



Right To Change

The Political Party for a progressive,
fairer, and changing Ireland.

Constitution

(Adopted at National Conference 2021)



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Preamble

Right to Change is a grass roots political party established by Joan Collins TD. Our movement seeks a fairer, more equal Ireland that benefits all the people rather than a select few. Having grown and containing members from within the Trade Union Movement, the rights of all workers are to the fore.

1 Name

The organisation shall be known as “The Right To Change Party” hereinafter referred to as ‘the Party’. The Party may hold other names such as RTOC and has a direct affiliation with the previously named set of policies Right 2 Change.

The Party denotes not only elected representatives, officers, or meeting conveners, but also all members of the Party in its entirety.

The Party Notes: Right2Change or R2C is a former separate entity comprising of many Trade Unions, Community and Political groupings, who were previously affiliated to R2C.

Right2Change policies became the purpose and objective of The Party following the closure of the campaign by the unions.

1.1 Objective

1.1.1 A Progressive Government is one that will deliver a Fairer, Just and Equitable society where the inequalities of wage, education, health, equality are key focus. Where Wealth inequality is directly actioned to offer a sustainable society for all.

1.1.2 The Party shall seek to build and grow Right To Change policies.

The 10 Right to Change policy principles emerged and were endorsed in 2015 after an extensive community led consultation process between individuals, community groups, trade unionists, political parties, and independent representatives – all of whom had been involved in Ireland’s massive and successful anti-water charges movement. Approximately 150 detailed submissions were received and two separate conferences of 200 activists were held that made amendments to the identified policies.

The purpose of this process was to help facilitate a new type of democratic politics aimed at delivering a fairer, better Ireland. Those attending envisaged a country that can be based on the principles of:

Democracy, Equality, and Social Justice.

The Right To Change Party holds that these, our founding policy principles, should be the minimum obligation for Ireland’s first yet to be delivered progressive Government. The right to water, to decent work, to housing, to healthcare, to debt justice, to education, to democratic reform, to equality, and to a sustainable environment and public ownership of our national resources, are we believe a priority for the people of Ireland.

These 10 policy principles should be regarded as a live and living document which is subject to change and improvement according to the wishes of the party.

We seek to achieve our collective goal of a more egalitarian society based on the principles of listed above, where the wellbeing of all is foremost envisioning a society that is of, for and by the many.

We believe the people of Ireland deserve and are entitled to much more than the current political system has delivered. We want an end to corruption and an end to cronyism. We want to empower people and promote solidarity, community spirit, respect, and above all unity. Together we are stronger and together we can change our country.

1.1.3 As part of the objectives listed above the process for members to be active participants in amendment, contribution to the policy, rule and constitution of the Party will be generated through open discussion, in accordance with objectives and rules.

1.1.4 The Policies as defined under the Party, previously Right2change are and with membership input, fluid and shall be subject to expansion, alteration, and update as decided by the Party in accordance to objects and rules.

2 Method and Structure

2.1 The guiding governing body of the Party shall be the Annual Conference when in session. The Annual Conference shall meet in September of each calendar year. The accepted month being September. This shall be subject to change in extraordinary circumstances and will be communicated with all members of the Party.

2.2 The powers of the Annual Party Conference shall be devolved to the Executive Council Officers in the intervening time between conferences Officers shall be elected, biennially, at alternate Annual Party Conference's.

2.3 The Council shall be made up of Executive Council Officers and Executive Council members.

2.4 The Executive Council shall hold as key focus, equality, enhancing local, regional, and national groupings with equality being foremost. This shall be encouraged for all in society to be active participants at all levels, and where needed be active in promotion of education to meet such ends.

2.5 The Party Shall have a local, Regional and National branch structure, permitting election of members to act as delegates at conference.

2.6 Executive Council members can be elected at branch level as provisioned and in accordance with The Party objectives.

2.7 All voting shall be considered resolved with a simple majority.

2.8 The party shall in consultation with the equality officer, devise and implement procedures to offer mediation in any review, dispute resolution

3 Membership

Membership is open to all persons aged 17 or older, from the date of application. Provision for membership is as follows:

3.1.1 Any application is made on the understanding that the applicant is not currently a member of another political party, commits not to take out such membership while in membership of the Party.

3.1.2 Membership applications may be made by any who are residents of the Republic of Ireland, or are Irish Citizens living outside the republic of Ireland.

3.1.3 Support, Build, and abide by policies, objectives and rules of the Party for the duration of the membership.

3.1.4 Contribute the Membership fee annually, currently defined 2021 as Thirty Euro (€30) for waged or Fifteen Euro (€15) for unwaged.

3.1.5 Post ratification of the initial constitution, Members shall be subject to a period of probation to be initially defined, and will be approved in accordance to rules and procedures, as defined by executive council.

3.1.6 Appeals, Reviews, Approval, Warning, or Rejection of membership application shall be completed by the Executive Council, and in accordance with objectives and rules of the Party.

3.1.7 Appeals, Reviews, Approval, Warning or Expulsion of members shall be in accordance with the Objectives and rules of the Party and are subject if questioned to Human Right agreements, should any decision be defined as such.

3.1.8 The Party will have a zero-tolerance attitude to all forms of bullying, harassment, discrimination of any form, racism, sexism, stalking and intimidation by members subject to procedures agreed by the party.

3.1.9 All members, post probation period of 3 months, shall be eligible to vote, nominate, or be a candidate in accordance with section 6.4.

3.2 Affiliate, External, Internal, and Political activist groups

3.2.1 The Provision of developing and growing of groups internally with defined commonalities should be encouraged and submissions from such groups on development of the Party Encouraged where in accordance with objective and rules of the Party.

4 Annual Party Conference

4.1 The Annual Party Conference shall be convened in the month of September of each calendar year but held no later than 18 months after the previous conference subject to change in extraordinary circumstances.

4.2 The Annual Party Conference shall be the governing body of the Party when in session

4.3 At all other times the powers of the Annual Party Conference shall be delegated to the Executive Council with the following exceptions only:

4.3.1 The interim period from March 1st, 2020, to the convening of the First party Conference, when all matters pertaining to the object and rules shall be managed and administered by the interim officers as set out in .3 below

4.3.2 From its first full conference, only conference shall have the power to change/alter/amend these objects and rules

4.3.3 From its first full conference, only conference, or a special party conference, if required, shall be allowed to expand/amend/alter, and update the Ten (10) Right To Change policy principles, which are the founding policy principles of the Party.

4.4 A Special Party Conference can be convened by unanimous decision of the Interim officers up to but not including the commencement of the first Party Conference.

4.5 Following close of the First Party Conference, a Special Party Conference can only be convened by a vote of two thirds (66%) of the Executive Council officers and Ordinary members attending Executive Council.

5 Executive Council

5.1 It shall be the role of the Executive Council to manage administer and oversee all party business and activity thought the powers vested in it by the annual party conference. Should the need arise for creation of a Working Group for duties to be delegated from Council this will be brought forth before members at conference for submission and definition of role, along with subsequent election as the need requires.

5.2 It shall the be solemn duty of the executive council to convene an Annual Party Conference In the defined month of September each year (Following first conference) and to administer said conference in accordance with these objects and rules.

5.3 Executive council officer positions are, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Finance officers, Equality & Rights Officer Data Protection Officer. This may be subject to change in accordance with needs and roles such as Statutory Officer and Interim Officers have been elected at a meeting that took place on 14th of March 2020

5.4 All officer positions will be open to review and election at the First Annual Party Conference, and biennially at alternate party conferences thereafter.

5.5 Propose process for election candidate selection, approval of candidates, and support to contest national, local and euro elections, this will need to be defined in accordance with objective and rules of the Party by the Executive Council subject to clause 6.4.7.

5.6 The Executive Council has the right to fill any vacant officer positions however that vacancy may arise.

6 Branches

6.1.1 The Party shall develop and then maintain a branch structure that will mirror the Dáil electoral constituencies (Currently 41)

6.1.2 The party shall offer a template of standing orders to newly formed branches.

6.2 Each branch shall require a minimum of 10 current and active members in order to be established and maintained.

6.2.1 Subbranches where branches may not be present for the constituency can be created with a rotating convenor agreed upon with members and Branch status to be applied for upon attaining minimum requirements for branch status.

6.3 Branch officers shall be elected by the branch and shall be Branch Chairperson, Branch Secretary, Branch Treasurer, Branch Equality and Rights officer.

6.4 It shall be the function of each branch to

6.4.1 Administer the Party at Branch / Constituency level in accordance with the objective and rules of the Party.

6.4.2 To hold regular meetings in accordance with standing orders passed and amended as appropriate by the annual Party Conference

6.4.3 To select delegates to the Annual Party Conference

6.4.4 To recruit and to develop the Party at branch and constituency level

6.4.5 To Propose branch members to stand for party officer positions for election at party conference, elections to be held Biennially.

6.4.6 To Select 1 Branch member to sit on the Executive Council as an ordinary member and to select 1 further member for each 50 members thereafter.

6.4.7 To propose and elect candidates to contest local, national, and European elections, especially convened for that purpose.

7 Affiliations

7.1 The Party recognises that workers organising and campaigning in their collective interests is an essential ingredient to delivering a fairer more progressive society for all. To this end the Party

7.1.1. Recognises workers Trade Unions as organisations to be embraced and supported

7.1.2 Pledges to implement strengthened Trade Union Rights as part of any legislative programme the Party supports.

7.1.3 Recognises other groups who act in accordance with current or future definitions of the Right to Change Policies, who seek to enact Change in their communities.

7.1.4 Recognise Community and activist groups who exercise their democratic right to demand change for rights absent in society and where their demands align with current or future definitions of the Right to Change Policies

7.1.5 Recognises International political affiliations who in accordance with Right to change Policies seek to enact change in their countries.

7.2 The Party Commits specifically to: - Agreeing to meet with the leadership of any Trade Union(s) seeking to meet "The Right To Change Party" and to establish a unit for continuous Trade Union liaison.

- Consider at Conference and /or at Executive Council level any Bill or proposal presented to it from a Trade Union which is consistent with the Party's policies, objects, and rules.

- Providing a method for formal affiliation of any Trade Union seeking to affiliate to the Party for consideration.