



# CONSTITUTION

English Language Version 1<sup>st</sup> Edition (2018)

Presented to, ratified and officially signed off by:  
**The Ein Gwlad Steering Committee.**  
At a meeting held in Canolfan Morlan, Aberystwyth, on June the 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.

# Ein Gwlad Constitution

## 1. OUR NAME

The name of the party shall be "Ein Gwlad" (hereinafter referred to as "the Party").

## 2. OUR MISSION AND VISION

OUR AIMS are:

- **INDEPENDENCE:** To establish a free, sovereign and independent Welsh state.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** To secure a government democratically accountable to the people of Wales.
- **PROSPERITY:** To bring about a flourishing Welsh economy in which all citizens have the opportunity to prosper, with enterprise and hard work being properly rewarded.
- **DISTINCTIVENESS:** To secure a future for our national language, distinctive heritage, traditions and culture.
- **INTERNATIONALISM:** To see Wales take its proper place among the community of nations, fostering good relations and mutually beneficial economic links with other states around the world.

OUR PRINCIPLES AND VALUES are grounded in:

- **COMMUNITY:** Civic pride, social inclusion and solidarity between all members of our national community. As citizens of a small country, working together comes easily to us.
- **LIBERTY:** Individual liberty and equality before the law, underpinned by an independent Welsh judiciary and system of law courts subject to the general principles of Common Law.
- **INCLUSIVITY:** We affirm our commitment to the common good of all citizens of Wales who are loyal to our country and respect our national identity, whatever

their ethnic, linguistic, religious or geographical background may be.

- **RESPECT:** We assert our respect and esteem for our English, Scottish, and Irish neighbours, and believe that good relations are best fostered and maintained between free and equal nation states.
- **RADICALISM:** We shall seek radical, pragmatic solutions to the economic and social issues facing contemporary Wales, evaluating ideas according to whether they will benefit Wales and her people - not according to where they come from, whether so-called left wing or right wing. We are a syncretic party that does not recognise the traditional single-axis left, centre or right wing labelling paradigm.
- **COURAGE:** We shall not flinch from confronting the scale of the problems that Wales faces, since only when problems are faced honestly can they be overcome. We shall be open with each other and the nation at large about what needs to be done.
- **CREATIVITY:** Wales is known across the world as a creative nation where words mean everything. We mean to unleash that power for the good of our economy and our communities.
- **PERSEVERANCE:** The fact that Wales exists at all in the 21st Century is testament to our ability to fight against the odds and find a way through. We shall not be easily deterred from making our case and standing for what we believe in.
- **BROGARWCH:** The English language lacks a way of easily expressing the meaning of this word: it is a love of place, a commitment to our land and people, yet untainted by jingoism or chauvinism. We love our country, and are determined to make it the best that it can be.

WE ARE COMMITTED to conducting our internal business, communications and dealings in a spirit of tolerance, inclusivity and respect, consistent always with the Aims and Values here set out.

The Party's governance, proceedings, and policy formulation shall be conducted at all times in accordance with the Aims and Principles set out above.

### 3. OUR POLICY AND DIRECTION

The policy and direction of the Party shall reflect our Aims and Values, and be adopted in accordance with its Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders.

The Party will follow the guidelines set out below in its adoption of policies. In particular, the supreme policy-making body will be the Annual National Conference (ANC).

#### **4. OUR METHODS**

The Party shall pursue its objectives primarily through electoral politics and the more general process of democratic debate and persuasion. In particular, the Party will seek to participate in all Welsh political institutions.

#### **5. OUR ORGANISATION**

##### **5.1 - NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY (NGB)**

- (a) The Party shall be governed by a NGB comprising 6-12 members. These shall include as a minimum: President, National Party Chair, National Secretary, and National Treasurer, and other positions as deemed necessary by the NGB. A Chief Executive Officer may be appointed at the discretion of the NGB, but in the absence of such an appointment the role of Chief Executive shall be fulfilled by the National Secretary. Each member of the NGB shall be elected to serve for two years and may stand for re-election. Details of the responsibilities held by the key office-holders of President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are given in sections 13-16 of the Party's Rules and Standing Orders, as referenced in section 9(a)(v) of this document.
- (b) The NGB shall meet a minimum of six times a year, bi-monthly by default, with additional meetings to deal with urgent matters convened at the President's discretion. The President and/or Chair and the Chief Executive will set the agendas for the NGB. All members shall be informed of meetings in writing by the Chief Executive at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- (c) Six members of the NGB shall be needed to form a quorum.
- (d) If an Officer role becomes vacant or it becomes impractical to form a quorum as a result of one or more Officers or other members of the NGB resigning, becoming incapacitated or being terminated as the result of a disciplinary procedure, then the remaining members of the NGB may co-opt a replacement. This must be done, and the change registered with the Electoral Commission, within 14 days as required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA).

- (e) Any new officer appointed under 5.1(d) must be approved by the membership at the next ANC or, if that is more than two months away, then an ENC (see section 5.2) must be specially convened for that purpose.

## **5.2 - ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE (ANC)**

- (a) The supreme policy-making body shall be the ANC, held as close as possible to the first Saturday following Glyndŵr's Day (September 16). Elections to the NGB will also take place at the ANC.
- (b) Delegates from Regions, Constituency Branches and Affiliated Organisations shall be eligible to attend. Affiliated Organisations will be observers only and will not have voting rights at the ANC.
- (c) The ANC will also be the sole body with the authority to amend this Constitution.
- (d) The authority vested in the ANC for making policy and amending this Constitution shall also be held by Extraordinary National Conferences (ENCs) which may be convened from time to time in accordance with Section 17.

## **5.3 - BRANCHES, REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS**

- (a) Below national level the party shall be organised in accordance with the structure of Regions and Constituencies which exist in the Welsh electoral system at any given time. By default a Branch should correspond to the area of a Constituency within the National Assembly of Wales, and Regional Associations should be associations of Branches corresponding to the boundaries of the electoral regions, though the NGB may vary this structure at its discretion.
- (b) Each Branch shall have a minimum of three officers: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.
- (c) Affiliated Organisations shall be groups and organisations agreeing with the Aims of the Party and not affiliated to any other political party operating within Wales.
- (d) The NGB alone has the right to accept affiliations, which may be revoked at any time, by a simple majority, if the NGB deems an Affiliated Organisation to be deviant from the Aims or Policies of the Party or for any other reason.
- (e) Each Affiliated Organisation may send observers, without voting rights, to the ANC or an ENC, the number of such observers being based on the

membership level of that Affiliated Organisation according to a formula set at the discretion of the NGB and applied consistently across all such Organisations.

## **6. OUR MEMBERSHIP**

### **6.1 - ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Party shall be open to those who:

- (a) Endorse the Aims of the Party;
- (b) Agree to abide by the policies of the Party;
- (c) Accept the Constitution and Rules and Standing Orders of the Party;
- (d) Are not members of any other political party active in Wales;
- (e) Agree to pay a membership subscription, at the appropriate level which may be set and varied from time to time by the NGB.
- (f) Sign a declaration confirming the above on a printed membership form, or in the case an of on-line request for membership are willing positively to tick a box that will serve as a signature.

### **6.2 - MEMBERSHIP VALIDITY**

- (a) Membership of the Party shall consist of persons who, being eligible for membership and approved as members of a Branch or Regional Association, or as Headquarters members, pay the subscriptions due and are duly registered in the list of members.
- (b) Subject to clause [c] below, a member's Branch affiliation must reflect a material connection with the Constituency represented by that Branch, for example either living or working within the area.
- (c) Any person eligible to be a member but not wishing, or unable, to belong to a Branch may, with the approval of the NGB, become a member at Headquarters.
- (d) No member shall be transferred from one Branch to another without the consent of the former Branch, but any refusal to transfer membership may, on appeal, be overturned by the NGB.

- (e) A member who wishes to resign their membership voluntarily may do so at any time by writing to the Chairman of their Branch or directly to the NGB. Any subscriptions paid will be refunded pro rata from the date of resignation. A member in otherwise good standing who fails to pay any subscription fee within three months of the date on which it becomes due shall be deemed to have resigned for the purposes of this clause and will be removed from the list of members.

## **7. FINANCE**

- (a) All monies payable to the Party shall be deemed payable to the elected National Treasurer, acting on behalf of the Party in all monetary matters.
- (b) The NGB, on advice from the National Treasurer, shall have full control over all monies, funds, property, investments and securities of whatever kind and description belonging to the Party.
- (c) The NGB may, at its discretion and with the approval of the ANC, delegate its duties to a Finance Committee. In any case such a committee would be answerable to the NGB, and the rest of this section 'NGB' shall be understood to mean the Finance Committee where applicable.
- (d) The NGB shall have discretionary power over all the Party assets, to invest, use in the interests of the Party, or otherwise employ in the service of Welsh national interests. Such powers shall be exercised in the names of the President, the Chief Executive and the National Treasurer. No member of the NGB shall be personally liable in respect of depreciation of any investments so made.
- (e) The NGB shall decide what affiliation fees levies and other dues are payable to Headquarters by Branches, Regional Associations and Affiliated Organisations.
- (f) The NGB on the advice of the treasurer, shall determine the rates of membership subscriptions binding upon Regions, Branches and Affiliated Organisations.
- (g) The NGB shall have the power to borrow money on behalf of the Party, and to continue existing borrowing, where it is necessary to do so in order to finance the Party's activities.
- (h) A Financial Scheme shall set out to prescribe how the Party will regulate its financial affairs for the purpose of compliance with current legislation.
- (i) The financial affairs of all bodies mentioned in this Constitution must comply with the Financial Scheme.
- (j) No body within the Party shall enter into commercial borrowing unless prior

agreement has been reached with the National Treasurer acting on behalf of the NGB.

- (k) The Party shall not be liable for any debts contracted or incurred by Regional Associations, Branches or Affiliated Organisations unless explicitly authorised by the NGB.
- (l) The financial year of the Party shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
- (m) Statements of annual accounts duly audited shall be submitted to the first ANC after the end of each financial year.
- (n) The National Treasurer shall report the financial position of the Party at each meeting of the NGB.

## **8. PARTY DISCIPLINE**

- (a) It shall be within the power of the NGB to admonish, suspend, expel or disaffiliate for a specified period any Member, Branch, Regional Association or Affiliated Organisation in consequence of any contravention of the Constitution or the Rules and Standing Orders, of any decision made thereunder, or for conduct incompatible with the interests and reputation of the Party.
- (b) Any such admonished, suspended, expelled or disaffiliated Member, Branch, Regional Association or Affiliated Organisation shall have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee whose decision shall be final and binding. Such an appeal must be lodged with the Chief Executive within four weeks of the NGB meeting at which the admonition, suspension, expulsion or disaffiliation is notified.
- (c) The NGB at its first meeting after an ANC shall elect five members to serve on an Appeals Committee. No member of the NGB shall serve on the Appeals Committee. No member who has a previous connection with a case before the Appeals Committee may serve as a member in a hearing of that case.

## **9. RULES AND STANDING ORDERS**

- (a) The NGB shall draw up and maintain Rules and Standing Orders covering the following:
  - i. the conduct of all bodies referred to in this Constitution;
  - ii. selection of candidates to stand at any election in the name of the Party;
  - iii. conduct of the Party's elected members and groups at all levels of

- government in Wales;
- iv. conduct required of members, and party discipline;
  - v. job descriptions for Party Office Bearers and any other roles it may consider necessary;
  - vi. any other aspect of the Party's activity which it considers necessary or appropriate.
- (b) All such Rules and Standing Orders shall be based on the principles laid down in this Constitution.
  - (c) All such Rules and Standing Orders shall be submitted to the NGB or Conference for amendment and/or adoption.
  - (d) ANC Standing Orders shall be laid down and changed only by ANC, in its role as the highest authority of the Party, as laid down in clause 5.2(a) of this Constitution.
  - (e) All of the above sets of Rules and Standing Orders in clause 9(a) above may be amended by simple majority of those present and voting in the approving body.
  - (f) A vote of at least two thirds of delegates at an ANC shall be required in order to amend the Constitution itself.
  - (g) All Rules and Standing Orders referred to above shall have the same status as if they were incorporated in this Constitution, and will be binding on the structures and procedures of the party to which they refer. The only feature of them that differs from the main body of the Constitution is the process for drafting and amendment.
  - (h) In the event of any conflict between such Standing Orders or Rules and this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.
  - (i) Should any question arise regarding the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules or Standing Orders of the Party, the convener of the meeting shall adjudicate on the question and his or her adjudication shall be final, unless a motion is passed requiring the person to vacate the Chair.
  - (j) Where such a question arises between meetings, the National Secretary along with the NGB (when appropriate) shall have the final say on the interpretation of the Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders.
  - (k) All such adjudications shall be reported to the NGB, which may propose action to clarify such matters.

## **10. ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCES**

The representation at an ANC shall be:

- (a) Two delegates from each Branch whose membership does not exceed ten and one additional delegate for every additional ten members or part thereof, subject to the Branch's dues to Head Office having been fully paid by the date of the ANC and provided always that no Branch shall be entitled to more than ten delegates. Only members who are of voting age shall be included when counting the levels of representation, and delegates themselves must be of voting age.
- (b) Delegates from each Affiliated Organisation, appointed in accordance with clause 5.3 (e) of this Constitution.

## **11. REPRESENTATION AT ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCES**

- (a) The National Treasurer shall be responsible for assessing Branch(es) representation on the basis of dues paid and shall give adequate notice to Branch(es).
- (b) The representation from each Branch to an Extraordinary National Conference shall be the same as the number fixed for the previous ANC and each new Branch recognised since the previous ANC shall be entitled to the number of delegates prescribed in clause 10(a) provided dues have been paid to the National Treasurer not later than fourteen days prior to the Extraordinary National Conference.
- (c) Representation for Affiliated Organisations to an Extraordinary Annual Conference shall be at the same number as for the ANC. Any body granted Affiliated Organisation status since the last ANC shall be entitled to one delegate.

## **12. DATES OF MOTIONS, ETC., FOR ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- (a) The date, time and place of each ANC shall be fixed by the NGB or a specific Steering Committee appointed for the task.
- (b) A preliminary agenda shall be issued to all Branches, Affiliated Organisations and members of the NGB at least six weeks prior to the date of the ANC and notice of amendments at least three weeks prior to the ANC.
- (c) The following items shall be in Headquarters, addressed to the Chief Executive, according to the timetable for Conference issued by the Chief Executive to all Branches and Affiliated Organisations and members of the NGB:
  - i. resolutions being submitted for the Agenda, including nominations for

- the NGB;
- ii. Notices of amendments;
- iii. notification of their own delegates by Branches and Affiliated Organisations.

### **13. RESOLUTIONS AND NOMINATIONS TO ANC**

All resolutions, amendments and nominations to ANC/Extraordinary National Conferences by Branches and Affiliated Organisations shall:

- (a) be printed or typewritten, and signed;
- (b) if handwritten, be in ink and displayed as capital letters;
- (c) show clearly the Branch, Regional Association or Affiliated Organisation by which they have been made;
- (d) certified in print by the Chair and the Secretary that they have been properly passed at a meeting of which proper notice had been given in writing to the members.
- (e) All nominees for the NGB must signify in writing their willingness to stand for election.

### **14. PREPARATION OF AGENDA ETC. FOR ANC**

The NGB shall be responsible for the preparation of the Agenda for the ANC and shall have power:

- (a) to decide whether resolutions, amendments, nominations and other matters pertaining to the Conference are in accordance with the Constitution and Rules and Standing Orders of the Party;
- (b) to revise and amend resolutions and amendments or to incorporate in one resolution a number of similar resolutions from several Branches and Affiliated Organisations, and to rewrite the resolutions received, provided always that the principles underlying the resolution or amendment shall not be infringed;
- (c) to place resolutions on the agenda;
- (d) to decide the order of business to be transacted, the placing of items on the agenda, and the approximate time to be allocated to items. Should, however, any Branch or Affiliated Organisation consider that any such decision of the NGB infringes the principles of the resolutions or is against the expressed wishes of the

Branch or Affiliated Organisation concerned, it may give notice of an amendment to rectify the matter.

## **15. QUORUM AT CONFERENCE**

Delegates from two thirds of eligible Branches shall be present before an ANC is deemed to be constituted.

## **16. PROCEDURE AT ANC**

Procedure at ANC shall be in accordance with the Standing Orders for National Conferences of the Party, a copy of which shall be issued to all delegates attending the Conference.

## **17. VOTING AT ANC**

- (a) Members of the Party's NGB shall be entitled to vote on all issues before the ANC.
- (b) Delegates of Branches and Affiliated Organisations shall be entitled to vote on all issues before the ANC.
- (c) Each member entitled to vote at the ANC shall be issued by the Chief Executive with a credential card bearing his/her name and status. No person shall be entitled to more than one deliberative vote on any issue before the ANC.

## **18. EXTRAORDINARY NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

- (a) An Extraordinary National Conference shall be held at the request of the NGB or of one or more Branches in each of at least two Regions.
- (b) Definite reason for holding such a Conference shall be given in writing and the subject matter for discussion be clearly stated.
- (c) Requests from Branches for an Extraordinary National Conference must be passed at a meeting of each Branch, of which proper notice has been given to the members and certified accordingly by the Secretary of the Branch.
- (d) The Chief Executive shall give all Branches, Affiliated Organisations and members of the NGB at least twenty-one days notice, together with the Agenda.
- (e) No business other than that for which the notice has been given shall be dealt

with at an Extraordinary National Conference.

- (f) The procedure at an Extraordinary National Conference shall be the same as for the ANC.
- (g) Representation at an Extraordinary National Conference shall be as provided in Clauses 11(b) and 11(c) of this Constitution.

## **19. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PRESS AND NEWS MEDIA**

- (a) No publications or official communications to the publicity media shall be issued in the name of the Party except after scrutiny and with the express permission of the Party's official Communications Officer who will be answerable to the NGB.
- (b) Branches, Regional Associations and Affiliated Organisations may, however, issue statements, pass resolutions and make announcements in their own name provided these do not contradict the Aims and Values, are in accordance with the Policy and Direction of the Party and do not deal with internal affairs of the Party.

## **20. CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCEDURE**

- (a) A "National List" of candidates will be maintained by the Chief Executive of the Party. That list will be annually scrutinised and an open period given for any members who wish to be considered for inclusion to be nominated by their Regions or Branches.
- (b) Only a person who has been approved for the purpose by the NGB or any committee appointed by it to consider such approval may be selected as a candidate for the Senedd.
- (c) Branches shall be entitled to nominate members for consideration for selection as constituency candidates for the Senedd only for the constituency in which the said Branches are situated, and for consideration as regional candidates for the Senedd only for the electoral region in which the said Branches are situated.
- (d) Branches must obtain the written consent of the members concerned prior to their nomination.
- (e) All nominations of members for selection as candidates shall be submitted for the approval of the NGB, which shall take into account:
  - i. the amount of preparatory work done in the constituency;
  - ii. whether the Branch has the necessary organisation and support from

- members to conduct an election campaign;
  - iii. whether the Branch can raise the necessary funds to pay the expenses of an election campaign;
  - iv. the service and suitability of the nominee;
  - v. the acceptability of the nominee with the constituency.
- (f) The decision of the NGB on contesting any election or by- election and the selection of a candidate shall be final and binding.
- (g) In the event of a by-election the NGB shall consult with the relevant Branch or Regional Association as soon as possible after the death or resignation of the previously elected Member and also with the prospective candidate if one has been selected. Thereafter the Branch or Regional association shall call a meeting for the earliest practicable date in order to select a prospective candidate, for which purpose the NGB shall provide a short list of up to three possible candidates.
- (h) The validity of the selection of a constituency prospective candidate for the Senedd and that of a prospective election agent shall expire after the election or by-election for which he or she was selected or appointed has been held.

## **21. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

- (a) Regional Associations shall be responsible for local selection of candidates, and organising the campaigns of the same, for Local Government elections. This responsibility must be exercised within the constraints of adherence to the Constitution and the Rules and Standing Orders of the Party.
- (b) Any member of the Party who stands for election to a local authority must do so as an Ein Gwlad candidate and no other.
- (c) Members serving as Ein Gwlad councillors who join another political group on the same Local Authority Council shall be deemed to have publicly resigned from the Party.
- (d) Any invitation by any other party to form a coalition must be approved by the NGB.

## **22. MEMBERS AND ORGANISATIONS OUTSIDE WALES**

- (a) The Secretary (where appropriate) for the Welsh Diaspora shall deal with

members and supportive organisations outside Wales, unless the latter are accepted as Affiliated Organisations.

- (b) The Secretary for the Diaspora will also be expected to promote the Party among exile groups and other organisations representing Welsh people outside the country and to inform those of Welsh ancestry and others who might prove supportive of the Party's Aims.

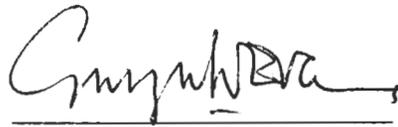
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Ends

Presented to the Ein Gwlad Steering Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2018.

Agreed, accepted and ratified as the official Constitution Document for Ein Gwlad. Pending any future amendments agreed by the party's National Governing Body (NGB) and accepted at an Annual National Conference (ANC).

Signed:



Name:

Gwyn Wigley Evans.

Position:

Arweinydd y Blaid/ Party Leader

Date:

Tachwedd/ November 7, 2018

Signed:



Name:

Gwilym ab Ioan

Position:

Cadeirydd/ Chairman

Date:

Tachwedd/ November 7, 2018