

EXC- 011 Review of roles of SI Committees and Officers

Motion for SI GA 2015

Title of motion

UPDATE OF STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF SI COMMITTEES AND SI OFFICER ROLES

National Secretary and national member group proposing motion

Ann Greenhough on behalf of SI Exco

Summary of the motion:

- i. In the period 2015-18 SI Exco should coordinate a review of the SI structure. This is to include both elected and unelected SI committees reviewing their own structure, purpose, functions and name, taking into account the impact of changes that result from Servas going online. Each SI officer should review their role in a similar way.
- ii. SI Exco will work with the Job Descriptions and Statutes Committee to ensure that outcomes of the reviews from each committee and SI officer are drawn together into an overview of the current SI structure with any proposed changes.
- iii. This overview will be made available to national groups and SI committees for consultation.
- iv. Following this consultation the updated SI structure should be put forward at the 2018 GA to include any proposed changes to the SI statutes.
- v. The aim is to create a structure that promotes Servas as a stream-lined, forward-thinking organisation which continues to maintain its core values as a peace organisation.
- vi. The review should consider the sustainability of the current structure and whether committees and SI roles should be joined together, disbanded or new committees and roles created.
- vii. To inform the decision-making at GA 2018, Exco is encouraged to put in place, on a trial basis, any new ways of working or structures that do not require a change in the statutes.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

Over time SI committees and other SI roles have been set up in response to particular identified needs for Servas as they arise. In some cases the purpose of a committee or SI role and its responsibilities are no longer clear or fully understood. Often there is no apparent reason why one role is elected and included in the statutes whilst another is not. Appointed SI committees and officers are no less accountable for their activities than those who are elected. Volunteers reliably carry out a range of essential SI tasks to support the

work of Exco and other committees, often over a number of years.

There is potential for Servas International to become more streamlined and cost effective without putting at risk its ability to carry out the decisions of the member countries made at the General Assembly.

With an imminent transfer to an online system beginning in 2016 SI will need to consider what future structure will best meet the needs of Servas as a fast changing organisation.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

A modernised structure for SI that will more effectively meet the needs of the organisation once the move to going online is complete.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

The time commitment to carry out initial reviews would be shared between the individual committees involved.

The Job Description and Statutes Committee would play a key role in monitoring progress of these reviews and be responsible for collating the outcomes into a single document.

In collaboration with Exco and representatives of other committees this committee would then form a working group to evaluate the reviews with a view to presenting recommendations for changes to the overall SI structure.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International and for national groups in the short and longer term?

A review of work by SI committees and SI officers should be achievable within existing SI budgets.

Who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

SI General Secretary would be lead person within Exco with oversight of the review.

SI committee convenors would be responsible for planning and recording outcomes of the review of their own committees.

Job Descriptions and Statutes committee would play a key role in collating the individual reviews of committees and SI officers into a final document with recommendations for change.

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Would there be implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

No immediate changes to SI statutes would be required. The implications of any proposed revisions to the SI structure would be considered at 2018 GA.

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

Without some review of the SI structure in light of the impact of going online, Servas is likely to struggle to function efficiently in the longer term and present itself as a modern forward thinking organisation.