

15 EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND THE ROAD TO RADICAL LAND REFORM

As we continue to make significant progress towards our target of 1 million acres of land in community ownership by 2020, Conference welcomes the passing of the Community Empowerment Act and the introduction of the Land Reform Bill.

Conference notes that the Community Empowerment Act represents a momentous step in the drive to decentralise decisions and give people a stronger voice in their communities; notes the Act will give communities more powers to take ownership of land and buildings, in both urban and rural areas, and to actively shape and influence how their services are delivered.

Conference also welcomes the introduction of the Land Reform Bill which aims to ensure the issues of fairness and social justice connected to the ownership of, access to and use of land in Scotland are given a permanent footing with the creation of a Scottish Land Commission.

Conference believes that, when people have greater control of their own future, they are more engaged and are able to tackle barriers to making their communities more resilient, sustainable and therefore wealthier and fairer.

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