

## TSSA 2021 Annual Conference

### Item 56 TSSA Conference Elections

The EC proposes the following motion:

#### 56 TSSA Conference Elections

“That this Conference endorses the EC Report”.

**The closing date for amendments is midday on Wednesday 26 May 2021.** Please follow the instructions in Circular 32 to submit any amendments. Each branch or SOG may submit one amendment to this motion.

The EC Report is as follows:

<b>TSSA Conference Elections</b>	1
<b>Background</b>	2
The following resolution was carried at the Association’s 2014 Annual Delegates Conference:	3 4
48. TSSA Delegations (Item 47)	5
That this Conference calls on the EC to include all relevant conferences in the pre-Conference call for nominations and voting to the national (TUC and Labour Party) conferences. This would include all the conferences run by those bodies for under-represented groups e.g. Black workers, LGBT etc. as well as the general conferences/Congress and the Women's conferences.	6 7 8 9 10 11
Up until 2014, TSSA conference elections were for the national TUC Congress, Women’s TUC Conference, Labour Party Conference and Women’s Labour Party Conference. As a result of the carrying of Item 47 in 2014 TSSA Conference elections from 2015 additionally included the TUC Black Workers’ Conference, TUC Disabled Workers’ Conference, TUC LGBT Conference and the TUC Young Workers’ Conference 2015. Prior to 2015 the process for electing delegates for the additional four conferences took place in the six months prior to each of the events.	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
Nominating and electing for all eight conferences together made sense administratively as the costs and resources required were expected to reduce. However, experience has led the Executive Committee to believe that the process comes with significant disadvantages. The most obvious problem is that for the additional four Conferences nominations are being sought between 12 and 18 months in advance of the events themselves.	20 21 22 23 24 25

Disadvantages identified include:	26
• The timespan for nominating and electing delegates is so far in advance of the events that there have been instances where elected delegates are no longer active or in extreme cases no longer in membership.	27 28 29
• There have also been cases where elected delegates had forgotten they had been elected and were subsequently taken by surprise when details of the event were communicated.	30 31 32
• Nominations are being called for by TSSA before official nominations are called for by the TUC. This means the number of TSSA delegates that are being elected for the respective conferences can require further consideration depending upon whether TSSA union membership increases/decreases result in an entitlement to more or fewer delegates under the rules of the TUC.	33 34 35 36 37 38
• Newly active members are at a disadvantage as the call for nominations for the most immediate TUC conferences more often than not precedes their activism.	39 40 41
• Repeat calls for nominations and subsequent elections, often at short notice, have become the norm for such conferences as previously elected delegates become unavailable some 12 months or more after being originally nominated.	42 43 44 45
The reality is that despite being well intended the practice of electing delegates so far in advance has led to additional inefficiencies and costs.	46 47
<b>Conclusion</b>	48
The Executive Committee believes that the process of electing delegates for the TUC Black Workers' Conference, TUC Disabled Workers' Conference, TUC LGBT Conference and the TUC Young Workers' Conference as a result of the carrying of Item 47 in 2014 TSSA Conference should be discontinued. Instead the Executive Committee asks Conference to agree to a process whereby two month windows for nominating and electing delegates for each Conference begin at least 8 months in advance of the respective Conferences.	49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56