

Matteo Tiratelli, Momentum Youth & Students London Chair

When I joined Momentum last year I was excited at the prospect of a modern and open group which could reinvigorate grassroots politics in this country. But I'm really worried that we're heading down a totally different road. Part of it is the way this decision about delegates has been made.

I didn't even know that Momentum had a National Committee until a few weeks ago. I'm sure lots of members are still unsure what it is or how we are supposedly represented on it. But the other part is that there's no need for Momentum to have hierarchical, representative structures.

Face-to-face local groups are essential for getting people involved in local politics but those groups need the freedom to campaign without wasting time and energy in internal elections and factionalism and without being constrained by policy decisions made by higher structures.

That leaves space for us to use online tools in a way which supplements these local group meetings. And this would be transformative for those with disabilities, caring responsibilities or irregular work who can't make regular Tuesday night meetings.

That's exactly what was inspiring about Momentum. Bringing in people who have never been involved in politics before. Momentum should be sticking to those values and trying to build on that excitement. Because we need to be ready for 2017, not stuck fighting out old battles.

Jack Witek

The last thing I wanted to be doing this Christmas was concerning myself with factional leftwing politics inside Momentum. But alas, it's 2016, of course it wouldn't be so easy, and I'm concerned about the direction the organisation or movement could be heading in under the delegate system.

To me it just seems a huge waste of time and energy, putting attention to creating a structure which would operate like a shadow Labour Party. Worrying about internal elections, lobbying delegates, debates on motions, interminable meetings and conferences, personality politics and factional maneuvering, inward focusing. There's not much room for any of that in my life, and certainly not if you want a populist leftwing politics currently. That is not the spirit that drew me to Momentum.

Right now it is imperative we focus on building up Labour, and Momentum is uniquely positioned to facilitate that. That's where we should be focused, with Momentum fluidly and democratically facilitating action and connectivity, not naval gazing and having arguments with itself.

Ali Dogan

I believe Momentum should primarily be driven by local groups and the wider membership. This is the essence of The New Politics and the grassroots resurgence and mass political participation Momentum wants to be a catalyst for.

Our local group in Hackney is effective and enthusiastic, a good example of what Momentum should be. A mixed bag of experienced hands and new blood, working hard to push Jeremy Corbyn's agenda to the mainstream through local campaigns, but also effectively trying to organise in the Labour Party to make it more democratic and representative of the membership, whilst at the same time building bridges with members of differing views and fulfilling our obligations to our local constituency parties by taking part in getting out the vote and canvassing for no less than 7 elections locally this year.

We as a local group think it is problematic that a group of delegates to the National Committee, selected without clear and transparent structures and processes in place, want to set the agenda for Momentum going forward, even a serious compromise of the aims and objectives of Momentum that we have comrades, [EMPHASISE] who's best intentions we don't doubt [/EMPHASISE], are oblivious enough to think it is okay that they as a self selecting minority before even membership was formalised should or had the right to set

up structures without a wider debate. To bring about motions that attempt to mould the direction of travel for Momentum when some of our most enthusiastic members locally wouldn't even know what a motion really was or how it worked. (Who has even decided Momentum should even have motions?) Especially ones that try to set up structures, policy stances and executive powers.

That a group of experienced delegates are using their knowledge of existing left structures to push Momentum in a particular direction without even pausing to think about the pluralistic and grassroots nature of Momentum or the varying opinions and political experience levels of the wider membership, is a line that shouldn't be crossed.