

# Scientists for Labour standards

One of the key aims of Scientists for Labour (SfL) is to assist in the incorporation of scientific knowledge and rigour into the development of policy within the wider Labour Party. In SfL, this process is typically done through the development of reports, briefings and blog posts. In order to maintain professional quality control, anything published through SfL must adhere to high academic and production standards. To this end, we have created this document to act as a guideline to the standards required for publication via SfL. While we expect no significant issues to occur, we have created the policies discussed below as a means to solving any issues that may arise during the policy creation process.

The value SfL provides to the Labour Party is typically through our ability to review, comprehend and communicate complex scientific information which is relevant to national, local and international policy. As such, it is essential that any commentary on or interpretation of scientific research developed on behalf of SfL is substantiated by citation of credible sources within the scientific literature.

SfL reserve the right to refuse to publish written documents, audio/video files or any other addition to the public record which is not deemed to meet our standards. All material will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and the Chair of SfL will be the final arbiter for all information published via SfL. Arbitration powers can also be delegated where necessary to other members of the Executive Committee.

## 1. Community standards

SfL anticipates that much of the work conducted by its members will be performed collaboratively. As such, we will maintain strict community standards which must be adhered to. The Executive Committee delegates power to enforce community standard to the Vice-Chair for membership, who can, where necessary, exclude members from further work on a project, or in extreme cases cancel the project entirely. Any disputes will first be considered by the Executive Committee, and if necessary, will be resolved using the standard disputes procedure as outlined in SfL's constitution.

Any queries or complaints should be directed to [vcmembership@sfl.org.uk](mailto:vcmembership@sfl.org.uk)

### 1.1 Code of conduct

All work for Scientist for Labour is performed in a strictly voluntary capacity, and as such we expect volunteers to treat each other with respect and consideration when working together.

#### Responsibilities of members participating in SfL projects

As a participant of any project or activity, SfL expects members, firstly, to ensure that all work is conducted in a respectful, collaborative and honest manner, and to not conduct themselves in a manner which could bring SfL or the wider Labour Party into disrepute. The following non-exhaustive list are considered breaches of our code of conduct:

- Bullying or harassment of other members;
- Discrimination based on the protected characteristics under the 2010 equality act;

- Dishonest behaviour such as deliberate misrepresentation, plagiarism or fabrication;
- Publication of material damaging to SfL, such as unauthorised drafts or offensive material on social media or in other public forums; or
- Any behaviour contrary to the aims and values of the Labour Party.

#### Rights and responsibilities of SfL in project co-ordination

SfL commit to creating a collaborative and open environment, within which we intend to showcase the expertise and creativity of our membership. As such, the organisation will investigate any suspected or reported breaches of our code of conduct.

SfL reserve the following rights with regards to the policy development process:

- To disband teams and projects, at the discretion of the Executive Committee;
- To publish (or not publish) any materials which have been produced throughout the course of the activity or project;
- To retract or amend any documents which do not meet our standards, or are later shown to disproven; and
- To exclude members from taking part in our projects and activities for any length of time.

## 2. Content standards

As much of the work developed by SfL will be sent to senior politicians within the Labour Party or their staff and may inform local, national and international policy, it is imperative that all content meets high standards. The Vice-Chair for Policy will enforce the content standards, with power to refuse publication or amend documents where deemed necessary.

In general, the following guidelines apply to all material produced for SfL. All queries or complaints should be directed to [vcpolicy@sfl.org.uk](mailto:vcpolicy@sfl.org.uk)

### 2.1 Academic integrity

Work conducted by SfL will continue to influence policy positions within the Labour Party, therefore, all research conducted on behalf of SfL should adhere to Academic integrity guidelines. As such, plagiarism is strictly not permitted, all statements of fact must be supported by appropriate citation and supporting works should be properly credited in the document. Furthermore, commentary and interpretation must not manipulate or “cherry-pick” information, in order to serve a narrative not substantiated by scientific research. Where there is no consensus in the literature this should be clearly reported. Work should not include speculation or unsupported statements.

In the interests of transparency all work produced by SfL should be properly credited to its authors, unless there is a clear reason why this would not be appropriate. All authors should also state potential conflicts of interest where necessary.

### 2.2. Writing style and audience

All work should be concise and written with a non-scientific audience in mind. Documents should be written under the assumption that the target audience of our work is generally Labour politicians, many of whom will be unfamiliar with scientific process. As such, scientific

jargon should either be explicitly explained or avoided, and language should be tailored towards the layperson.

### 2.3 Production standards

High production standards should always be maintained, and we would expect all documents submitted to the Executive Committee to have undergone multiple stages of review and proof reading by all authors; ensuring accuracy, grammar and formatting are of an appropriate standard. Drafts for review should be sent in commonly used amendable formats, such as Microsoft Word/Google doc; LaTeX documents will not be accepted. Consistent formatting should be applied to all written documents, with all material produced using SfL templates where possible (e.g. MS Word, Google doc). Any diagrams or graphics should, where possible, be provided in a vector image format, (e.g .png). References should be in the 'Nature' style. Authors are free to choose their preferred referencing methods and software, but any decisions should be agreed by all authors at the beginning of any project.