

**THE CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY – UK**

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## **1. Name and status**

The name of the organisation shall be the People's National Party –UK (PNP UK).

The Status is an overseas affiliate of the Peoples National Party of Jamaica.

## **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the People's National Party-UK shall be:

- 2.1 To work with the Peoples National Party in Jamaica and to exercise the responsibility of the works of an affiliate.
- 2.2 To make representation of political issues and policy decisions by the party when in government and in opposition. This will include contributing to debates on national and economic policy based on the principles of Democratic Socialism.
- 2.3 To promote political education consistent with the People National Party Policies.
- 2.4 To support party nominations for election to the House of Representatives and to Parish Councils and Municipal bodies.
- 2.5 To engage in independent and collaborative lobbying to promote and defend the status of Jamaica as an independent nation.
- 2.6 To promote and provide philanthropic activities and social enterprises.

## **3.0 Inter-Commonwealth**

- 3.1 To represent the Peoples National Party at events of other international bodies promoting the principles of the Peoples National Party.
- 3.2 To represent the Caribbean region for the promotion of a higher standard of social and economic life for the population of the respective countries of the region as a whole.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **4.0 Application for membership**

- 4.1 Membership shall be open to all persons above the age of eighteen who are Jamaican citizens, or descendants of Jamaicans who(m) agree to conform to the constitution, rules, and the payment of annual membership fees.
- 4.2 Non subscribing members will be considered for membership by The Executive.
- 4.3 Rights and privileges of membership includes attendance at meetings, voting, participation in debates, attendance at PNP events, and the holding of office.

## **5.0 Subscription to Party Headquarters**

5.1 Affiliation fee/subscription shall be decided according to discussions between PNP UK and PNP party headquarters in Jamaica.

## **6.0 Annual General Meeting**

6.1 The PNP UK Annual General meeting shall be held annually in the last Saturday of March of each year, or within 3 months of this date.

6.2 Under unusual and extraordinary circumstances the Annual General Meeting may be rescheduled to a date and time agreed by committee members of PNP UK but no more than one calendar year after the due date.

6.3 The Executive Committee shall inform the Membership of the date and location of the AGM with no less than 30 days notice.

6.4 The business of the AGM is to conduct the following:

- Receive Chairs report for the year.
- Receive a report from the treasurer on the state of PNP UK finances.
- Receive reports from other Executive Committee officers important to the conduct, organisational health, and status of PNP UK, to be decided.
- Conduct elections for officers of PNP UK that shall form the Executive Committee to manage the day to day affairs of PNP UK.
- Receive presentations on political topics/education from learned person(s) to be decided.
- Give the executive opportunity to inform members of the future prospects and plans for PNP UK.
- Receive and deal with resolutions provided to the Executive Committee no later than 14 days prior to the announced date of the AGM.

6.5 The business of the AGM may be held in public at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

6.6 Officers of the PNP UK shall be elected from fully paid up members who are nominated and seconded by fully paid up PNP UK party members.

6.7 Officers to be elected at the AGM elected shall include:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson (optional)
- General Secretary
- Treasurer
- Political Education and Information Officer
- Media Officer

- General Activities Officer (optional)
  - Representative(s) to The National Executive Council – Jamaica
- 6.8 The Executive Committee may co-opt individuals or a voluntary or paid basis onto the Executive Committee, if they possess specific skills/qualifications required by the Executive Committee. Such persons would not have voting rights (unless specific circumstances exist – see below), and would serve for a limited period (maximum 1 year) before standing down, with a full review, and report of their work.
- 6.9 Members conferred with the honorary title “Life Member” (see Section 12 below) for outstanding services to PNP UK can serve as advisor to the Executive Committee (without executive decision making or voting rights), and attend Executive Meetings.

## **7.0 Term of Service**

- 7.1 Each officer shall serve for a term of no more than 3 years, at the end of which they will step down from their position.
- 7.2 Should an officer wish to resign their position prior to the official end of their 3 year term they may do so by providing their resignation in writing, and providing 1 month notice.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee may inform the Membership of the convening of an Extraordinary Meeting to elect an officer to replace the vacated office following a resignation. Alternatively if the office is made vacant within a year of due elections, the Executive Committee may co-opt an individual to serve with voting rights for this remaining period of time.
- 7.4 Officers wishing to stand for office shall inform the Executive Committee providing a minimum of 14 days notice with nominations and at least one seconder.

## **8.0 Extraordinary and Emergency General Meeting**

- 8.1 An extraordinary or emergency General Meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee, and every reasonable effort made to inform the General Membership of the date, time and reason for the meeting.
- 8.2 No less than 7 days notice period must be given for any extraordinary or emergency meeting.

## **9.0 Operational activities of the Executive Committee**

It is the job of the Executive Committee to manage the day to day operations and

affairs of PNP UK, and to report these to the General Membership at the appropriate time. Key tasks include:

- Approval and nomination of delegates to PNP National Conference in Jamaica.
- Sending reports to the PNP National Conference in Jamaica.
- Determining, and arranging the payment of subscription fees to PNP headquarters in Jamaica.
- Devising, drafting, and sending resolutions/motions to the PNP UK AGM and to PNP National Conference in Jamaica.
- Undertake representational activities for the PNP in Jamaica.
- Conduct disciplinary hearing.
- Undertake all other tasks for the good management and status of PNP UK.
- To support and carry out community and charitable activities to improve social, economic, health, sport and cultural wellbeing in Jamaica.

#### **10. Regularity of Executive Committee Meetings and attendance**

- 10.1 The Executive Committee shall meet as determined by the Chair Person and General Secretary but at least quarterly/4 times per year. One meeting will be dedicated to the preparation and approval of PNP UK reports and AGM agenda.
- 10.2 Should an officer attend less than 50% of meetings without good cause, or provision of activity reports, that officer will be sent a letter with the opportunity to resign the office, should no response be received, the Executive Committee will enact the resignation.
- 10.3 Executive Committee Meetings shall be led by the Chair, and decisions made by a show of hands, with the Chair holding an original vote, and the casting vote on split decisions.
- 10.4 The Executive Committee may also establish sub-committees chaired by Executive Committee Members, and these to report their work and recommendations/proposals to the Executive Committee for final decision and sign-off as an action/policy/agreement.
- 10.5 A meeting shall be considered quorate, and therefore able to make decisions providing 33% or more of the voting membership are in attendance (this includes phone, and tele-video attendance).

#### **11.0 Regularity of General Membership Meetings, and attendance**

- 11.1 The PNP UK General Party Membership shall meet at least 4 time per year, these meetings may be held in conjunction with the Executive Committee with the

agreement of the Executive Committee.

11.2 Only fully paid up members shall be invited and allowed to attend, and contribute at General Membership Meetings.

11.3 The exception to 11.2 are guests that are invited in advance and confirmed by the Executive Committee.

## **12.0 Conduct and behaviour**

12.1 Members will always conduct their behaviour, and communications with respect for one another other. Reports of misconduct will be investigated by the Executive Committee and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

12.2 Item 12.2 above extends to abusive behaviour between members, or towards a member online and on social media, such behaviour will be investigated by the Executive Committee and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

12.3 Any conduct by members online or on social media that may bring PNP UK into disrepute will be investigated by the Executive Committee and may lead to disciplinary procedures.

## **13.0 Life membership**

13.1 Life Membership shall be awarded to persons who have a proven minimum of twenty (20) years active membership and who are deemed to have given long and outstanding service.

13.2 Life members may be requested to become ex Officio Executive Committee members.

## **14.0 Reserve powers**

14.1 The Executive Committee shall interpret matters that are not explicitly stated in this constitution reasonably and in the best interests of PNP UK, and the Party in Jamaica.

## **15.0 Discipline**

15.1 The Committee may inquire into the conduct of a PNP UK member and suspend or expel any member for conduct that contravenes the best interest of party programmes, governance, policies or principles of the PNP.

15.2 Any member suspended or expelled shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Committee, and this appeal will be reviewed by a group specifically established to investigate the matter.

15.3 At any meeting, the Chair of the meeting may suspend and/or exclude from the

meeting any member who is insubordinate, improperly conducts himself/herself, or is in breach of the rules of membership. A member so dealt with may be reinstated upon tendering an apology, plus any other remedial actions which are acceptable to the Chair of the meeting. If those apologies and remedial actions are not forthcoming the member will remain suspended and considered for further disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.

## **16.0 Chairperson's Vote**

16.1 On all committees, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as an original vote.

## **17.0 Resolutions procedures**

17.1 Resolutions to the Annual General Meeting and Party Conference in Jamaica must be submitted to the committee and approved before submission to either AGM or Party conference.

17.2 Resolutions, and proposals for constitutional amendments must be submitted with a named proposer and seconder. These matters shall reach the General Secretary not later than 21 days before the meeting unless they are to be received from the floor.

## **18.0 Alteration of rules, and amendments to Constitution**

18.1 Any proposals to the amendment or alteration of rules to this constitution will be received by the Executive Committee for consideration, and presentation at the AGM, or at an Extraordinary or Emergency Meeting convened for this purpose.

18.2 Decisions will be taken following a majority vote on the proposed changes.

## **19.0 Standing Orders to PNP UK AGMs**

19.1 The following Standing Orders apply to all AGMs of PNP UK and include the following:

- Quorum of paid up members.
- Presentation of Agenda.
- Recording and reading of minutes, including record of actions.
- Presentations of resolutions which must be proposed and seconded.
- Acknowledgement of amendments to resolutions or constitution.
- Appointment of returning officer to conduct elections.
- Acknowledgements of points order and points of information.

- Acknowledgement of the Status of the Chair and other officer holders of the party.
- Giving and receiving of Chair's report.
- Giving and receiving of financial report.
- Giving and receiving of other officers' reports.

## **20.0 Standing Orders of Executive Committee Members**

20.1 The following provides the agenda for the AGM

- **1. Quorum**
- 1.1 A quorate of the Annual General meeting shall be a third of all financial members.
- 1.2 A Quorum must be present throughout the life of the meeting, to make the business transacted legitimate.
- **2. Finance**
- 2.1 All monies belonging to the PNP-UK shall be under the responsibility, management, monitoring, and reporting of the elected Treasurer.
- 2.2 Signatories to the National Executive Accounts shall be any two of the following:
  - Treasurer and/or;
  - Chairperson and/or
  - General Secretary and/or;
  - Vice Chairperson.