

Conference Daily

Autumn Conference, Bournemouth

20–23 September 2025

Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Tuesday 23 September. Please read in conjunction with the **Agenda & Directory** and **Conference Extra**.

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12.10–12.50	F47	Policy Motion: Defending Women’s Rights Across the Globe	11
12.50–14.10		Lunch break and fringe	
14.10–14.20	F48	Party Awards	
14.20–15.30	F49	Speech: Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
15.30		Close of Conference	

If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda & Directory or Conference Extra.

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Members wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker’s card as soon as possible.

Report back for Monday 22 September

F31	Policy Motion: Making the EU-UK Reset Count	Passed (Amendment One and Two Passed)
F32	Policy Motion: Leading the Way (Policy Review)	Passed (Amendment One, Two, Three and Four Passed)
F34	Policy Motion: Protecting the Rights of Hong Kongers	Passed (Amendment One and Two Passed)
F37	Policy Motion: Ending Fleecehold and the Great Property Rip-Off	Passed, the words “and commercial” in line 41, and lines 72-74 were retained
F38	Policy Motion: Improving Access to Justice	Passed (Amendment One and Two Passed)
F39	Policy Motion: Never Again – Justice for Contaminated Blood Victims	Passed (Amendment One Passed)
F40	Policy Motion: Certainty for Ukrainian Children Living in the UK	Passed (Amendment One Passed)

Agenda Updates

Tuesday 23 September

F41 A Emergency Motion 1: A Liberal Vision for Digital Rights

Young Liberals

Mover: Victoria Collins MP (Spokesperson for Science, Innovation and Technology)

Summation: Harvey Jones

1 Conference notes:

2 I. The recent rollout on 25 July 2025 of Ofcom's Protection of
3 Children Codes of Practice under the Online Safety Act 2023.

4 II. The aims of that Act to provide vital safeguards against harmful
5 online content, including child sexual abuse material, intimate
6 image abuse, and sexual exploitation.

7 III. The clear evidence of the extensive harm posed to children by
8 exposure to pornography, suicide promotion, and other damaging
9 online content.

10 IV. The concerning reports that have been raised regarding the
11 implementation of the Act, including that:

12 A. Political, educational or wellbeing-related content and forums
13 are being inappropriately age-gated.

14 B. Third party age-assurance systems may pose data protection
15 and privacy risks to users.

16 C. Age-assurance measures could be ineffective, due to
17 circumvention by children and young people using VPNs.

18 D. End-to-end encryption could be undermined by certain powers
19 within the Act.

20 V. The number of civil society organisations and political figures that
21 have raised these concerns, including:

22 A. The Government of Jersey, who have refused to implement the
23 legislation

24 B. Wikipedia, who have challenged the legislation in court.

- 25 C. The Young Liberals, who have passed a motion at their
26 conference opposing the implementation of the legislation.
- 27 D. Liberal Democrat Science, Innovation and Technology
28 spokespeople Victoria Collins MP and Lord Clement-Jones who
29 have written to the Secretary of State detailing these concerns
30 and calling for further parliamentary scrutiny of the Act and its
31 legislation.
- 32 VI. That women are disproportionately the targets of deepfakes,
33 harassment and other harmful behaviours online.
- 34 Conference believes that:
- 35 i) Protecting children and vulnerable groups online is imperative
36 and online safety legislation must hold the tech sector
37 accountable for harms they have failed to police.
- 38 ii) The current rollout of regulations under the Online Safety Act
39 by Ofcom risks ineffective, disproportionate implementation.
- 40 iii) It is critical that when introducing regulation on use of the
41 internet, that we do so with a mind on the disproportionate
42 impact on privacy and digital rights, and on groups such as the
43 LGBT+ community where online support networks exist.
- 44 Conference therefore calls for:
- 45 1. A full and urgent Parliamentary review, to report within 6 months,
46 examining:
- 47 a) Whether the Online Safety Act is meeting its stated aims of
48 keeping children and other vulnerable groups safe online,
- 49 b) Whether it is fit for purpose, and
- 50 c) What further legislation may be required to ensure that the
51 aims of keeping children and other vulnerable groups safe
52 online are achieved in an effective, proportionate way that
53 preserves privacy.
- 54 2. Further Parliamentary scrutiny of Ofcom's implementation of
55 regulations under the Act, ensuring that it focuses squarely on
56 protecting children and other vulnerable groups from online
57 harms, rather than impeding access to political content,
58 educational resources, or support services.
- 59 3. The introduction of a Digital Bill of Rights

Applicability: Federal.

Background briefing

This emergency motion updates and develops policy on technology and online safety legislation.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, Policy Paper 158, *Science, Innovation & Technology* (2025), and motion *Democracy and Public Debate* (2022).

F41 B Emergency Motion 2: Building a Fair Asylum System

12 members

Mover: Lisa Smart MP (Spokesperson for Home Affairs)

Summation: Susan Murray MP

1 Conference notes:

2 A. The August 2025 surge in protests over the use of hotels to house
3 asylum seekers, which according to a senior police chief have
4 placed police forces under 'chronic pressure'.

5 B. The rhetoric of Reform and the Conservatives, such as:

6 i) Repeated calls for the UK to withdraw from the European
7 Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

8 ii) Nigel Farage's proposal, on 26th August, to deport people who
9 have fled the Taliban to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

10 C. Shabana Mahmood's appointment as Home Secretary on 5th
11 September, reportedly to take a more "uncompromising" stance on
12 immigration.

13 Conference further notes with disappointment that the Labour
14 Government has responded to this rhetoric with counterproductive
15 policies like immediate suspension of family reunion pathways and
16 reducing the move-on period for new refugees rather than properly
17 challenging Reform and the Conservatives.

18 Conference believes:

19 I. All asylum seekers must be treated with dignity and respect, and
20 the UK must uphold a fair, compassionate and efficient asylum
21 system - not one built on delay and distrust.

22 II. The Conservatives trashed the asylum system, triggering spiralling
23 backlogs and the costly legacy of asylum hotels, while Labour has

- 24 so far failed to get a grip on the crisis.
- 25 III. The ECHR is a largely British creation that underpins our
26 fundamental rights and freedoms, and must be upheld.
- 27 IV. The right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of a liberal
28 democracy which must be protected, but no one has the right to
29 intimidate or incite fear.
- 30 Conference accordingly calls on the UK Government to reject the
31 division offered by Reform and the Conservatives and instead:
- 32 1. End the use of asylum hotels by speeding up application
33 processing so thousands aren't stuck in limbo and those with valid
34 claims can work, integrate and contribute, while those without a
35 right to remain can be returned swiftly.
- 36 2. Lift the ban on employment for asylum seekers who've waited over
37 three months for a decision.
- 38 3. Immediately restore family reunification pathways for refugees.
- 39 4. Increase cross-border cooperation, including through a leadership
40 role for the UK in Europol, to tackle criminal gangs and stop
41 dangerous Channel crossings at their source.
- 42 5. Publicly and unequivocally reaffirm the UK's commitment to the
43 ECHR - and reject any attempt to undermine the legal protections
44 it provides.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers 3 minutes.

Background briefing

This emergency motion updates and develops policy on the asylum system.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, motion *Beyond Rwanda: A Fairer Way Forward on Asylum* (2024), motion *Safe and Legal Routes to Save Lives* (2021), and Policy Paper 131, *A Fair Deal for Everyone: Prosperity and Dignity in Migration* (2016).

F42 A New Hope for the Space Industry

Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Zöe Franklin MP

Summation: Niamh Purvis

1 *After I. (line 3), insert:*

2 II. The importance of the UK's universities, which leverage and
3 extend the impact of research and innovation in the space industry
4 ensuring a skilled workforce fit for the future.

5 *After VII. (line 20), insert:*

6 VIII. The global leadership of UK universities like the University of
7 Surrey's Space Centre, in the development and commercialisation
8 of small satellite technology.

9 IX. The positive impact of industry-academic clusters, such as Space
10 South Central – led by the universities of Portsmouth,
11 Southampton and Surrey, supporting regional growth and
12 innovation in the UK's space sector.

13 *After G. (line 47), insert:*

14 H. Government, universities, colleges, schools and industry have a
15 key role in collaborating to address current and future skills needs
16 and enthuse the next generation of space engineers,
17 entrepreneurs and explorers.

18 *In 2. (line 51), after 'industry growth' insert '...and academic*
19 *collaboration...'*

20 *In 3. (line 55), after 'other locations' insert '..., leveraging regional clusters*
21 *such as Space South Central...'*

Amendment Two

LibSTEMM

Mover: Lord Clement-Jones (Lords Spokesperson for Science and
innovation)

Summation: Chris Lomax

1 *Delete 3. a) (lines 61-63) and insert:*

2 a) Pooled sovereign satellite navigation capacity by rejoining fully

3 the Galileo system, confirm IRIS2 participation, and explore
4 associated EU security programmes and initiatives.

5 *After 4. (line 72), add:*

- 6 5. The UK Government to reverse its decision to absorb the UK Space
7 Agency into the Department for Science, Innovation and
8 Technology by April 2026, and maintain the independent status of
9 UKSA which was designed to present a unified interface with ESA
10 and other national space agencies and which provides the
11 specialised focus, technical expertise, and international credibility
12 essential for competing in the global space economy.
- 13 6. Further consolidation all government space activity in a single
14 body, especially space functions currently sitting in other
15 government departments; and confirmation that this body will be
16 responsible for delivery, policy, strategy and regulation.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the UK's space industry, and research and development.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, Policy Paper 158, *Science, Innovation & Technology* (2025) and motion *Bring Back the Industrial Strategy* (2023).

F43 Towards a Ceasefire and Political Resolution in Sudan

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Richard Foord MP

Summation: To be announced

1 *After ii) (line 7), insert:*

- 2 iii) The deliberate targeting and killing of humanitarian workers in the
3 conflict, including attacks on UN aid convoys - reflecting a culture
4 of impunity in the civil war.
- 5 iv) UN reporting from August 2025, highlighting the size of the
6 healthcare catastrophe in the country - with more than 80% of
7 health facilities in Sudan's conflict zones no longer operational

8 *After 5. (line 65) insert:*

- 9 6. Work with international and regional partners to secure
10 guarantees for the protection of humanitarian relief workers who
11 continue to be targeted even while trying to provide lifesaving aid.

12 *After 6. (line 68), insert:*

- 13 7. Secure a commitment from actors in the conflict to allow
14 unrestricted humanitarian access and aid into Sudan and across
15 conflict lines throughout the country.

16 *At end of 8. c) (line 79), add: ' - including enhancing and protecting their*
17 *access to education.'*

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and international development.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, motion *International Development - Restoring the UK's Role* (2024), and Policy Paper 157, *Liberal Values in a Dangerous World* (2024).

F44 Standing Order Amendment: Threshold for Submitting Amendments to the Constitution and Standing Orders

Summation: Cllr Imogen Shepherd-DuBey.

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *In lines 19-21, delete 'shall require 30 signatures of members' and insert*
2 *'shall need to be submitted by 30 members'.*

F45 Constitutional and Standing Order Amendments: Reporting to Conference

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *Delete line 53.*

Amendment One

Federal Board

Mover: Cllr Mike Cox

Summation: Jeremy Hargreaves MBE

1 *After line 93, insert:*

2 *Delete Article 23.3 and insert:*

3 23.3 The Federal Board shall have power, after appropriate
4 consultations with party members, to make and from time to time
5 vary procedures for the handling of complaints (the "Complaints
6 Procedures"). These Complaints Procedures shall include an
7 appeals process and also a requirement for an annual report to be
8 published on the party website on the performance of the
9 Procedures along with an explanation of any changes made to the
10 Procedures in the preceding year.

There will be separate votes on lines 51-52 and also on lines 88-90.

F46 Constitutional Amendments: Constitutional Tidying-Up

Amendment One

Federal Board

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves MBE

Summation: Lord Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats)

1 *Delete lines 60-61 and insert:*

2 *In Article 16.3(a) delete the second sentence and insert: 'Members*
3 *appointed under this clause may not hold or have held Federal Party*
4 *office or be or have been a member of any other Federal Committee, or*
5 *a member of Federal Party staff, during the two years preceding their*
6 *nomination to the Committee or during their term as a member of the*
7 *FASC.'*

8 *In line 77 insert a comma after 'Parliament'*

9 *In line 78 delete 'for'*

10 *Delete lines 106-8 and insert:*

11 *In Article 13.1, replace 'accountable' with 'responsible' and delete 'and*
12 *shall report to each ordinary meeting of the Board', and in Article 14.1,*
13 *replace 'accountable' with 'responsible' and delete 'and shall report*
14 *regularly to it';*

F47 Defending Women's Rights Across the Globe

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC); Aide: Prof Belinda Brooks-Gordon; Hall Aide: Fraser Graham.

Amendment One

Liberal Democrats Overseas

Mover: George Cunningham

Summation: Caroline Voaden MP

1 *After viii) (line 43) insert:*

- 2 xi) Afghanistan merits specific attention, being the most extreme
3 example of state-enforced oppression of women in the world.
4 Banned from secondary schooling, university education, and most
5 paid work, the vast majority of women live in poverty and isolation.

6 *After 6. (line 89), insert:*

- 7 a) Actively encourage more countries to ratify the Istanbul Council
8 of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence
9 against women and domestic violence.

10 *After 6. d) line 106, insert:*

- 11 7. Continue its pressure on the Taliban regime by not recognising it
12 as Afghanistan's legitimate government, working with partners to
13 use leverage such as the unfreezing of Afghan assets and the lifting
14 of sanctions on Taliban leaders, to improve Afghan women's rights,
15 while investing in women's projects, particularly in small and
16 medium enterprises in places where they are still permitted a role,
17 and online education.

Amendment Two

12 members

Mover: Monica Harding MP (Spokesperson for International Development)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After x) (line 51) insert:*

- 2 xi) The British public lack confidence in the Government's current
3 approach, with only 37% (YouGov, May 2025) believing that the UK
4 Government cares about the rights of women and girls.

5 *After 1. (line 68) insert:*

- 6 2. Provide an annual report to Parliament on the work of the UK
7 Special Envoy for Women and Girls, highlighting progress and
8 persistent challenges in promoting the UK's role as a leader on
9 women's rights.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the rights of women, global gender equality, and international development.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, motion *International Development - Restoring the UK's Role* (2024), motion *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls* (2021), and motion *Britain at the Heart of a Changing World* (2018).

Help us win!

This Conference has been a wonderful celebration of everything we've achieved together. And it's thanks to people like you.

But a serious threat is rising.

Nigel Farage and Reform will use every election before the General Election to build credibility. Every small win gives them headlines and makes them harder to shift. And every step forward for them is a step backwards for Britain.

Reform's politics of division, fear, and conspiracy is not the future our children deserve.

We must act now. Which means immediate research, polling, leaflets and digital ads to build momentum for the battles ahead.

So I am asking you to donate to our Stop Reform Fund:

£10 would print 300 A3 colour leaflets

£25 will print 1,300 canvass leaflets

£50 to print 1,500 tabloid newspapers

£100 to power a digital campaign

**Every pound counts. Together, we can stop them.
Together, we can drive Britain forwards.**

**Please, if you can, donate today:
www.libdems.org.uk/appeal or the QR code:**



Spring Conference 2026

13-15 March, York Barbican – we hope to see you there!

Registration will open in November.

Lost Property

Any lost property should be handed in to the Information Desk in the foyer of the BIC.

Live Stream

The auditorium will be streamed at: www.libdems.org.uk/conference-live in case you miss any sessions or want to watch again!

Left Luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Highcliff Marriott between 08.00 and 17.00 on Tuesday 23 September. Please note that capacity is limited and will be available on a first-come first-served basis. A charge of £2 per item will apply.

We want to hear from you!

We will be sending round a feedback survey link soon.

Please let us know about your experience of conference!