nov 16 2, 15:00 - 16:00

Paul Stewart, Patricia Campbell, and Tommy Mckearney

(<https://www.lighthousebookshop.com/events/2019-11-16-northern-ireland-the-democratic-deficit>)

b) 2019 ScotE3, Just Transition: Employment, Energy and Environment - thinking global and acting local

Sat, 16 November 2019, 10:00 – 17:00 GMT
St Ninian's Hall, Greyfriars Charteris Centre
138/140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh.EH8 9RR

c) RIC-Edinburgh assembly, 27.11.19, 19.00, Augustine Church Hustings

d) RIC-Edinburgh Organising Meeting 2.12.19, 18.00, National Library

e) RIC National Forum, December 7th, 13.00-16.00, Perth, Mucky Mulligans, 97, Canal Street,

Allan Armstrong, 7.11.19