



CONSTITUTION OF THE
**SCOTTISH
SOCIALIST
YOUTH**

I. CONTENTS

1. IDENTITY

2. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

2.1. OUR SIX PRINCIPLES

- 2.1.1. 21st Century Scottish Socialism
- 2.1.2. Independence
- 2.1.3. Social Liberation
- 2.1.4. Democracy
- 2.1.5. Internationalism
- 2.1.6. Environmentalism

2.2. OUR FOUR AIMS

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. CONDITIONS

3.2. STAGES

- 3.2.1. Organiser Membership
- 3.2.2. Standard Membership
- 3.2.3. Associated Membership

3.3. CONTRIBUTIONS

4. ORGANISATION

4.1. SSY NATIONAL

4.2. LEADERSHIP

4.3. GROUPS

- 4.3.1. Working Groups
- 4.3.2. Affiliated Groups

4.4. NETWORK

5. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

6. MEMBERS' DEMOCRACY

6.1. NATIONAL MEETINGS

6.2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

6.3. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

6.4. NATCOM NOMINATIONS

6.5. HUSTINGS

6.6. ELECTIONS AND ONLINE BALLOTS

7. CAMPAIGNING

8. POLICIES

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. THE MEDIA GROUP

10. INCLUSION AND FAIRNESS

11. ACCOUNTABILITY

12. FINANCES

12.1. STAFF

13. AFFILIATIONS

14. CONSTITUTION OF THE SSY

THIS VERSION (1.1) WAS AGREED ON 25.1.25

1. IDENTITY

- The Scottish Socialist Youth (SSY) is a network of socialist youth groups, democratically organised and led by young people from the ages of 14 to 30.
- The logo of the SSY is as follows:



- The primary colour palette of the SSY is:
 - Logo/socialism red (#E43131)
 - Logo tangerine (#FF5733)
 - Independence blue (#4EC4D9)
 - Social liberation purple (#93648D)
 - Democracy grey (#404040)
 - Internationalist yellow (#FFC65F)
 - Environmentalist green (#7BC8A4)
- The SSY currently has no dedicated font or typeset.
- The web address of the SSY website is www.scottishsocialistyouth.net. Its alternative domain is www.ssy.scot.
- The social media tags of the SSY are:
 - Instagram – @SSYnational
 - Twitter (X) – @SSYnational
 - TikTok – @SSYnational

2. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

2.1. OUR SIX PRINCIPLES

2.1.1. 21st CENTURY SCOTTISH SOCIALISM

The SSY affirms that poverty and systemic inequality are intended features of capitalism. Short of a complete change of system, all solutions to poverty and inequality presented by the parties of neoliberal Scotland will only further impoverish our fellow people, in Scotland and beyond. To bring justice and prosperity to the world, a new system is required. One where wealth and power are distributed fairly throughout society, and where the primary outputs of economic activity serve social and environmental purposes. This system is socialism.

To truly transform Scotland, the SSY calls for the abolition of the capitalist system. This involves: overthrowing the capitalist state and its institutions; the capitalist model of economic development; and the capitalist model of democracy — building socialist alternatives in their place.

While the inspiration for the SSY's socialist vision is arguably rooted in the 19th century, the SSY champions its own ideology for creating a socialist system firmly grounded in the 21st century. As an organisation, we do not mimic a brand of socialism belonging to any historic individual, movement or country. Our manifesto for socialism is the theories, ideas, campaigns and policies championed by the movement for a Socialist Scottish Republic today.

For this reason, the exact socialist ideology of the SSY can be described as "21st Century Scottish Socialism". Underpinning this unique perspective, the organisation commits to five other core principles.

2.1.2. INDEPENDENCE

The British state has proven itself time and time again as an enemy of democracy in Scotland and an opponent of working-class interests. With independence we could forge a new path for Scotland, establishing a constitutional republic with a genuine democratic system.

The SSY condemns rhetoric that Scotland is a colony of the British Empire. Instead, we understand Scotland until now to have been a loyal servant in union. Our vision of independence is therefore not a cause fought by one country against another, but by a radical movement against all forces loyal to empire.

We participate in the independence movement with honesty and integrity; however we also voice our criticisms of pro-independence centrism. Independence that does not fundamentally transform Scotland will only be independence in name. We demand separation not just from the British national identity, but also from its economy, its financial institutions, its foreign policy agenda and its guiding imperialist ideology.

Our Scotland would work with anti-colonial countries and governments from around the world to dismantle the legacy of the empire and rebuild a better world for all. Our vision of independence is therefore radical-left, transformative and internationalist.

2.1.3. SOCIAL LIBERATION

Alongside the fight to dismantle capitalism, the SSY is dedicated to overthrowing the social structures that underpin capitalism such as racism and the patriarchy. While women, people of colour (POC), queer and disabled people's oppression does not begin and end with capitalism it is undeniably a significant part of it.

We seek to understand, explore and expose the ways in which capitalism is inherently connected to the patriarchy, white supremacy, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism. In doing so we will forge a socialism suited to all people, not just the few who hold the most social power.

Our view of socialism is inherently feminist and intersectional; we aim to reflect this in our policies and practice. We want to create and maintain a space where women, queer people, people of colour, disabled people and those occupying multiple intersections of these identities feel valued and respected. In our Scotland, society will be free from social oppressors, and we invite all people who agree with us to join our struggle for social liberation.

2.1.4. DEMOCRACY

While citizens of Scotland are fortunate to have democratic freedoms such as the right to organise freely and contest elections, the SSY rejects the notion that we live in a democratic country.

Within our capitalist system, the media is often manipulated to suit the agendas of power. When we have the right to cast votes, we compete against the silent corporate lobbyists and backdoor business deals taking place behind the closed doors of Westminster and Holyrood. Knowledge is gate-kept by profit-making publishers and education is stratified by class. Excluding ordinary people from positions of power is central to the “democratic” system in neoliberal Scotland and the proportion of privately educated and upper-class members of parliament is evidence of this.

Under these conditions, democracy cannot flourish. But the SSY rejects the nihilism of people who believe we’re simply stuck with “the best of a bad bunch”. We are fighting for a socialist democracy that gives us popular control of our national parliament, of our communities and within our workplaces. In short, democracy in our politics, our society and our economy.

2.1.5. INTERNATIONALISM

Scotland continues to benefit from the industry, knowledge and financial assets accrued during our time at the centre of a global empire. We are fortunate to have relative economic security and the freedom to organise politically, largely as a result

of the externalisation of oppression and exploitation from our country to the Global South.

While our political programme aspires for radical Scottish sovereignty, we ultimately recognise our fellowship with all the workers and peoples of the world.

To create a better world, we therefore believe that socialist development within Scotland cannot be separated from the liberation of the Global South. Our position was built and is maintained through a system of global exploitation, a system we must oppose globally.

We aim to build strong ties with anti-colonial and socialist movements throughout the Global South, fiercely opposing imperialist wars and encouraging Scotland to champion a model of redistributive global economy.

2.1.6. ENVIRONMENTALISM

Throughout much of humanity's short time on Earth we have been altering the environment around us for both common needs and individual greed. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution our ability to affect the ecological systems underpinning our world has grown to a terrifying degree. Vibrant ecology is destroyed to be replaced by barren monocultures, elemental and energy cycles break down, and climate change threatens to end what could be the only experiment in sentient life in our universe.

The SSY recognises that the tendency of accumulation under capitalism is the key driver of both modern ecological destruction and the failure of capitalist governments to make any major effort to prevent it. We also recognise the historic failures of past socialist movements to adequately consider ecological issues especially when in government.

We call for the restructuring of Scotland's economy to minimise its harm to global ecosystems, to reduce the size of unnecessary industries to be economical with our

resources, and to stand in solidarity with environmental movements across the world against the capitalist class which would drown the world to keep shareholders happy.

The struggle for environmental and social justice are inseparable. There can be no socialism on a dead world.

2.2. OUR FOUR AIMS

- To build a democratic, autonomous socialist youth organisation with the vision of founding and participating in a revived movement for a Socialist Scottish Republic.
- To show young people their power through developing, leading and participating in winnable socialist campaigns within communities across the country.
- To develop a vibrant and dynamic educational programme for 21st Century Scottish Socialism, encouraging our peers to understand the system they live in and the ideas which we use to liberate ourselves.
- To commit unwavering, intersectional solidarity to exploited and oppressed peoples by challenging attacks on the working-class, smashing the remnants of British Empire and denying the emergence of neo-fascist movements.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. CONDITIONS

- A member of the SSY is somebody who...
 - Agrees to abide by the six principles and four aims of the SSY, its constitution and its **Members' Policy**;
 - Is aged from 14 to 30 inclusively;
 - Pays a monthly membership contribution to the SSY (if they can);
 - Lives in Scotland at the time of their application;
 - Does not serve under His Majesty's Armed Forces or under any police or prison service.
- The following exceptions may be applied...
 - Organiser members (**see 3.2.1**) may suspend their membership dues if they do not have the means to pay – resuming their membership payment when they are able to;
 - Associated members (**see 3.2.3**) must follow the same rules as other members, however are bound to the age and contribution conditions decided by their group;
 - At the discretion of the Membership Secretary, people living outwith Scotland may apply for membership.

3.2. STAGES

- The SSY recognises three stages of membership – organiser, standard and associated – to accommodate the varying balance of time and energy that members can commit.
- All members have the following responsibilities...
 - To make informed voting decisions in their respective groups meetings and stay up to date with relevant political issues;
 - To participate with the SSY's core principles and aims at heart, casting aside personal gain and sectarianism;
 - To avoid unreasonably disrupting the activities of any group, campaign or committee by participating in bad faith.

3.2.1. Organiser membership

- Organiser membership is for young socialists who are seeking an active involvement in the SSY. These members participate in campaigns and plan the future of the SSY.
- These members may...
 - Propose motions at National Meetings and Conferences;
 - Vote in online ballots over urgent strategic and political decisions of the SSY;
 - Vote and stand in committee elections;
 - Access members-only digital activist infrastructure;
 - Access members' resources;
 - Start their own SSY groups;
- These members also inherit the rights of standard and associated members (see 3.2.3 and 3.2.3.)

3.2.2. Standard membership

- Standard members are SSY members who presently do not participate in political organising.
- These members may...
 - Participate and vote at National Meetings and Conferences;
 - Receive invites to represent the SSY and its ideas at actions and demos;
 - Receive invites to and attend social and cultural events organised by SSY National.

3.2.3. Associated membership

- Associated members are young socialists who participate in an SSY affiliated group at a school, college or university, but who do not wish to pursue membership of SSY National.

- These members may...
 - Participate in an SSY affiliated group;
 - Receive invites to represent the SSY and its ideas at actions and demos;
 - Attend National Meetings as an observer.

3.3. CONTRIBUTIONS

- To finance the activities of the SSY, every member contributes a monthly membership subscription, paying what they can.
- The suggested rates are:
 - Under 18s and the unwaged – £2/month
 - Students, part-time workers and graduates – £5/month
 - Full-time workers – £10/month
- The minimum membership rate that any member may set is £1/month and contributions may be adjusted at any time.
- Members who cannot afford to pay a membership contribution should be exempt until they become able to.

4. ORGANISATION

4.1. SSY NATIONAL

- The SSY National Group – known as SSY National or simply “the national” – is the central collaboration hub between SSY organisers across the country. Its prime directive is to fulfil the main aims of the SSY by facilitating the exchange of skills, knowledge and resources among its members.

4.2. LEADERSHIP

- The strategic direction of the SSY is democratically decided by its members at meetings and through online ballots.
- The SSY is coordinated and led by a National Committee who are elected each year by Organisers.

4.3. GROUPS

- The SSY is organised as a network of grassroots committees, teams, campaigns and activist groups. These are collectively referred to as “Groups”.
- Groups may either be incorporated within SSY National or affiliated to it.

4.3.1. Working groups

- Working groups are informally organised groups convened for a specific purpose or goal.
- Working groups may coordinate SSY participation in events and affiliated campaigns, or act as precursors to the creation of more formally organised groups (i.e. a local group).

4.3.2. Affiliated groups

- Participation in affiliated groups, which are based primarily in schools, colleges and universities, does not require membership of SSY National.
- All groups with any affiliation to the SSY must follow its six principles and agreed policies.

4.4. NETWORK

- Non-members who exist in the network of people who support the SSY should be invited to participate in public activities.
- Any person or organisation wishing to participate in the SSY's spaces must agree to the principles of fairness and respect outlined in the [Members' Policy](#).

5. THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- The role of the National Committee – known as the NatCom – is to make executive decisions to further the SSY's strategic objectives and enact motions decided by the membership. The National Committee is therefore the leadership of the SSY.
- The National Committee should aim to meet in each month between SSY National Meetings.
- Wherever possible, urgent questions of strategy or policy which do not fall under any pre-agreed position should be consulted with the membership.
- All members should have the opportunity to attend meetings as observers. Observers may, at the discretion of the Chairperson, request further clarification or add points of information.
- **The National Committee each year should be made up of seven members with portfolio...**
 - **National Chairperson** – the leader of the SSY and the director of SSY National Meetings.
 - **National Secretary** – the deputy leader of the SSY, director of communications and network administrative duties.
 - **National Membership Secretary** – the guardian of membership records, recruitment and disciplinaries.
 - **National Events Secretary** – the steward of the SSY's presence at events and the organiser of inclusive members' social and cultural occasions.

- **National Treasurer** – the custodian of SSY finances, fundraising and purchases.
- **National Social Media Coordinator** – the manager of the SSY's social media accounts across all platforms.
- **National Content Editor** – the director of web content and overseer of media projects.
- **Up to 8 Regional Representatives may also be elected...**
 - **Regional Representatives (x8)** – serve as a liaison between the National Committee and branches in their parliamentary region.
 - Regional Representatives may be directed to support the work of another NatCom member by taking on an officer role (e.g. **Social Media Officer, Fundraising Officer**) that is best suited to that member's abilities and availability, and the priorities of the committee.
 - Each local branch may nominate one candidate to be their Regional Representative. All Regional Representatives will be elected with the rest of the NatCom after National Conference and will also participate in hustings.
- Each National Committee position should be elected once annually through online ballot and may be held for a maximum of two years consecutively.
- A member may only serve on the NatCom for four years consecutively.
- The National Committee should be elected after the SSY's National Conference in January.

- Every National Committee vote should be preceded by hustings at which candidates may make their case.
- If a National Committee position becomes vacant, it should be re-elected as soon as practical.

6. MEMBERS' DEMOCRACY

6.1. NATIONAL MEETINGS

- Members from across the country should convene several times each year at National Meetings to decide upon the tactics and ideas of the SSY between National Conferences.
- These National Meetings should maximise participation of members from a wide range of geographies either by taking place online or with a facilitated online joining option.
- At each National Meeting, motions should be accepted from individuals, groups and the National Committee. The National Secretary shall decide the order of business in the first instance, giving motions submitted by formally constituted groups (including the NatCom) priority over individually submitted motions.

6.2. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

- The SSY membership should convene in January for an annual National Conference to agree upon strategy, strengthen members' networks and decide upon new leadership.
- Every National Conference should include a social segment intended for team-building and development.
- Hustings for the next National Committee should take place at each National Conference ([see 6.4](#)).
- Every reasonable effort should be made to make Conference accessible to everyone.

6.3. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

- Any member or formally constituted group may submit written motions or amendments at each National Meeting or Conference, suggesting a policy or action that the SSY should commit itself to.
- Members and groups are welcome to submit multiple motions or amendments. However, the agenda will prioritise diversity of contributions by placing less emphasis on additional motions from the same individual. Furthermore, the time allocated for ratifying motions will be limited.
- All motions must follow the established format, be evidence-based and respect the SSY's aims, principles and constitution.
- At each National Conference:
 - Amendments may be made to previously passed motions;
 - Motions which were voted down at previous National Meetings may be re-raised;
 - And every three years, a group convened by the National Chairperson will be tasked with reviewing old policy and may submit a set of recommended amendments as a single motion. Members of this group will be invited based on specialist knowledge relevant to the policies under review.
- The SSY should never commit uncritical support to any political movement, country or ideology, and any motion concerning foreign policy matters must be made relevant to Scotland.
- Affiliated groups may present motions, however all members voting on the motion at the group's meeting must also be members of SSY National.

6.4. NATCOM NOMINATIONS

- In the month and a half before National Conference, nominations should be opened. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by other SSY members.
- All members nominated must have been Organisers for at least three months.
- National Committee candidates will be invited to submit a nomination statement which will be circulated to members ahead of National Conference and the NatCom elections.

6.5. HUSTINGS

- Candidates should receive set questions in advance of Conference, giving them time to prepare brief answers for each. Time should also be made for questions from the floor.
- Candidates who cannot appear at Conference (physically or virtually) may submit a recording of their response to the three pre-decided questions.
- Every reasonable effort should be made to increase access to the hustings, such as providing a live viewing link to members who are not present.

6.6. ELECTIONS AND ONLINE BALLOTS

- Elections and online ballots take place through the SSY's digital voting platform, Commune.
- Single Transferrable Voting (STV) should be the voting system, used where possible.
- Every candidate has the right to fair elections, and each member has the right to anonymity when voting.

7. CAMPAIGNING

- SSY members should build, lead and participate in campaigns which engage young people at both a national and local level.
- While the formation of campaigning coalitions with external groups is encouraged, members should never bring the SSY into disrepute by attempting to co-opt or disrupt them.
- Any campaign must be accountable to the membership, be realistic with its aims and objectives, and respect the principles and policies of the SSY.
- The SSY should support and platform external campaigns which complement our aims, principle or policies in line with the rules of affiliations [\(see 13\)](#). Additionally, members should avoid duplicating the efforts of other friendly organisations where possible.

8. POLICIES

- Through motions submitted by members and groups, the SSY shall agree policies which guide its vision of a Socialist Scottish Republic. This policy platform should be advertised on the SSY website, media content and other publicity.
- The SSY should advocate for its policies through its platforms in affiliated groups, organisations and campaigns.
- SSY policies should serve as an addition, not a replacement, to the six principles and four aims of the organisation.

- All policies must be feasible, evidence-based and grounded in Scotland's present day.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- Members are free to adopt a variety of perspectives on socialist politics, policy or history, and are encouraged to respectfully share their ideas with each other.
- When representing the SSY in an official capacity, members must leave no doubts around the agreed line of the organisation.
- Members posting on behalf of SSY National should follow the style and tone agreed by the organisation.

9.1. THE MEDIA GROUP

- The group should be led by the National Social Media Coordinator and the National Content Editor.
- The group should also be supported by the work of the Web Admin appointed by the National Committee based on their website design and development abilities.
- Membership of the Media Group should be open to all members of SSY National until it is decided that the number of members is no longer practical. Afterwards, participants should be appointed by the Coordinator and Editor.
- All members should be able to pitch their ideas for social media content.
- The only people with access to all social media accounts should be the National Social Media Coordinator, the National Content Editor and the Web Admin.

- The Media Group should aim to hold meetings at least once every two months, led by the National Social Media Coordinator and the National Content Editor.
- It should be the responsibility of the National Social Media Coordinator and the National Content Editor to ensure that media content adheres to the aims, principles, policies and agreed style of the SSY.
- The security of SSY social media accounts is the responsibility of the Social Media Coordinator and the National Content Editor. Passwords should be changed at least once a month and circulated to appointed social media officers as appropriate.

10. INCLUSION AND FAIRNESS

- All members must follow the rules of the [Members' Policy](#) to guarantee an inclusive and fair environment for participation.
- Every reasonable effort should be made to make SSY activities accessible to everyone.

11. ACCOUNTABILITY

- All committee members are required to make themselves accountable to the membership at all times. To ensure members are empowered to enforce this, the following provisions should be made:
 - At each general meeting (National Meeting in the case of the NatCom), committee members should include a brief update on their activities.
 - Members should have the right to question office bearers and request reasonable information from them at general meetings (National Meetings in the case of the NatCom).
 - Where members disagree with a committee member decision and are not satisfied after speaking with the individual – whether from the National Committee or their respective group – they should be able to challenge this decision with a motion.
 - Any committee member may be recalled by a vote of no confidence, triggered by a written petition signed by ten organisers or 10% of the organiser membership (whichever is the greater number).
 - Any vote of no confidence must be considered by organisers via online ballot and achieve a simple majority.
 - Committee members who miss three consecutive meetings or fail to attend any meetings for two months (whichever period is longer) may be deemed to have resigned from their position, pending the rest of the committee's discretion or a vote by members at the next general meeting.

- Records of decisions made at meetings should be available to organisers in the form of minutes and time should be allocated at each meeting for any member to call into question the work of committee members.
- Members who do not respect the rules of the constitution, the Members' Policy or any other agreed principles or policies may face proportionate penalties, including disciplinary action ([see the Members' Policy for more details](#)).

12. FINANCES

- Members should all practice financial stewardship of SSY funds and help to raise money for the growth and development of the organisation.
- All financial activities within the SSY should be open and accountable, with all purchases and reimbursements recorded by receipt.
- Members are entitled to reports at each National Meeting which describe the financial situation of the organisation and dedicate a space for input in how funds are spent.
- The National Treasurer shall allocate the monthly revenue generated from member contributions to the following funds:
 - Room bookings;
 - Web fees;
 - Travel reimbursements;
 - Group funding;
 - Campaign resourcing;
 - And reserves.

- Groups and national campaigns should have the right to make appeals for funding to the National Treasurer.

12.1. STAFF

- The SSY does not have any waged/salaried workers at this time.
- The SSY may hire the services of individuals on a freelance basis, provided the budget exists to do so.

13. AFFILIATIONS

- The SSY may establish formal affiliations with any organisation that...
 - Shares key principles with the SSY;
 - Shares the SSY's commitment to fairness and respect;
 - Does not unreasonably lower the reputation of the SSY;
 - Does not exist as a political rival of the SSY;
 - Does not otherwise damage the SSY's status as an independent political organisation.

14. CONSTITUTION OF THE SSY

- This constitution holds the highest authority in the SSY and may only be overruled at the discretion of the National Chairperson and a simple majority at a National Meeting, Conference or online ballot (66%).
- Changes to this constitution may be presented at any National Conference and voted upon through online ballot.