

# Conference Daily

## Saturday 16 September



Autumn Conference 2017 Bournemouth



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Saturday 16 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Directory* and *Conference Extra*.

## Timetable and contents

### Timetable for Saturday 16 September

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*If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda or Conference Extra.*

*Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Members wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.*

## OPEN, TOLERANT AND UNITED

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You are cordially invited to an historic event



## Liberal International Global Manifesto Launch *Liberalism for the modern age*

Sat 16th 20.15 hrs

Marriott Highcliffe, Bryanston Suite

Deputy Leader Jo Swinson MP will outline her approach to Britain's global role in the context of Brexit. There will be a debate on 'the Challenge to Liberal Values Worldwide' with Baroness Northover and FIRC members Robert Woodthorpe Browne, Phil Bennion and Paul Reynolds.

Audience discussion topics will include *'Does the Brexit bill mean Britain is departing from the liberal world order?'*



This event is sponsored by the Liberal International British Group (LIBG) and the National Liberal Club.



# Conference App

Liberal Democrats 

Download our Conference App for Autumn Conference, with great features such as My Schedule (the easiest way to plan your Conference) and a searchable Fringe Guide and Agenda.

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# Saturday 16 September

## F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

### Q1. Submitted by: Tom Stubbs

Why are staff who work for local parties and are members being denied the right to vote when coming to conference?

### Q2. Submitted by: Christopher Hudson

What action is taken by the Conference Committee to make sure that all policy decisions made by Federal Conference are followed through and action taken by the relevant parts of the party, and in particular what action has been taken to deliver the policy in Motion F17 on Associate Citizenship of the EU which was agreed at March Conference at York earlier this year?

## Taxis

Save 10% on all fares with United Taxis Bournemouth (01202 556 677) by using the code LIBDEM10 when booking.

## BIC closing times

The BIC main doors will close at 20.30 today so you will need to use the Purbeck Foyer doors to enter and exit the building after this time. Please bear this in mind when arriving for the evening fringe sessions in the BIC.



Ask an Expert is staffed throughout Conference by Liberal Democrat staff and volunteers with wide-ranging expertise and experiences from right across the party.

There's no need to book – just turn up and we'll do our best to help you.

Conference Daily and other conference publications, in PDF and plain text formats, are available online



[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

or ask at the Information Desk in the Bournemouth International Centre.

## Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference, where you can ask questions of our Spokespeople on the issues relating to their responsibilities.

All sessions will take place in the BIC in the rooms indicated. Sessions are open to all, but Party members will be given priority.

Saturday 16

15.00–16.00

Bayview Suite 2

### Devolved Regions

with Alistair Carmichael & Christine Jardine

16.30–17.30

Bayview Suite 2

### Local Government

with Wera Hobhouse, Kath Pinnock & John Shipley



# Saturday 16 September

## F4 Learning to Communicate in English

Summation: Janet Grauberg

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:*

- 1 *In 6. (line 36), after 'colleges' insert ', the voluntary and community enterprise sector'.*
- 2 *After 6. (line 37), add:*
- 3 7. Provide adequate funding to Local Authorities to implement the above.

### Amendment One

*38 members*

Mover: Layla Moran MP

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha

- 1 *After iv) (line 12), insert:*
- 2 v) There is no statutory obligation to support refugees with low levels or no English with free  
3 ESOL provision if they are in work, or asylum seekers until they have been in the UK for 6  
4 months, which in turn impedes their ability to independently navigate systems, seek support  
5 and integrate.
- 6 *Delete a) (lines 14–17), and insert:*
- 7 a) The ability to speak and understand English is important for those living in England as it  
8 enables them to engage with their individual freedoms and participate and contribute fully to  
9 British society.
- 10 b) The Government and devolved administrations must have a crucial role in funding ESOL  
11 provision.
- 12 *After 3. (line 29), insert:*
- 14 4. Require all state-funded schools (including free schools and academies) to work closely with  
15 LAs in developing the Language Needs Assessment.
- 16 5. Require all schools to work closely with LAs in understanding the target groups within their  
17 school community, and assist LAs in assisting those groups to access ESOL classes.
- 18 6. Provide asylum seekers and refugees with low levels of English a minimum of 6 months free  
19 ESOL provision from as soon as they have applied for asylum or, have been granted asylum  
20 but are in work, so they can reach a functioning command of English to access the support  
21 they need.

### Background Briefing

This motion substantially updates and develops policy on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), in particular creating a national ESOL strategy for England. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 116, *Making Migration Work for Britain* (2014).



# Saturday 16 September

## F5 Party Strategy Consultation

Chair: Jenni Lang.

*The panel will include Sal Brinton and Mark Pack.*

## F6 The Paris Agreement and UK Climate Change Policy

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:*

- 1 *In line 35, delete 'industrial'.*
- 2 *In 2. (line 45), after 'buildings and industry,' insert 'including through better insulation,'.*

### Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on climate change in light of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the decision of President Trump to withdraw the United States from the Agreement. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy motion *Investing in the Green Economy* (2016), the 2015 General Election Manifesto *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone*, and policy paper 109, *Green Growth and Green Jobs* (2013).

## F7 Speech: Layla Moran MP

Aide: Jenni Lang. Hall Aide: Paul Tilsley.

## F8 The Impact of Brexit on Public Services

Mover: Baroness Walmsley

Summation: Tom Brake MP

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:*

- 1 *In A. (line 4), after 'Single Market' insert 'and European Customs Union'.*
- 2 *In c) (line 45): after 'public sector' insert 'and risk eroding the employment rights of those working in*
- 3 *the public and private sectors, not least those of women, young workers and currently protected*
- 4 *minority groups'.*
- 5 *In 2. (line 57), after 'Single Market' insert 'and European Customs Union'.*
- 6 *After 4. (line 66), add:*
- 7 5. The Government to publish the research into the impact of Brexit it has carried out across 50
- 8 sectors of the economy.

### Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Chris White

Summation: Cllr Heather Kidd



# Saturday 16 September

1 After G. (line 23), insert:

2 H. That Local Government has a formal advisory role in the EU law and policy-making process  
3 through its membership of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), and that currently no  
4 alternative formal mechanism exists post-Brexit for a similar arrangement with the UK  
5 government.

6 I. That according to the Local Government Association there will be a structural investment  
7 funding gap of £8.4 billion across the UK unless a replacement scheme is implemented.

8 After 4. (line 66), add:

9 5. Replacement of the formal advisory role for local government currently established in the EU  
10 Committee of the Regions to help continue local government's role in law-making in the UK  
11 and leaving no deficiency in local government powers.

12 6. Decisions over future structural investment funding to be taken at as local a level as possible,  
13 rather than always made in Whitehall.

## Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on the adverse consequences of Brexit from public services and reiterates existing policy on the need to guarantee the rights of EU residents in the UK. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy motions *Britain and the EU: negotiating the Future – Next Steps for Brexit* (2017), *UK and European Collaborative Research and Erasmus* (2016), and *Britain in the European Union* (2016).

## F10 Natural Environment Policy

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:*

1 In A. (line 3), after 'air quality' insert ', soil quality'.

## Amendment One

*Greater Reading*

Mover: John Grout

Summation: Ricky Duveen

1 After b) (line 49), insert:

2 c) Humane treatment of farm livestock (as per the European Convention for the Protection of  
3 Animals kept for Farming Purposes) and consideration for endangered species (as per CITES).

## Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the overall framework for protecting the natural environment. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and the 2015 General Election Manifesto *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone.*



# Saturday 16 September

## F11 Federal Board Report

Hall Aide: Nicholas da Costa.

### Q1. Submitted by: Kevin Daws

Can the Federal Board please tell conference the amount of resource that was expended on getting BaME candidates elected as a proportion of the total, as compared with the proportion of BaME individuals in the population as whole?

Can the Federal Board also inform conference how many BaME candidates were selected in the top 50 most winnable key seats and how many reached the final short list in each of those constituencies?

As a matter of interest can we be told how many of the individual members of Federal Board were campaigning for the election of a visible BaME candidate?

### Q2. Submitted by: Simon McGrath

What progress has been made in resolving the anomaly that only the English Party pays the Federal levy?

### Q3. Submitted by: Tony Vickers

What is being done to prepare for the coming into force next year of the EU General Data Protection Regulations, which (our Data Officer advises me) will render most of our modern campaigning and communication techniques illegal?

## F12 Campaign for Gender Balance Report

Mover: Julia Cambridge

### Q1. Submitted by: Daniele Gibney

How can local party Diversity Officers work with and support the Campaign for Gender Balance?

## F13 Membership Subscription

*The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:*

- 1 *In a) (line 3), delete 'Liberal Youth' and insert 'Young Liberals'.*
- 2 *In 4. (line 18), delete 'Liberal Youth' and insert 'the Young Liberals'.*



# Emergency motions ballot

Three of the following motions will be selected by ballot, one to be debated as F23 at 09.00 on Monday 18 September and two as F31A and F31B at 09.40 on Tuesday 19 September.

The ballot paper, attached to the back of this Conference Daily or available from the Information Desk in the BIC, should be returned to the ballot box in the Auditorium in the BIC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 16 September.

Emergency Motion 5: Mental Health Reform Act has now been withdrawn from the ballot at the request of the mover.

## Emergency motion 1: Deterioration of Human Rights in Venezuela

11 members

- 1 Conference notes the deteriorating political, social and economic situation in Venezuela, and the
- 2 concerns raised in a report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- 3 on 30 August 2017.
  
- 4 In particular, conference condemns:
  - 5 i) The erosion of democratic institutions via the accumulation of power by the executive branch
  - 6 of the government.
  - 7 ii) The undermining of human rights guarantees which have enabled the government to
  - 8 intimidate, punish and censor critics, journalists, judges and political opponents.
  - 9 iii) The arbitrary detention and alleged torture of protesters.
  - 10 iv) Inadequate government responses to severe shortages of medicines, medical supplies, and
  - 11 food.
  
- 12 Conference believes:
  - 13 a) The UK has a responsibility to champion the rule of law, human rights and democracy across
  - 14 the world.
  - 15 b) The politicisation of the situation in Venezuela by US President Donald Trump has the
  - 16 potential to cause further harm to the people of Venezuela, and undermine efforts to
  - 17 strengthen democracy and the rule of law.
  
- 18 Conference calls on the UK government to:
  - 19 1. Immediately suspend the sale of all military and security equipment and arms to Venezuela.
  - 20 2. Look into the viability and efficacy of sanctions against Venezuelan government officials, in
  - 21 order to target those who are benefitting the most from the erosion of the democratic state.
  - 22 3. Provide further funding for programmes to strengthen democratic institutions, ensure free
  - 23 and fair elections, and protect human rights protestors and journalists.

*Applicability: Federal.*





# Emergency motions ballot

## Emergency motion 2: Implementation of Universal Credit

Ten members

- 1 Conference notes that Liberal Democrats support the principles behind Universal Credit, namely  
2 its aims of simplifying the social security system, improving work incentives, increasing take-up,  
3 tackling poverty and reducing fraud and error.
- 4 Conference however further notes the criticisms made of the detailed design and implementation  
5 of Universal Credit under the Conservatives as set out in policy paper 124 Mending the Safety Net  
6 (2016) and the General Election Manifesto Change Britain's Future (2017).
- 7 Conference notes with deep concern the new Citizens Advice report Delivering on Universal Credit  
8 published on 6 July 2017 which shows that the requirement to wait six weeks for first payment  
9 is causing people serious financial difficulties, while highlighting a range of other administrative  
10 problems, and similar findings by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. In particular, conference  
11 regrets findings that:
- 12 i) Over a third (39%) of people are waiting more than the 6 weeks it should take to receive their  
13 first payment.  
14 ii) In some pilot areas, the average waiting time is as high as 12 weeks.  
15 iii) Just over 1 in 10 (11%) are waiting over 10 weeks without the benefit.  
16 iv) 3 in 5 (57%) are having to borrow money while waiting for their first payment.
- 17 Conference therefore calls for the Government to pause the planned accelerated roll-out of  
18 Universal Credit until problems with implementation can be addressed through the following  
19 measures:
- 20 a) Removing the 7 waiting days at the start of a claim, to reduce the amount of time people have  
21 to wait for their first payment.  
22 b) Monitoring the impact of payment one month in arrears, and changing it if this results in rising  
23 debt and destitution.  
24 c) Making sure everyone moving to Universal Credit is told they can get an Advance Payment to  
25 help them while they wait for their first payment.  
26 d) Introducing an online system so people can book their initial Jobcentre appointments online  
27 rather than having to call the Universal Credit helpline.  
28 e) Making the Universal Credit helpline free of charge, at least until the roll-out is complete.  
29 f) Allowing people to adjust to Universal Credit by offering everyone options in how they would  
30 like the benefit to be paid.  
31 g) Putting in place a comprehensive support package before Universal Credit roll-out accelerates,  
32 to make sure people get advice to manage their money and deal with any complications in the  
33 application process.
- 34 Conference reiterates its support for more substantial reform of UC including:
- 35 1. Reversing the Government's cuts to the amount claimants can earn (the "work allowance")  
36 before their benefits are reduced.  
37 2. Introducing a second work allowance, allowing both members of a couple to work without  
38 losing their benefits.  
39 3. Restoring the first child premium for new claimants.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 40 4. Abandoning the restriction of benefits to just two children.  
41 5. Ending the freeze on working-age benefits.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Emergency motion 3: International Students

*Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire*

- 1 Conference welcomes the recent announcement by the Home Office of the first results of the  
2 newly installed exact border checks.
- 3 Conference notes that:
- 4 i) The number of international students overstaying, after their studies were complete, was  
5 4,600 in this first year.  
6 ii) This number is far smaller than the estimate of 100,000 previously used by the Home Office.  
7 iii) The estimate of 100,000 was the justification for imposing higher levels of visa and other  
8 restrictions on students.
- 9 Conference further notes that:
- 10 a) International students bring economic benefits to colleges, universities and the wider  
11 economy.  
12 b) Higher education is one of the most successful export industries this country has.  
13 c) Educating the future leaders of the rest of the world is a very effective exercise of “soft power”.  
14 d) Universal co-operation in academic learning and research is a mark of civilisation and is to the  
15 benefit of the whole world.
- 16 Conference therefore:
- 17 1. Calls on the Government to remove international students from the migration figures  
18 immediately.  
19 2. Welcomes the Home Secretary’s announcement of a review of international students and  
20 presses that visa restrictions and other impediments should be part of that review.  
21 3. Calls on the media to recognise the facts and portray international students in a more positive  
22 light, as an asset rather than a threat.  
23 4. Calls on the Government to ensure that international students are treated as the positive  
24 benefit to the country that they are, and not a problem to be solved.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Emergency motion 4: Leasehold Scandal

*Eddisbury and Weaver Vale*

- 1 Conference welcomes Government proposals (announced in late July, with an eight-week  
2 consultation period) to outlaw leasehold property sales which allow freeholders to:



# Emergency motions ballot

- 3 a) Charge excessively escalating ground rents, and/or  
4 b) Demand unreasonably large sums for the subsequent purchase of the freehold.
- 5 Conference is nevertheless very disappointed that this consultation may not help the millions of  
6 households already trapped in unfair leaseholds and who are or will be struggling to sell their  
7 homes, and demands that the Government also take urgent action to help these people who are  
8 always described as homeowners but under the eyes of the law are long-term tenants.
- 9 Conference calls on the Government to move to adopt the systems now used in Northern Ireland,  
10 Scotland and countries around the world with a system establishing a fixed formula for:
- 11 1. The freehold purchase of a house or block of flats;  
12 2. Maximum levels for increases in ground rent and a cost for their removal;
- 13 and then using these bases to replace unfair terms in sales contracts that have already been  
14 completed.
- 15 Conference welcomes the fact the government has finally moved Commonhold from the Justice  
16 Department to the Housing Department and hopes that this legislation will be reviewed so as to  
17 provide a far better alternative to our feudal leasehold system.

*Applicability: England and Wales.*

## Emergency motion 6: Opposing UK participation in Trump's re-escalation of the war in Afghanistan

*14 members*

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The current brutal war in Afghanistan, which has involved UK forces since it began, has been  
3 underway for almost 16 years.
- 4 ii) The US Department of Defence released data on 30th August 2017 showing that there are  
5 currently 11,000 US troops in the country, aided by 600 UK Armed Forces personnel.
- 6 iii) According to UN estimates, 2m people have been displaced since the US/UK-led invasion in  
7 2001, and more than 26,000 civilians have died, as a result of the war. More than 450 UK force  
8 personnel have died, and 7300 injured.
- 9 iv) The continuing peace talks between the Taliban and other parties, and the Afghan  
10 government, in Qatar, and the preparatory peace negotiations between the Taliban and  
11 Afghan senior intelligence officials, have made little formal progress due in part to weak  
12 support from international participants such as the UK and US.
- 13 v) Reversing his prior stated policy, President Trump announced a new Afghanistan strategy  
14 on 20th August 2017, vowing to 'fight to win' the war by committing more US troops, 4000  
15 initially, calling on NATO allies such as Britain to increase troop numbers in parallel; a strategy  
16 'welcomed' by the UK Secretary of State for Defence, with more UK military personnel to be  
17 sent, confirmed by officials.
- 18 vi) After 16 years of fighting, the Taliban and other insurgent and non-government forces now  
19 control a majority of the land area of country, as well as having bases across the unformalised  
20 border with Pakistan; thus the US-led escalation is very unlikely to have any positive effect on  
21 the peace process.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 22 vii) Major Chinese investments in Afghanistan, including copper mining and the announcement  
23 that China will build a road from China and Northern Afghanistan to Gwadar port in Pakistan,  
24 demonstrate that China is fast becoming the main geopolitical beneficiary of the war.
- 25 Conference believes:
- 26 a) This war cannot be won by military means, that a stalemate has been reached, and that the  
27 focus should now be on a peace agreement beneficial to the wider Afghan population.
- 28 b) The absence of an agreed Afghanistan–Pakistan border and existence of the lawless FATA in  
29 Pakistan across the border contribute to the perpetuation of the conflict.
- 30 c) The recent history does not justify the continued invocation of NATO Article 5 in relation to the  
31 new US re-escalation, and the UK should not accept new Article 5 obligations in Afghanistan in  
32 this context.
- 33 Conference calls on the British government:
- 34 1. Not to participate in the US-led re-escalation of the war, and instead to apply more focus on  
35 the peace negotiations and bringing the conflict finally to an end.
- 36 2. To focus on key necessary prerequisites for peace; including pressuring Pakistan and  
37 Afghanistan to ensure there is a border agreement and an enforced border, and pressuring  
38 the Pakistani Government to bring the Federally Administered Tribal Areas fully within the  
39 Pakistani constitution and thus establish the rule of law, as a necessary step towards closing  
40 Afghan insurgency bases.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Emergency motion 7: Recruitment and Retention of Teachers

*Ten members*

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) Deeply concerning figures published by UCAS which indicate that the number of graduates  
3 beginning teacher training courses has fallen 10 per cent this year, compared to 2016.
- 4 ii) That these figures indicate that recruitment for subjects including maths, physics, biology,  
5 computing, chemistry and English will fail to meet government targets.
- 6 iii) That this is part of longer term trends which show that teacher shortages across the country  
7 are growing and that almost a third of teachers leave the profession within five years of  
8 qualifying.
- 9 iv) That under the Government's current plans for public sector pay, teachers will see a real-  
10 terms pay cut of around £3,000 between 2015–16 and 2020–21.
- 11 v) Worrying reports about levels of teacher stress, which have found that 60 per cent of the  
12 teaching workforce say their job has impacted on their mental health, with one in ten taking  
13 anti-depressants.
- 14 Conference believes:
- 15 a) Teachers have been placed under inordinate and unsustainable pressure in recent years  
16 due to a combination of changes to the curriculum and assessment processes; and crippling  
17 school budget cuts.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 18 b) That it was wrong for the Government to retain the 1pc cap on teacher's pay rises in 2017–  
19 18 and that this has contributed to a growing feeling among teachers that they are being  
20 undervalued.
- 21 c) That if teachers are not made to feel that they are respected and valued for the work they do,  
22 then recruitment efforts will continue to suffer, and increasingly those in the profession will  
23 be forced out, leaving our schools worse off and reducing educational opportunities for young  
24 people.
- 25 Conference calls for:
- 26 1. Government to commission an urgent review to identify the factors leading to problems with  
27 teacher recruitment and retention rates.
- 28 2. The Government to reverse the decision to retain a 1pc cap on teacher pay rises, and for all  
29 teachers in state schools to be offered pay rises in line with inflation.
- 30 3. The Government to work with Ofsted to reform school inspection processes, ensuring they  
31 take account of teachers' workload and staff retention and recruitment rates, so that school  
32 leadership is incentivised to prioritise the wellbeing of their staff.
- 33 4. Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign in Parliament for a reversal of cuts to front-line  
34 school and college budgets, protecting per-pupil funding in real terms.
- 35 5. The introduction of a clear and properly funded entitlement to continued professional  
36 development for all teachers, to ensure people see opportunities to progress in their careers.
- 37 6. Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign for a new Royal College of Teachers to oversee the  
38 delivery of continued professional development as well as Qualified Teacher Status.
- 39 7. The Government to reassess how it carries out long-term planning of teacher training places,  
40 working in close partnerships with higher education and specialist routes such as Teach  
41 First in ensure the recruitment of high quality teachers in shortage areas such as science,  
42 technology, engineering, the arts and maths.

*Applicability: England only.*

## Emergency motion 8: UK Government treatment of disabled people

*29 members*

- 1 Conference notes that in August 2017 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons  
2 with Disabilities (UN CRPD) Committee found that the UK Government's cuts to social security  
3 and other support for deaf and disabled people had caused "a human catastrophe" which was  
4 "totally neglecting the vulnerable situation that people with disabilities find themselves in" and,  
5 taken with the UK Government's refusal to either recognise or implement the recommendations  
6 of the previous inquiry by the UN CRPD Committee in 2016, concluded that the Conservative  
7 Government had committed "grave, systematic violations of the rights of person with disabilities".
- 8 Conference further notes:
- 9 i) The House of Lords Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability report of March  
10 2016 made 55 recommendations for Government and other agencies, and concluded that  
11 Government and other agencies still regard deaf and disabled people as an afterthought,  
12 resulting in services (including transport, housing, access to the law, access to employment,  
13 physical access, training and work) that are not fit for purpose and do not give deaf and  
14 disabled people true independent living.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 15 ii) The United Kingdom Independent Mechanism (UKIM), covering all four of the UK Equality  
16 and Human Rights bodies, gave evidence to the UN in August 2017 that the government “has  
17 failed to realise the rights of disabled people, especially in relation to social security reforms,  
18 resulting in grave and systematic violations of the right to an adequate standard of living, right  
19 to social protection, right to independent living and right to work”.
- 20 iii) The UK Government has been repeatedly criticised for its treatment of people in secure  
21 mental health settings, including particular criticism over the use of violence and illicit use of  
22 taser guns on members of the African Caribbean community.
- 23 iv) Evidence of the inappropriate and dishonest assessment processes for PIP continuing  
24 to show that the system is target-driven and designed to penalise deaf and disabled,  
25 despite Government reassurances that Capita, ATOS and Maximus were running a fair and  
26 independent service for the Department of Work and Pensions.

27 Conference believes:

- 28 a) That deaf and disabled people in the UK are entitled to rights, as set out in the UN CRPD,  
29 and that the Conservative Government’s repeated refusal to act on the recommendations of  
30 the UN CRPD committee, the House of Lords Select Committee, the UKIM, and the extensive  
31 reports from Deaf and Disabled People’s Organisations (DDPOs) is illegal and shameful.
- 32 b) In a social model of disability, considering that people may have a condition or an impairment  
33 but are disabled by society, and we must therefore remove the barriers in society that limit  
34 deaf and disabled people’s opportunities and choices.

35 Conference resolves that a future Liberal Democrat government will incorporate the UN CRPD  
36 into UK law by strengthening the Equality Act in order to empower deaf and disabled people to  
37 confidently challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice, and will ensure deaf and disabled  
38 people a strong voice at the heart of government, inviting them to sit on the cross-government  
39 committee ‘nothing about you, without you’.

40 Conference calls for:

- 41 1. Liberal Democrats across the UK to fight for the rights of deaf and disabled people in every  
42 sphere of their lives, and hold Governments and agencies to account.
- 43 2. The UK Government urgently to review its policies, to take immediate steps to remedy those  
44 highlighted by the UN and the Lords Select Committee report as failing, and to report back  
45 within 12 months.

*Applicability: Federal.*



# Emergency motions ballot

Please vote by indicating your preferences in order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

	<i>Emergency motion</i>	<i>Preference</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Deterioration of Human Rights in Venezuela</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Implementation of Universal Credit</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>International Students</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Leasehold Scandal</b>	
<b>5</b>	<i>Motion withdrawn</i>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Opposing UK participation in Trump's re-escalation of the war in Afghanistan</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Recruitment and Retention of Teachers</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>UK Government treatment of disabled people</b>	

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium in the BIC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 16 September.

Please note that you will need to show your voting member's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.