

Proposal: shifting from a magazine to regular pamphlets

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The last magazine rs21 successfully produced was in October 2017.

In the 8 months since it was announced that the February 2018 issue couldn't be produced, we have sustained the ambition of resuming the magazine, but little has happened to action this. A sufficient team of volunteers to produce a full magazine has not materialised and the SG and Organiser have been at full capacity already.

It is evidently important to have print publications, but I would suggest (echoing some other members who have advocated this for some time) that the time has come to try a format other than a magazine, organised on a different model than by a fixed set of people responsible for issue after issue within their year-long term.

I would suggest:

- To replace a magazine, we should try producing a pamphlet once every 4 months, taking the example from the pamphlet around Palestine we have produced in the last few weeks.
- Each National Meeting (NM) can discuss and ultimately select a topic for the pamphlet to be produced over the following 4 months, with members bringing their ideas and suggestions to the NM.
- There will be no fixed team of people responsible for producing pamphlets throughout the year; the team working on any given pamphlet will be made up of any volunteers willing to write, edit and design on that subject, though it should probably try to contain at least one SG member for liaison purposes

This system would have some key advantages:

- A pamphlet can still discuss topical themes, but often has greater shelf life than a magazine. If each pamphlet is pitched to have enduring relevance we can accumulate an impressive back catalogue of relevant pamphlets to sell and distribute in a range of settings.
- rs21's members are time-strapped, but passionate about political ideas: by alternating topics we can hopefully get a different group of people involved in each pamphlet on a 4-month cycle, avoiding the problem of burnout.

This suggestion does not imply that we can only have one pamphlet on the go at a time, or that the SG loses the ability to commission print publications between National Meetings.

We currently have two pamphlet projects on the go: one on fascism, and one on gender. Producing both of these by the next NM will probably be more than enough to crack on with in the next 4 months, so we could pick a fresh pamphlet topic under the new system for the first time at our next NM in February 2019.

The following amendment was added by general agreement:

Our publications must be considered as a whole. Until we are ready to resume production of a magazine this has several implications.

1. Readers who like our pamphlets are likely to check out the rs21 web site.
2. The web site must offer prominent options to subscribe to updates including via email and social media.
3. The rs21 web site must include well signposted topical and agitational material related to the subjects of our pamphlets, particularly around the time they launch.
4. We will be reliant on the web site to carry a mix of theory (including introductory), analysis, comment, reports and agitation – and on members to share and promote them.
5. We should promote web site articles via email bulletins open to non-members.
6. Producing rs21 leaflets more frequently to relate to current debates and campaigns becomes more important. These can also promote relevant pamphlets and web site articles.