

Creating a Constitution of Inclusion and Consent.

If we agree that we do not wish to live in a UK society in which decision making is exclusive and dissent suppressed then please allow me to suggest that we think about the following proposals?

- 1.** All schools to make provision for the study of government and politics. Since the publication of the Report into Political Education and Political Literacy in 1978 the opportunity for young people to leave school with an understanding of political values as well as a knowledge of basic information such as Council Tax payment has been deliberately diminished by successive governments. Do we think that we ought to live in a more politically aware and knowledgeable society?
- 2.** Our voting system ought to cease being a 'winner takes all' system. It is worth remembering that in 1951 Attlee's Labour Party broke the record for the number of votes won by a political party in a General Election. It lost! It lost because we have a First Past the Post system. Ought we to be looking at the different forms of proportional representation such as the Single Transferable Vote system?
- 3.** In 1829 Sir Robert Peel established the Metropolitan Police Force. It was designed to work to nine principles. Their theme was Law Enforcement by Consent. And Principle Number Seven included the phrase, "The Police are the Public and the Public are the Police." If we replaced the word 'Police' by the word 'Government' and you thought that was a good idea how might we bring that about?
- 4.** Most Constitutions throughout history have been written by a small group of powerful and influential men. They have been top down exercises. Is it worth trying to very much widen the number of people who might have a say in the construction of a constitution? And is it worth very much widening participation in governmental decision making? And that might include not only decisions about going to war but also about keeping open local libraries.
- 5.** The only proposal from the Chartists of the Nineteenth Century that was never accepted by politicians with their hands on the levers of power was the proposal that our elected representatives should be subject to re-election annually. Ought there to be a time limit for people with their hands on the levers? In some places and times politicians can control those levers for decades. If you are not happy about this do you have an idea how long politicians should hold power?

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Cliff Jones

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