

Proposal to introduce methods of DIRECT democracy in Britain and N. Ireland

Beyond voting for a candidate every five or so years most people have nothing to say about how we run our country or local affairs. Many rightly feel that the political system has little to offer them and refuse to vote at all.

We propose well tried ways to improve how democracy works. Using these, if we choose to campaign about something which matters to us, we can put forward a law or a veto and if there is enough support from fellow citizens we can demand that a ballot of the whole electorate must be held.

MORE DEMOCRACY MEANS PEOPLE POWER

We suggest that the following democratic “tools” shall be introduced:

The Initiative

With the **initiative** a citizen or group has the right to put forward a proposal to introduce or change law. In order that a proposal will be put to the electorate (in a **referendum** or **ballot**) an agreed number of **endorsements** (signatures) must be collected and validated.

BASIC TOOLS OF DEMOCRACY

The Referendum

If the required number of endorsements is obtained, there are two ways to proceed:

- 1) The proposal is put to the electorate in a referendum.
- 2) The proposal is first presented to parliament or local council, which must debate it. Parliament or council may adopt the proposal and pass it as law. Proposals which are rejected must be put to the electorate in a referendum. If a majority of the electorate votes for the proposal then it becomes law. Parliament or council may put forward an alternative which must go to referendum together with the original citizens' proposal.

- **Volunteer** to help, e.g. work up campaign materials, design internet presentations, fundraise, donate.

- **Inform** family, friends, colleagues, about existing resources and proposals e.g. the I&R website www.iniref.org Reach out to schools, churches, sports clubs, trade unions and professions, unemployed, self-employed, colleges and universities, other groups and “people in the street” (and pub).

CAMPAIGN

- Spread our demand for direct democracy DD via mobile 'phone, social media and e-mail. Lobby your MP and election candidates. Ask the owners of popular websites to display a prominent link to www.iniref.org Call radio shows about DD.

- Launch a DD ACTION GROUP in your area. Use the resources at our web site and ask for help if you need it <mailto:info@iniref.org>

- **LOCAL CONTACT** Place your own contact details in this space and then print or spread on-line leaflets – if unsure ask us how to do this.