



WORKING FOR SCOTLAND

**CONFERENCE
AUTUMN 2020**

23rd - 25th October



Welcome to Edinburgh

A very warm welcome to this year's Conference

We would have loved you to have been here with us in Edinburgh this weekend – exploring our incredible city parks, enjoying our well-established cycle networks and perhaps even spotting the odd otter in Holyrood Park or the Water of Leith.

Edinburgh was recently recognised as one of the top five “green” cities in Europe by *National Geographic* - testament

to the relentless work of our eight councillors, two MSPs, and many members and activists.

There is strong support for the Greens across Edinburgh and West Lothian and we were proud of our performance in the 2019 General Election, standing candidates in every local constituency, including Claire Miller in Edinburgh East who returned the highest vote share for the Greens in Scotland.

Our young Green Group were also delighted to host the Somali-British activist, the former Lord Mayor of Sheffield and (at that

time) Green MEP Magid Magid to Edinburgh in February to inspire and engage the local community in Green politics.

While responding to a global pandemic was not on the agenda when we met at Conference last year, pressing the Scottish Government on its response to the crisis and on developing a sustainable green recovery has become the priority for our local MSPs Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman. Our councillors were also quick to respond, publishing a new report on a Green recovery for Edinburgh in May.

In the midst of two global emergencies – the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change – and with two local council by-elections and Holyrood 2021 ahead, the urgency with which we meet at Conference feels more pressing than ever. Whilst we wish you were here in Edinburgh, we are excited to join the first fully virtual Scottish Green Party Conference. And, as is tradition, we’re looking forward to hosting you at Saturday evening’s Social.

Edinburgh Branch

HOW CONFERENCE WORKS

The Party's Constitution and Policy Reference Document (PRD) have been voted in, and amended, by a succession of Party conferences on the basis of one member, one vote. The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) is responsible for ensuring conference rules are upheld, and for guaranteeing its smooth and democratic running.

If you have an issue relating to conference procedures, please raise it with a member of SOC. SOC reports directly to conference, and its annual report – given during the AGM – must be approved by conference.

MOTIONS

Motions have to be submitted 11 weeks before conference, amendments five weeks before. The intention is that branches can debate them and, if wished, agree proxy votes or branch amendments.

Emergency Motions are

intended to allow conference to debate issues that have arisen since this deadline, and should be sent to soc@notices.scottishgreens.org.uk seven days before the start of conference, signed by two members.

An Emergency Motion relating to events that have arisen since then can be submitted to SOC any time up until noon on the first day of conference (also signed by two members). Emergency Motions will be rejected if they could have been submitted in time for the first agenda, or are not concise and focused.

DEBATES AND VOTING

Motions are debated and voted on as follows:

- There is a short debate on the motion itself.
- Each amendment is then debated and voted on in turn. You have the choice of voting for, against or abstain.
- The final stage is a vote on the full motion, as amended (or not amended), and again the choice is between for, against or abstain.

At any point in the debate a member may ask (from the floor) to vote on referring a motion back to the relevant committee. That member would have to explain their reasons and another member would have to second that proposal. The chair may refuse that proposal or may put it to a vote, at their discretion.

Amendments will not be accepted from the floor if more than ten members object, or if the chair refuses to allow them. It is unusual for all other members to agree to hear a proposed amendment from the floor, as this has not proved to be an effective way of deciding party policy.

SPEAKING

Any member may speak during a debate. The facilitators of each session will make clear how you can request to speak and any time limits. Please when you speak always begin by saying your name and branch.

Please do not speak or request to speak unless called upon by the facilitator. Because of the number of people attending not everyone who wishes to speak will be able to. Priority will be given to people with knowledge and experience on a subject, and to people who have not already spoken. You may ask a short question of the motion proposer – but this must be just that – a short question. The chair is there to ensure fair and smooth running of the session – please respect their authority.

FRINGES AND EXHIBITIONS

Conference is not just the main sessions organised by the SGP. It is also the fringe meetings and virtual stalls organised by outside groups, where new ideas flourish and where party members listen to the concerns of campaigning and representative groups. Please take part in the sessions. They are as much a part of conference as the main sessions.

FIRST TIME AT CONFERENCE?

There are special sessions for people new to Conference, which will be held at 6.30pm from Monday to Thursday, which will also familiarise you with the online voting system we have adopted this year.

Links to all sessions are available on the Members Area:

Pre-Conference sessions (Mon-Thur):

<https://members.greens.scot/conference/pre-conference-calendar>

Conference Weekend (Fri, Sat, Sun):

<https://members.greens.scot/conference/weekend-calendar>

CHILD PROTECTION AT CONFERENCE

SGP considers all persons under the age of 18 children for the purposes of this policy.

As an organisation that has members as young as 12, we have a duty to inform and support all our members in upholding our child protection policy. The following will help you to know what to look for and what to do if you have any concerns during conference.

What constitutes a risk?

- Witnessing an incident involving a child that causes you concern;
- A child tells you they are being abused or neglected or are at risk of being abused or neglected;
- Someone tells you that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, even if the child has no connection to the SGP.

What do I need to do?

If a child tells you they are at actual or potential risk:

- Take them seriously;
- Don't ask unnecessary questions;
- Don't promise to keep the information confidential;
- Make a note using the child's words and make sure you note the date;
- Contact your branch convenor, the Child Rights Volunteer or local social work department;
- Don't contact the child's parents/guardian;
- Don't attempt to investigate the situation;
- If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child, contact the police.

If you suspect an adult or child is posing a risk to child protection.

Contact your branch convenor or the Child Rights Volunteer; If you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child, contact the police.

USING HOPIN - OUR ONLINE PLATFORM

Autumn Conference 2020 is being held entirely online for the first time, and all sessions are taking place on the online events platform Hopin.

If you plan on attending any part of conference, please take a moment to register an account with Hopin now:

https://hopin.to/sign_up

WHAT YOU NEED

For the best possible experience, not just for you, but for all other Conference attendees we recommend:

- Use a desktop or laptop computer. Mobiles and tablets can access Hopin but users may not be able to access all features, speak to motions, or vote.
- If you plan on speaking please use headphones to avoid feedback.
- Use Google Chrome or Mozilla Close down other non-essential programs

IF YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS

Third-party extensions can affect the Hopin experience so we also highly recommend opening the event in -

- Incognito mode (command+Shift+N on macOS or Ctrl+Shift+N on Windows) on Chrome
- Private tab (command+Shift+P for macOS or Ctrl+Shift+P for Windows) on Firefox.

If you're experiencing problems, try a refresh or reload of the browser page, this will often solve the problem!

A volunteer will be on hand at the Tech Helpdesk, however please only use after re-checking instructions as volunteer capacity is limited for this event.

The more people follow these instructions, the less problems we'll have during the weekend and the better the Conference experience for everyone!

GETTING AROUND THE HOPIN CONFERENCE SPACE

Hopin has five areas – the menu bar appears on the left.

Reception

When you first enter the event you'll land in the Reception area, here you'll find the schedule for the event as well as announcements, updates and any links.

Stage

The stage is where you'll watch the speeches, keynotes and panel sessions. Use the event chat on the right-hand side to ask questions at appropriate points in proceedings.

Sessions

The Sessions element of Hopin is where you will find fringes, discussion groups, training sessions, breakouts and perhaps even the odd-session to catch up in a more informal manner e.g. The Coffee Stop.

Networking

Chat with fellow Greens, selected at random, during specific times in the programme. You can leave after 30 seconds or if you have common interests chat for a maximum of 5 minutes.

Press the blue "Connect" button if you wish to swap contact details.

Looking for someone specific? Please click on 'people' next to the chat function and find the person you wish to connect with. Chat may be disabled during certain segments of Conference.

Expo

We will be running a small number of virtual expo sessions here.

Friday 23rd October

- 1.30pm-3.00pm** Media Session
- 3.00pm-4.00pm** External Fringe - **Royal Society of Edinburgh**
"Post Covid-19 Futures Commission"
- 4.00pm-5.00pm** External Fringe - **RNIB**
"A Vision for the 2020s: Focus on Sight Loss"

Saturday 24th October

- 9.00am-9.55am** Visit our Exhibitors in our **Virtual Expo Area**
- 10.00am-10.30am** Opening of Conference
Alison Johnstone MSP introducing
Co-Leaders **Lorna Slater**
and **Patrick Harvie MSP**
- 10.30am-11.30am** **Green Recovery Plenary**
(followed by Panel Discussion with
Alison Johnstone MSP, TBC,
Annamie Paul, Leader of the
Green Party of Canada
Richard Dixon, Friends of the Earth Scotland
and Edinburgh Councillor **Claire Miller** [LC])
- 11.30am-11.45am** Break
- 11.45am-12.45pm** **Holyrood 2021 Campaign & Manifesto:**
Green Recovery - Discussion Session [LC]
- 12.45pm-1.30pm** Break
- 1.30pm-2.30pm** Fringe Session - **Revive Scotland**
with **Alison Johnstone MSP**
- 2.30pm-2.45pm** Break
- 2.45pm-3.00pm** International Message
- 3.00pm-5.00pm** **Emergency Motions, Conference Motions**
and **Policy Motions** - Voting [LC]

Sunday 25th October

- 9.00am-9.55am** Visit our Exhibitors in our **Virtual Expo Area**
- 10.00am-10.15am** Speech: **A Green Vision for Scotland:**
Land Reform by **Andy Wightman MSP**
- 10:15am-10:30am** Lead Candidates
A Green Vision for Scotland
from **Laura Moodie**, **Maggie Chapman**,
Kim Long, **Ariane Burgess**
and **Gillian Mackay**
- 10:30am-11:30am** **A Fairer Scotland for All**
Plenary followed by Panel Discussion with
Oladuso Adenike,
Glasgow Councillor **Kim Long**,
Nadia Kanyange and **Ellie Gomersall** [LC]
- 11.30am-11.45am** Break
- 11.45am-12.45pm** **Holyrood 2021 Campaign & Manifesto:**
A Fairer Scotland for all - Discussion
Sessions [LC]
- 12.45pm-1.30pm** Break
- 1.30pm-1:45pm** International Message
- 1.45pm-3:45pm** **Policy Motions & Constitutional Motions** -
Voting [LC]
- 3.45pm -4.00pm** Closing Speech from Mags Hall [LC]

Socials

Friday 23rd October

- 9.00pm - 10.00pm** Games for all with the Young Greens -
Join the Young Greens for some picture
drawing and bingo card crossing (via Hopin)

Saturday 24th October

- 7.30pm - 9.00pm** Edinburgh Greens' Quiz of the Year
(via Zoom, link available on the Hopin event)

[LC] - Live captions available

STANDING UP FOR SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH

There have been too many promises on mental health and not enough action. With the added pressure brought about by coronavirus, **we need a radical new plan.**

SAMH WANTS:

A massive increase in investment in talking therapies for adults, so they are easily accessible and readily offered as a support option

A fully resourced commitment that every child and young person who needs help will get it at the first time of asking, without the threat of rejection

To stand up for mental health and **help SAMH campaign for radical change**, sign up to our mailing list now.

JOIN SAMH

If you or someone you know needs advice or information about mental health support, you can contact our information service.

0344 800 0550

info@samh.org.uk

samh.org.uk/info

SAMH is the Scottish Association for Mental Health. Scottish Charity No. SC08897

Get involved!

We need to continue to lead the change in our communities and look ahead to next year's Scottish Parliament election. Here are a few ways you can get active and make a difference.

Get involved locally

Local branches are the backbone of our party. For details visit **members.greens.scot** or contact the SGP office (details below). Recruit other members! Invite family, friends or colleagues who might be interested in the Greens to make that next step.

Make a donation

Unlike big parties we don't get any state funding and our policies tend not to attract huge corporate donors. We rely on individuals like you.

<https://donate.greens.scot>

Contact

Scottish Green Party,
19b Graham St, Edinburgh
EH6 5QN

office@scottishgreens.org.uk
08700 772 207

Twitter: @scotgp

facebook.com/ScottishGreens
www.greens.scot

Make use of your skills

The party is mostly run by volunteers. Everyone has skills that the party values, either at local or national level. Whether you're professionally qualified, or simply have time to stuff envelopes, your help is invaluable!

Be a social media activist

Like and share on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram and more – or even write a blog. We'd love you to tell the world about your campaign experiences and connect with other Greens! More details are at greens.scot/get-involved. Be sure to tag any campaigning with the hashtag **#ActiveSGP**.

50% OFF
MEMBERSHIPS



USE CODE: SCOTGREENS
UNTIL 20-31ST OCT 2020.

Limited to 200 memberships.
50% OFF annual membership (£30) for standard bikes.