

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT 1984 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Twenty-eight motions were submitted. Two of these were withdrawn with the agreement of their proposers, and one was not accepted, as it did not have a full number of seconders.

Of the twenty-five motions voted on by Conference, twenty-three were passed and two rejected.

Below is the list of motions passed:

1. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE calls for immediate discussions between representatives of the GLC, the Metropolitan Authorities and the ACTT to agree both the allocation and the method of allocation for the film earmarked for the BFI in the event that the Government succeeds in its campaign to abolish these authorities. This Conference further notes the total inadequacy of the sum proposed in the light of the existing expenditure levels of the Authorities in question and demands a vigorous and unified campaign to secure a major increase in the funding available.

Proposer: Roy Lockett

For: 109

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

2. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT Conference recognises the enormous potential of the cultural policies of the GLC and the Metropolitan Authorities and strongly supports the elements of democratic control that these bodies represent. In the event of the abolition of these bodies, Conference calls for the safeguarding and expansion of this area of cultural work by the following means:

- (1) an investigation by each RAA Film and Video Panel of the various ways in which their Metropolitan Authority supports video and film work;
- (2) a recognition and collating of the existing social and cultural policies (equal opportunities and others) that govern funding;
- (3) a comprehensive listing by the Panels of existing clients and applicants for funding in video and film (across the range of funding panels in their Authority including, where appropriate, Community Arts, Ethnic Arts, Womens' Committees, etc.). This list should include the actual and required level of funding for these applicants;

- (4) that the Film & Video Officers, on behalf of their Panels, present this information to the Director of the BFI and that the monies that the Government is proposing to re-route from the Metropolitan Authorities to the BFI will be used to safeguard existing and to encourage new work;
- (5) a commitment in the longer term to a return to and expansion of the principle of democratic control and local accountability.

Proposer: Sylvia Harvey

For: 100
Against: 1
Abstentions: 2

3. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE notes with concern the threat posed to the future of film and video culture by the proposed abolition of the Metropolitan Councils. Conference therefore calls on the BFI to protest publicly in the strongest possible terms against the proposed bill.

Proposer: Sean Cubitt

For: 98
Against: 1
Abstentions: 10

4. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the BFI should establish a policy for funding the distribution of independent film and video, and that in particular, part of the film should be allocated to this. We note that within its policy for funding distribution, the GLC has prioritised Womens and Ethnic groups. We recommend that these priorities should be continued by the BFI.

Proposer: Eileen McNulty/Felicity Sparrow

For: 86
Against: 1
Abstentions: 16

5. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE welcomes the BFI's apparent acknowledgement of the black constituency with regard to establishing a black film and video culture and recommend that this be translated into action in terms of funding black film and video production and related activities.

Proposer: Vikas Mathur

For: 116
Against: 0
Abstentions: 5

6. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE demands that, in order to guarantee the active participation of ethnic groups at all levels of decision-making, the policy of affirmative action should be implemented. In order to safeguard against tokenism, it is imperative that there is consultation with and representation of those ethnic and cultural groups who may be affected by future policy. The BFI should ensure the representation of at least two black organisations from the constituency on all funding and decision-making bodies of the Institute.

Proposer: Karen Alexander

For: 85

Against: 2

Abstentions: 19

7. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE notes with concern the complete lack of statutory funding for film and video development within Northern Ireland and would ask BFI, along with other media bodies, to support an urgent examination of this situation.

Proposer: Alastair Herron

For: 114

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

8. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE notes that the BFI lacks any provision in its policies for equality of opportunity. Therefore, the Conference demands that the BFI immediately formulate and implement an equal opportunities policy that seeks to encourage the active participation of all social groups that have traditionally been excluded from policy-making and embodies the needs and aspirations of these people. This policy should be acted upon in all areas, including staffing (at all levels and in all departments), representation on committees, all areas of funding, and training. The Conference particularly wishes to ensure that this commitment to an equality of opportunity policy is actively pursued and does not fall into the lip service paid to the specific demands of women in recent years which, contrary to popular assumptions, has done little to concretely change the position of women.

Proposer: Tammy Walker

For: 95

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

9. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE calls upon the BFI to recognise its woeful lack of attention paid to training. The Conference calls upon the BFI to urgently set up a representative Committee with the aim of producing, within the next 12 months, a systematic policy for training in all aspects of cultural work in the independent sector with particular reference to the needs of women and black film and video workers.

Proposer: Sadhana Ghose

For: 98
Against: 1
Abstentions: 4

10. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the representation and funding of BFI-subsidised public exhibition should be given equal priority with other sectors, notably production. That this process begin with fuller representation on the Regional Consultative Committee and other relevant committees.

Proposer: Steve Pinhay

For: 84
Against: 0
Abstentions: 12

11. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT following the appropriate research, a comparative study be presented to the RCC on salary levels, staffing structures and conditions of work within BFI subsidised exhibition venues. This report should lead to recommendations in the matter of salaries and conditions, to be prepared by the Regional Film Consortium.

Proposer: Peter Grant

For: 81
Against: 0
Abstentions: 14

12. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT in view of the current and proposed capital development programme in the regions and the inadequate technical resources of most existing BFI-supported regional cinemas, the Institute's Funding & Development Division should make it an immediate priority to ensure that:

- (1) sufficient funding be allocated to bring existing facilities to the standards necessary in the exhibition of film and television;

- (2) it provides adequate technical advice and support from within the division to service the regions.

Proposer: Peter Grant

For: 73

Against: 0

Abstentions: 20

13. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the BFI formulate a clear and locally accountable policy for the generation and distribution of funds by the RPF and the PB, which takes into account the needs of existing and developing video culture, taking equal opportunities policies especially into account.

Proposer: Gavin Hodge

For: 57

Against: 0

Abstentions: 42

14. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the BFI establish as a matter of urgency, a working party to formulate a concrete policy on video funding and development. This working party should comprise BFI officers and representatives of the video sector to be proposed by the IFVA and the ACTT Cultural Committee. This working party must hold regular meetings with individual video makers and workshop representatives from the entire sector including Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland. Further to this, a budget should be allocated to cover travelling expenses for participants, so that groups receiving minimal or zero funding will not be excluded from the discussions.

Proposer: Jean McClements

For: 90

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

15. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the BFI make specific funding allocations to support the following initiatives aimed at the promotion and co-ordination of independent video activity:

- (1) short course in-service training, in collaboration with other relevant bodies;
- (2) Independent Video magazine and the annual festival;
- (3) the development of video cassette distribution and exhibition, locally and nationally.

Proposer: David Stewart

For: 58

Against: 0

Abstentions: 28

16. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the rapid depletion of RAA budgets for film and video non-enfranchised production and associated activity, and the threat that this poses to the future health of regional film and video culture (including workshop integrated practice), is to be viewed with concern; it also notes Anthony Smith's Conference commitment to give priority to the regions in the coming year and calls for the ear-marking of substantial sums to re-instate those activities.

Proposer: Malcolm Ellis

For: 88

Against: 0

Abstentions: 7

17. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE demands that BFI calls a halt to its negotiations with the EEC via the RPF, concerning funding for workshops, until such time as BFI has held discussions with ACTT and those franchised and provisionally franchised workshops and local authorities within the various regions that are eligible for and interested in EEC funding, and that future negotiations should be progressed either as a joint initiative between BFI and representatives of the workshop sector, or as a series of regional initiatives.

Proposer: Claudine Boothe

For: 62

Against: 2

Abstentions: 23

18. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE views with deep concern the proposed changes in the operation of the Regional Production Fund currently under consideration by the Review Committee. Conference demands that the BFI maintains and extends the existing accountability of the Fund, significantly increases the resources available to it; actively pursues and implements a policy of equal opportunity; and that no re-allocation of existing funding takes place without a clear definition of funding policy towards franchised workshops which should emerge from the fullest consultation and agreement with all representative organisations in the franchised workshop sector.

Proposer: John Akomfrah

For: 61

Against: 0

Abstentions: 27

19. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE notes the fragmented nature of policy formulation for the independent sector at both regional and national level and the damaging effect of this on the emergence of comprehensive development strategies embracing production, exhibition, distribution, training, and integrated practices. Conference calls on the BFI to participate with C4, ACTT, the RAAs, and other representative organisations in the constituency to establish Regional and National co-ordinating Committees to plan and campaign for balanced growth throughout the sector.

Proposer: Liz Fletcher

For: 77

Against: 0

Abstentions: 8

20. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT in relation to its stated aims of establishing media education in the core curriculum and its commitment to education in, for instance, exhibition venues, workshops and adult education institutions, the BFI should:

- (1) devise a plan of action to implement these aims in both mandatory and non-mandatory education;
- (2) give all possible support to SEFT in organising a national conference on media education;
- (3) allocate a proportion of any increase in funds for the regions to media education activities including, as a priority, the funding, through the BFI Education Committee, of further Local Education Authority advisory posts.

Proposer: Tim Cornish

For: 64

Against: 2

Abstentions: 22

21. THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE notes the extensive contribution to the exhibition sector made by film societies outlined in the Conference paper "Film Culture and the Voluntary Sector". Conference recognises and seeks to promote its cost-effective and integrated approach by:

- (1) encouraging the maximisation of co-operation between film societies and the professional sectors;
- (2) calling upon RAAs and BFI Education to recognise the educational potential for the promotion of media studies represented by film societies, especially those in schools, colleges and universities;

- (3) facilitating the exhibition of independent and ethnic film and video within the film society context.

Proposer: Carol Sellars

For: 56

Against: 3

Abstentions: 25

22. With current developments in the Cable industry making it unlikely that community programming, including documentaries as well as local news and information, will become a reality without positive support, THE 1984 BFI CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT the Institute allocate specific staff resources to develop a practical series of initiatives for BFI advocacy and funding. These initiatives should include:

- (1) exploring ways in which BFI relationships with relevant institutions, such as RAAs, LAs, ACTT cable operators and local production groups, can be fostered so as to develop a local dimension to the operation of cable systems;
- (2) making representation to the proposed Cable Authority concerning financial provision by the franchised operators for training of and programme production by the local community, with attention paid to ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups;
- (3) monitoring franchised cable operations, especially with regard to their effects on the British production sector, regional production and community access;
- (4) considering ways in which professional market research and promotion can be used to nurture and develop an audience for community television;
- (5) lobbying to ensure that one member of the proposed Cable Authority have knowledge and experience of, and be sympathetic to, regional and community production, in particular the publicly funded workshop sector;
- (6) producing an information pack or publication which would help local programme making groups relate to cable operators.

Proposer: Steve Herman

For: 71

Against: 0

Abstentions: 8

23. THE 1984 CONFERENCE PROPOSES THAT, noting the motion passed last year that "The BFI should grant-aid the design and print costs of film and video catalogues for non-profit making organisations engaged in distribution" the BFI should now allocate a budget to cover those costs and widely advertise its existence.

Proposer: Geoff Stow

For: 71
Against: 0
Abstentions: 8