

# RECLAIM YOUR RIGHTS!

THE SOCIAL  
RIGHTS ISSUE

IS A KILL

MAKE THE  
CLIMATE  
GREAT AGAIN



THE  
ECOSPRINTER

01/2020

# CONTENTS

- 1 Editorial
- 2 Local Hackathons on Social Rights
- 4 Brave New Economy
- 6 Youth Voices Matter: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Young People in Armenia
- 8 Cyber Dystopia  
Tragic Story of the 21st Century: Evictions in Serbia
- 12 Grand Paris : How Will France Foster Inclusiveness if It Doesn't Get Rid of Its Hidden Bias?
- 14 Victory for Abortion Activists in Northern Ireland
- 16 Centri sociali: Incubating Social Rights in Italy
- 18 The Rights of the Self-Employed: A Principle Challenge for the Trade Union Movement
- 20 Europe's Housing Crisis: What Can We Learn from the Vienna Model?
- 22 The Campaign to Have PrEP Fully Funded on the NHS in England is a Feminist Fight
- 24 Nicolas, Stage Manager for Film Shootings in Paris
- 26 Burst the Taboo
- 27 Editors
- 28 Meet the Writers

## Published by

ECOSPRINTER  
Federation of young European  
Greens  
31 Rue Wiertz  
Brussels B-1050  
Belgium

## Ecosprinter Editorial Board

Alexia Delfosse, Cristiana Cerri Gambarelli, Simon Gergely Császár, Tamar Jakeli

## Editor

Sarah Heim

## Layout

Design, Covers & Typesetting:  
Beka Buchashvili  
Logo: Gio Megrelishvili

## Printing

onlineprinters.be

## Proportion of women, trans or gender-queer authors

84.6 %

## Pictures

pg. 7: atb.am  
pg. 10: *no credit*  
pg. 12: Nil Castellvi  
pg. 15: huckmag.com  
pg. 16-17: Pedro Centro Sociale Occupato  
pg. 19: Frank Mckenna  
pg. 20: Jacek Dylag  
pg. 23: Hal Gatewood  
front cover: Cristiana Cerri Gambarelli

## Disclaimer

The articles reflect opinions of their individual writers, not necessarily those of the FYEG or its partners.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License



SUPPORTED BY



# EDITORIAL

Dear Brave Green activists across Europe,

We are thrilled to present to you this printed edition of the Ecosprinter on Social Rights. The articles thereof are the result of an exciting and productive year of collaboration among young Greens all around Europe who, through the various activities organized by the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) and its partners, came together to explore social rights, share their personal struggles in accessing them, and advocate for their protection.

We demand social rights to counter the precarity that we young people face. All across Europe, we, the youth are in a vulnerable position, living through perpetual instability, and depending on the social and political nuance and shrinking opportunities of our local, national, and international contexts. Job insecurity, inaccessible housing, unequal access to education and poor-quality healthcare are the result of the discrepancy between the theoretically guaranteed social rights and the lack of their practical realisation in our everyday lives.

This precarity limits the time and drains the energy that we would otherwise use to engage in politics at any level and in any form. We envision a world where we all enjoy quality education, accessible healthcare (including for our mental health), adequate housing, employment opportunities outside the exploitative schemes of the capitalist machine, with fair wages and a better work-life balance. We keep on fighting for a world vibrant with real democracy.

The Ecosprinter relies on openness, inclusion and participative work. Thus, we want to express gratitude to our wonderful writers, with whom it was a pleasure to collaborate in bringing this edition to life. We also want to thank FYEG's Secretariat and Executive Committee for their support and coordination. Finally, the printing of this issue was supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe as one result of the *Reclaim Your Social Rights!* project, as part of which 8 decentralised hackathons on social rights were organised in 8 European countries. We're happy to tell you more about them in the following two pages.

We hope that this edition will empower you, brave Green activists across Europe, to think more about our social rights, to keep imagining different and better worlds, and inspire you to take action and shape your communities.

Sincerely,

**Alexia Delfosse**

**Cristiana Cerri Gambarelli**

**Simon Gergely Császár**

**Tamar Jakeli**

*The Ecosprinter Editorial Board 2019-2020*





### Landlords Need Not Apply: Tackling Scotland's Housing Crisis

The Scottish Young Greens tackled the housing crisis in Scotland, with a focus on homelessness, lack of social housing, rent poverty and rogue landlords. One of the projects visualised city tours to share the history of derelict buildings and of gentrified areas, like beautiful structures in Glasgow which are bought and then mysteriously set on fire or let alone to rot. Another group created an informative poster maps to be placed on the street, to point rough sleepers in the direction where to get services.

SCOTLAND



ENGLAND



### Renters' Rights Hackathon

The increasing pressure on housing in the UK is felt acutely among young people and London Young Greens chose to tackle the lack of information on renters' rights. They produced a series of interactive resources, such as adventure games, web quizzes, videos, sticker designs and soft advertisements. All these will be uploaded on a website to be launched at 2020 Winter Gathering, to enable young people to understand the landscape in which they are living and push them to demand more from their landlords.

### Housing is a right! Hackathon on affordable housing

The hackathon organised by Czech Young Greens produced diverse outputs. One of the groups came up with the strategy plan to recuperate an old abandoned house, former hospital for terminally-ill patients, and transform it into a public space for the community. Another one conceptualised a public art installation of an empty flat to condemn escalating rent prices and the citizens' alienation that's carried over with them.

CZECH REPUBLIC

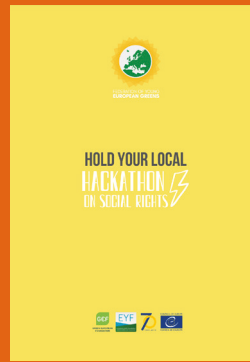


ITALY



### Tips on Rights, a Feminist Hackathon

Activists in Italy dug into the national housing and working crisis. Out of it came TheOtherCity - an anti-gentrification touristic city map, a blank and customisable template shareable on Canva, which can show tourists places that don't feed into the gentrification patterns of typical European cities. The second product is a radiophonic theatre script set in an imaginary world of reversed discrimination, which sparks thoughts on the normativity that rules over working environments.



### HOLD YOUR HACKATHON ON SOCIAL RIGHTS

This guide has been created for those who wish to organise their own local hackathon on social rights. Based upon the experiences of the organisers, it collects multiple tips and tricks and also serves as a general project-management resource for organising youth events based on non-formal education principles and inclusive sharing of knowledge.



# Local Hackathons on Social Rights

## Turning Chaos Into Progress.

### Hackathon on Polish Education.

Polish Young Greens focused on the failing education system in Poland during their Turning Chaos Into Progress hackathon. The groups gave life to various campaigns to raise awareness about the problematic school system in Poland and encourage self-governance initiative in schools, with an ad hoc social media campaign. The event was also fundamental in inspiring people's interest and getting participants to join the new working groups created by the Polish Young Greens.

**POLAND**

## Democracy Begins from a Community

Purely Berdyansk's hackathon was the perfect occasion to brainstorm and expand on project plans to propose to the city, which gives students the opportunity to take part in the urban participatory budget. One of the projects outlined the creation of an open community hub to organise peer-to-peer classes on different topics and with a joint fee system to enable wider accessibility. A special bonus was the opportunity offered to the organisation to use the venue of the hackathon in the future as a gathering and event space!

**UKRAINE**

**GEORGIA**

## Anti-Privatisation Action

The Georgian Young Greens gathered in Tbilisi in a moment of high political distress for the country. They mapped privatisation as source of social inequality in Georgia and prepared the ground for hackathon projects. However, the widespread opposition to the government and the ongoing urban protests kept everyone busy and disrupted the event. Despite this, the hackathon team continued working to create a Facebook page with graphics on the topic and support their communities.

**SERBIA**

## Youth at the frontlines of social justice

Activists at Serbian Green Youth gathered young people to discuss the main struggles of young Serbians. After identifying a trend in recreational use of drugs that shifted from subculture to mainstream culture and looking at recent statistics showing that 1/3 of young people that have used drugs didn't know what they were taking, they decided to develop a website to provide reliable information about the different substances.

# BRAVE NEW ECONOMY

**Katja Raiher**

Can our economy ever stop exploiting humans and the environment the way it does today? I believe it can. If only with immense efforts from politicians and citizens alike. And I am not alone: An entire movement is working on the idea of a fair and just future economy, an “economy for the common good”!

Their main belief is that money, or generating profits, should stop being a purpose in itself. It must function solely as a means to an end. The “end”, in this case, is an economy whose foremost goal is the wellbeing of its members. And as everyone knows, money is not the decisive factor there.

In order to politically steer such a reform, if not a revolution, a sophisticated taxation system is needed: the “balance of common good”. It considers four main goals a company or corporation should work towards:

- 1. Human dignity**
- 2. Solidarity and justice**
- 3. Ecological sustainability**
- 4. Transparency and participation.**

If a company causes the deforestation of the Brazilian rainforest, for instance, it would mean a bad balance and thus paying higher taxes. On the other hand, allowing for democratic participation within the company would improve the balance and cut the company’s taxes significantly.

In order to illustrate this idea, let us imagine an ordinary working day of a bank employee, Sarah.

Sarah lives in the future, where this new concept has already been established.

She works in a small regional bank: in her branch office only about 5 people are employed. Her office does not have economic pressure to expand, since the success of companies is not measured by the amount of profit they generate. Sarah walks in wearing her nice blue uniform. The clothes have been produced in an environmentally friendly way and by employees working under fair conditions. Thanks to the new taxation system, it would cost her office even more to buy clothes made under exploitative conditions.

In her job, Sarah manages the distribution of loans. For each case, she needs to consider whether the investment will benefit society and the environment or not. The better the expected effect, the smaller the interest rates. No bank is concerned with investing in dubious stock anymore.

For lunch the cook serves pizza topped with vegetables from the office’s little urban garden. The employees decided to invest last year’s surplus in this. Fresh veggies and a higher “common good” ranking – what could be better for the little bank?

In the afternoon, a small assembly will take place. The employees need to decide on the future wage of their new boss, Sebastian. All agree that since Sebastian will take on most of the responsibilities of the branch office, he should have a higher income. In the unlikely case his branch goes bankrupt, he will be most liable too (the 2008 manager scandal should not repeat itself). Most decisions in the offices are made transparently and with solidarity in mind for each other. One can imag-



ine there is no rivalry or envy between Sarah's colleagues.

Their working day ends after six hours. The labour is stress-free and at the same time everyone is motivated to do their best. Except for Jeff who was really tired today. He recently became a father and will soon take a year off to spend time with his young family. Naturally, he will still receive 75% of his salary every month. Sarah's other colleague, Emily, loves taking care of animals. She always makes a detour to the local animal shelter before going home. And Johann? He is a hobby painter, and has already rushed back to his canvases. Next month a local gallery will host an exhibition with his work. All these activities are possible now that people are not falling into their beds after 10 hours of work a day. Everyone may

contribute to society according to their possibilities and interests.

You doubt all of that can really be achieved? Well, then watch companies implement "common good" concepts already!

– <https://www.ecogood.org/en/>

The initiators of the movement explicitly state that these concepts are not final, and their realisation strongly depends on the democratic sovereigns who will formulate the exact conditions. It all depends on the people.

So, now that the seed is planted in your heads, go ahead, spread it, and change the economy for (the common) good.



# Youth Voices Matter: *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Young People in Armenia*

Lusine Kosakyan

To date, young people are among the most affected right holders both in Armenia and worldwide by persisting inequalities, particularly regarding their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In Armenia, insufficient statistical data and the absence of a strategy and national plan make it difficult to evaluate the situation of the youth's reproductive rights. SRHR play a key role in the realization of other human rights and hold a cross-cutting centrality in achieving social justice and sustainable development. Women\* and girls' empowerment is on the line.

In the following article, I will discuss young people's SRHR issues by focusing on 1) the right to access appropriate sexuality-related education; 2) young people's participation in decision-making processes.

Teenagers have a right to sex education under the Law on Education of Armenia\*. However, there are gaps that need to be fulfilled, such as education of health (physical activity, healthy nutrition, psychological health, etc.), education of sexuality (sexual identity and orientation, tolerance, the prevention of risk sexual behavior, contraception, etc.) and preparation for family (methods of planning, marriage, gender equality, pregnancy, needs of infant, etc.). Despite the number of hours devoted

to sexual education\*\*, it does not properly cover all aspects of SRHR issues.

In the Armenian context, sexuality is presented as a negative concept and sexual activities are associated with guilt, fear, and disease especially for unmarried women and girls. Disappointingly, women are not free to make decisions in regard to their bodies and private lives. The word "sex" is constantly being avoided especially in the school context, which is inherited from the Soviet past. As a result, young people and adolescents are denied their rights to health and development, education, safety, privacy, and bodily autonomy, among being the target of other human rights violations.

In order to fill the gap, many awareness-raising projects are carried out by local NGOs all over the country. Yet, the organizations providing sexual education training or openly speaking about sexuality issues are often discredited or accused of spreading immorality and destroying our "national" values and norms. The recent attack of pseudo-activists against a children's book on sexuality, developed by a local women's rights organization, got wild. Though it gained the attention of the government and policy makers, the organization was accused of spreading child porn, and the case is at the time of writing in the prosecution process. These kinds of aggressions weaken the local

---

\* Article 5 of RA Law on Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights refers to the adolescents' rights to acquire sexuality education. Article 5.2 of the same law states: "Adolescent sexual education in secondary schools and in other educational institutions should be carried out by professionally trained persons in close cooperation with families, health services, non-governmental organizations, and the public".

---

\*\* See, 'Biology' 8th grade, 'Healthy lifestyle' incorporated in the Physical education subject, 'Safe activities' included in 'Preliminary Preparedness' subject

feminist organizations and discourage any kind of intervention aimed at an integrated approach to sexual education.

Young people's voices must be heard: generally, young people are represented invisible at the policy level in both national and international contexts. Whenever taken into account, they are mostly treated as a homogenous group, ignoring their diversity in terms of age, gender, socioeconomic background, civil status, whether they are living with HIV, and whether they are in or out of school, among other issues. As a result, minority groups of young people are rendered more invisible and vulnerable than others. Thus, sometimes legal and social projects fail to acknowledge young people's specific needs, including their SRHR.

Young people seek to take more control over their lives so that they can make important life deci-

sions on their own. Communities need to create an enabling environment for meaningful youth participation in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and projects that affect their lives, at all levels and across all sectors.

Youth voices and priorities must be treated as central: young people have repeatedly shown the willingness, commitment and capacity to be at the table and participate in policy-making processes, to develop and implement sustainable policies and programmes that truly promote young people's health, rights, and wellbeing, youth voices and priorities as milestones.

Realizing health, demographic, social, state and strategic importance for the country, as well as the creation of a plan aimed at improvement of reproductive health and rights of young people is extremely important now in Armenia.



# CYBER DYSTOPIA

**Sophie Walker**

Back in the 90s, Nicholas Negroponte of MIT professed that increasing accessibility to the internet would 'flatten organizations, globalize society, decentralize control, and help harmonize people'. Like him, many people believed the new realm of cyberspace would usher in a utopian society: a post-identity space that could sustain true democratic participation. Yet 20 years on in the UK, the internet is being used to undermine democracy. British politicians are being forced out of politics as they face unprecedented levels of violent, sexist, racist and other discriminatory harassment online.

As British politics has become increasingly polarised, we have seen a huge increase in abuse

aimed at all members of parliament, but it's becoming clear that this increase is disproportionately worse for women. During the lead up to the 2016 general election, Labour MP Jess Phillips received 600 rape threats in one evening alone. She was also exposed to Twitter conversations from men deliberating whether or not they would even want to sexually assault her. Mhairi Black, MP for the Scottish National Party, has received similar abuse. "I have been assured multiple times that I do not have to worry because I am so ugly that no one would want to rape me," she told the House of Commons in 2018. Diane Abbott, Labour MP, has been no stranger to racist and sexist abuse during her thirty-year career. However, Amnesty International revealed during this election campaign she





received 45.1% of all online abuse aimed at MP's.

It's easy to dismiss online abuse as being only 'virtual' as if it has no actual consequences in the 'real', offline world. This is simply not the case. As a feminist writer, Laurie Penny argues "The internet is public space, real space; it's increasingly where we interact socially, do our work, organise our lives and engage with politics, and violence online is real violence." And those who remain in politics are increasingly aware of the physical danger that comes with this decision. Just last month, Jess Phillips received online death threats and a man was arrested for harassing her at her office calling her a 'fascist' and banging on her windows.

Phillips recently tweeted about her fear of being hurt or killed. Some may dismiss this fear as being dramatic but it is completely reasonable in the wake of the brutal murder of Jo Cox in 2016. The Labour MP for Batley and Spen was shot in the head and stabbed repeatedly, as she arrived for her surgery, by a man shouting 'Britain first'. Whilst her murderer was not an active member of the online community, he was an avid reader of right-wing rhetoric and violent hate speech.

Currently, women make up just 32% of the British Parliament. a figure that's not high enough.

Yet with the announcement of the 2019 election, many MP's have announced they won't be standing for re-election. Of the MP's stepping down 30% are women so at first glance this appears proportional. If we look closer, the male MP's stepping down are typically retiring but the women are leaving politics much earlier in their careers (on average, 10 years younger). Many women have said in their resignations that abuse is a main factor. Labour MP, Gloria de Peiro, who previously stepped down as Shadow Minister, said she is not running for re-election partly due to "toxic political debate" and "grim" online abuse. MP's Dame Caroline Spelman, Heidi Allen and Nicky Morgan have also said that they are quitting because of the impact abuse is having on their families.

While the UK population mewls about how preventing Brexit would be 'undemocratic', representatives of half the population are being forced to rescind their democratic participation because of rape and death threats. With every female MP who steps down because of harassment, the message is reinforced that women are neither safe nor welcome in politics. We cannot continue to dismiss harassment until it turns into 'real violence' - by that point, it is much too late.



# Tragic Story of the 21st Century: *Evictions in Serbia*

Jelena Aleksic



People have divided thoughts about communism in Yugoslavia. Some will say that it was the worst regime in our history and others will say it was the best one. One thing that no one can deny, however, is that the working class could afford housing.

After the fall of communism in the late '80s, socialism took over during the '90s. Nineties were

the 'dark years' as we commonly call them: we had many wars, inflation, high crime rate, and protests which ended with overruled governments. Even though socialism wasn't successful in this region, it managed to provide affordable privatization of housing for the families that had been given accommodation during the communist period. That was the biggest recorded privatization in Serbia.

Situation drastically changed at the beginning of 2000's. War and inflation drained people economically, which made home buying impossible and the only affordable option was to take out a loan from the bank and then pay it off on a monthly basis. Back then it did seem as a reasonable and affordable option, but it did not turn out to be such in the end.

Increased poverty in Serbia and unexpected rise of Swiss Franc (which automatically raised the loans taken in Swiss Francs) led to irregular monthly loan payments. And that is where the bailiffs take the scene. Highly common evictions begin in the year 2016 with the hard work of bailiffs to proceed them.

Bailiffs would organize private auctions without notifying the residents, where they would sell people's homes if they were late with their payments; someone would buy those flats (often the family members of the bailiffs) and after a few weeks would show up in front of people's doors claiming to be owners; current residents would be obliged to leave their homes. This is what happened in **the case of the 94-year old Mara Dzankovic**. Mara Dzankovic is an elderly cancer diagnosed women who lived in the apartment with her 40-year-old daughter. Private bailiff Mirjana Dimitrijevic sold their home on the private auction because of the debt they had and in two months period tried to evict them twice. After the first attempt, Mara had to be hospitalized because of the stress; in the hospital, doctors gave her the evidence document stating that she was not in the position to move because of her weakness and illness. It didn't stop the bailiff and the police, however, and after the second attempt Mara and her daughter were violently evicted and even forced to leave all their personal belongings including medications for Mara.

On another note, there were a lot of cases where the owners that had bought a flat during the 2000s from another private owner would also be notified that they had to leave because their flat was sold to the new rightful owner because the papers that they had signed with the original owner were invalid. This happened in **the case of Tatjana Anicic**. Tatjana paid off her apartment in 2007. Eight years later, a bailiff appeared at her door and said she had to move out, following a court ruling in

a dispute between previous owners of her apartment. Until that moment, Tatjana didn't even know that the proceedings were being conducted in court, so she didn't have the opportunity to present evidence that would prevent the former owners of her apartment from settling their mutual dispute to her detriment. When she managed to show her evidence, she was told that she has been tricked by the former owner and that the court couldn't do anything about it. This was one of the first cases that went viral.

One of the recent cases is **the case of the family Osman**. Since the late '90s, the family Osman's lived and owned the house on a land that the city of Belgrade recently predicted to be part of a new investment project. The Housing and Maintenance of Buildings law from 2016 implicates that the city has the obligation to provide an appropriate accommodation for people who are evicted for constructions with this purpose. The City of Belgrade decided to ignore the law by demolishing the whole house (no people-no obligation relocating principle) and leaving the family Osman homeless.

During the period of 2016 to this day, many illegal evictions were attempted. In 2017, the organization "Krov nad glavom" ("Roof") was formed. In all the previous cases mentioned (and the ones that were not mentioned) 'Roof' managed to stop or postpone the eviction by using the methods of physical barricades. Beside support on the spot, they manage to live record incidents on social media, raise awareness about this issue, organize many charity events to support evicted families, rebuild houses and etc. They had to face many problems: violent attacks towards them, identification by the police, non-existent media attention and insufficient number of volunteers on the eviction days.

Without any hesitation, 'Roof' has become a part of the political resistance and hope. With the number of 154 households that they saved, they show us that even a small number of people are able to change the course of the events. Without any help, they are going to definitely continue to fight against this regime, to protect and raise awareness about the right to housing for all.



# Grand Paris: How Will France Foster Inclusiveness if it Doesn't Get Rid of Its Hidden Bias?

Joana Messan

*In summer 2024, Paris will host the Olympic Games. Many of the locations that are planned to be used for this immense event are situated at the North-East of Paris's region, in Seine-Saint-Denis. This suburb is famous for its athletes (Sarah Ourahmoune, Kylian Mbapé, Audrey Tcheuméo); but also for its higher rate of people with low income and ethnic minorities among its inhabitants compared to the rest of the country; its schools with specific status (ZEP\*), its reduced access to culture, and its crowded inefficient transportation system. The Grand Paris project has the ambition to connect various sides of the "banlieue" - including Seine-Saint-Denis - to Paris thanks to an enhanced transportation system. At the departmental level, Tram 4 extension project interlinks some cities of Seine-Saint-Denis to future lines (15 and 16) of the Grand Paris Express. Its process offers a glimpse of inclusiveness challenges for future French public policies implementation.*

\* «Zone d'Éducation Prioritaire» are specific schooling areas in the French educational system.



With Ladj Ly's film *Les Misérables*, which will represent France at the Oscars this year, some French politicians seem to have discovered a situation that, although located in the same region as the Elysée, seems marginalized by cultural and political representations. Almost 25 years after Mathieu

Kassovitz's *La Haine*, the problem remains the same: the marginalization of the "banlieue" prevents respect for the rule of law. When I speak of the rule of law, I don't mean a police state. I think rather of the responsibility of the State which has practically created a second-class citizenship in

the *"banlieue"*, a citizenship that excludes its inhabitants and incites delinquency. As an example of this situation, I will use a project related to the current Grand Paris project\*\*, expected to foster inclusivity of these remote areas of the Paris region: the extension of the T4 tramway line.

The town of Montfermeil where Les Misérables is filmed is located at the extreme east of Seine-Saint-Denis. It is surrounded by the cities of Le Raincy, Clichy-sous-Bois and Gagny. The city of Le Raincy - ranked among the best cities to live in among the region, with the city of Livry-Gargan - has nothing to do with Clichy-Sous-Bois and Montfermeil, both notorious for their neighborhoods and their police blunders. This localization denies a first stereotype: the *"banlieue"* is not a monolithic block. On this scale it is possible to see one of the hidden biases claimed by some French politicians, the apparent lack of civility of the inhabitants of the aforementioned towns. While the Grand Paris project is underway, previous crystallizations around the project of extension of the tram T4 reveals potential related struggles from a smaller scale perspective.

The cities of Clichy-sous-Bois and Montfermeil do not have RER stations linking them to the capital. To get to the city, these inhabitants have to take buses to the RER E station of "Le Raincy-Villemomble-Montfermeil" located between the towns of Le Raincy and Villemomble. The closest bus stop to this RER station in the territory of Montfermeil is "Montfermeil-Les Bosquets" served by the line 601. From this distance, while crossing cities of Le Raincy and Livry-Gargan, on average it takes half an hour to the inhabitants of these cities to come to the train station which then will take them to Paris Gare du Nord (Magenta) by the RER. In total, according to Valérie Pécresse, President of the Region Ile-de-France *"On this day from Clichy, it takes 1,5 hours to get to Paris, yet only 20 km from the capital"*.

This geographical isolation seems to be the reflection of political resistance to the alleviation of the marginalization of these cities. And this can be revealed by the attitude of mayors of the oth-

er better-off cities of Seine-Saint-Denis. As such, the extension of the T4 tram line to Clichy-Montfermeil - considered since the riots of 2005 and formalized since 2008 - was the subject of protests including those of the Mayor of Livry-Gargan. In this struggle, two opposed positions collided : according to Pierre-Yves Martin, Mayor of Livry-Gargan (UMP): *"It is not in the habits of the inhabitants of Clichy to go through Livry-Gargan to go to Paris"* knowing that bus line 601 already connects Clichy-Montfermeil to "Le Raincy-Villemomble-Montfermeil" RER station passing through Livry-Gargan. In 2013 the former mayor of Livry-Gargan, Alain Calmat (DVG), had threatened to fill a complaint against the project. According to the mayor of Clichy-sous-bois Olivier Klein (PS): *"if the fear is that of a physical link between Livry-Gargan and Clichy-Montfermeil, then it is unreasonable and it is not based on anything"*. Indeed, during preliminary consultations in 2009, one of the explanation of such resistance brought forward was that inhabitants of Clichy-Montfermeil are an *"undesirable population"* who could cause a *"race to the bottom"* from a socioeconomic perspective, in the cities of Pavillons-sous-Bois, Livry-Gargan and Le Raincy.

Thus, it seems that it is not the means that are lacking in the opening up of the *"banlieue"*, rather resistance crystallized on the side of people opposed to the practical implementation of the *"vivre-ensemble"*\*\*\*, promoted when it comes to football but not when it is a question of using public transport together. Therefore, on a bigger scale, the Grand Paris project will be an opportunity to answer the real question behind the failure of previous public policies aimed at the *"banlieue"*: are French politicians ready to get rid of their hidden biases ?

As noted Stéphane Troussel (PS), President of the Seine-Saint-Denis Departement Council: *"It is a project of opening-up, of openness, access to employment, leisure and cultural facilities that we have the right to expect when we live in the heart of a large European Metropolis"*. Adding his input to inclusiveness, Ladj Ly's movie offers an immersion in the lives of these second-class citizens from a *"banlieue"* of Paris.

\* *"banlieue"* means suburb and is often negatively connotated in French.

\*\* The "Grand Paris" Project is the largest urban transportation currently underway in Europe.

\*\*\* *"Vivre-ensemble"* means to live together

# Victory for Abortion Activists in Northern Ireland

Sarah Lavery

On the 23 October 2019, a woman stood before a jury in Belfast Crown Court and was found 'not guilty' of the charges brought against her. The prosecution offered no evidence – unsurprising, considering that the law she was being charged under no longer existed.

The woman had been brought to court for breaking the *Offences Against the Person Act 1861*, a law which, until recently, made abortion in Northern Ireland illegal in almost all circumstances, with a penalty of up to life imprisonment for those procuring or assisting others to procure an abortion. Five years before, the woman had bought and supplied abortion pills to her then 15-year-old daughter. The prosecution of the woman under this law brought about a public outcry across the country and intensified campaigns to decriminalise abortion.

Before October 2019 Northern Ireland was the only part of the UK where abortion services were not available. Attempts, however, had been made to liberalise the law through the country's devolved government\*. But in 2017 the Northern Ireland Assembly collapsed and has remained inactive until the time of writing, which led campaigners to put pressure on Westminster to extend reproductive justice to people in Northern Ireland.

In July 2019 Labour Members of Parliament Stella Creasy and Conor McGinn put forward amendments to the *Northern Ireland (Executive Forma-*

*tion) Act 2019* in front of the British Parliament, which would legalise same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland and repeal the 158-year-old law governing abortion, if the Northern Ireland Assembly failed to form a government by October 21st. The legislation passed, and with the devolved government still inactive, on October 22nd abortion was decriminalised throughout the country, and same-sex marriage was legalised.

Emma Gallen, Outreach Co-Ordinator for Alliance for Choice, is one of the young women who led the campaign to decriminalise abortion in Northern Ireland. Emma got involved with the movement at the time of another public court case surrounding the country's abortion laws. She said: "In 2016 there was a prosecution of a then 21-year-old who had taken abortion pills when she was 19 and was found by her housemates – that case really struck me because it could have been anyone. It just really hit me that this was an active law and it is impacting people."

The change in law came about less than 18 months after the repeal of the Eighth Amendment in the Republic of Ireland which removed the constitutional ban on abortion. Both in the north and the south of the island the campaigns for abortion reform have been led by grassroots, feminist organisations, which placed solidarity at the centre of their movement. After the repeal of the Eighth Amendment the hashtag #TheNorthisNext began immediately expressing support for people in Northern Ireland, and hundreds of activists crossed the border to join campaigners at the annual Rally for Choice march in Belfast in

\* The government of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive, that functions under, but in certain areas independently of the UK government.





September 2019.

Engaging the public was vital for campaigns in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. For the last two years Emma has run a weekly stall in the centre of Belfast which aims to engage members of the public on the topic of abortion, breaking down some of the persistent myths.

“There are some negative experiences on the stall. There are people who tell us that what we’re doing is wrong. Some people come over and tell us that their daughter had an abortion and really regrets it; or that their daughter had an unplanned pregnancy and it’s the best thing that’s ever happened to them.”

“But we also get a lot of supporters. Once there was a woman who didn’t want to come over to us but I could see her eyeing up the stall so I walked over to her. She was heavily pregnant and didn’t want to be seen to be signing the petition we had that day, but she did want to sign it.”

“She told me that in the past she had been sexually assaulted and one of the things that really stayed with her was the fear of pregnancy and having to live with that forever. She was happy when she got her period afterwards and now had a much wanted pregnancy with someone she loved – the whole experience really shaped her pro-choice views.”

Volunteers on the stall faced significant legal risks by listening to the stories of people who have had abortions. Under the 1861 law people who had taken abortion pills had committed a criminal of-

fence and it is illegal in Northern Ireland not to report a crime you have knowledge of.

“A few women have travelled and have never told anyone about it – we’re the first people they’ve spoken to about it. It can get emotional” - said Emma. “There have been times when we have been told that people have taken abortion pills and that is a risk for everyone there – when we were hearing those stories we were breaking the law by not reporting them.”

For the campaigners, the battle is not over yet. While abortion has been decriminalised throughout the country, women and pregnant people do not currently have local services which provide abortions. Emma said: “Access is what is next. We don’t actually have abortion services in Northern Ireland that are readily available.”

“A government consultation is happening until the 16 December and following that we should get some form of actual access by the end of March 2020. We need to keep going until then.”

*Alliance for Choice, set up in 1996, campaigns for free, safe and legal abortion access in Northern Ireland. For information on how to support them visit [www.alliance4choice.com](http://www.alliance4choice.com) or follow their Instagram and Twitter accounts @All4Choice*

*The quotes by Emma Gallen are from an interview conducted by the author at an event titled “The Long Road to Equality” hosted by Green Party of Northern Ireland Member of the Legislative Assembly, Clare Bailey, in Stormont.*

# Centri Sociali: *Incubating Social Rights in Italy*

Laura Schubert

It was 2014, and I had been living in Italy for only a month. One evening, some university classmates invited me to join them for a party at the nearby social centre—a centro sociale. I was unfamiliar with the concept, and imagined something like the YMCA, where children played basketball and elderly people did water aerobics. Were we going to a pool party?

That idea was immediately abandoned when I learned that we were going to a concert, at a space that was once a butcher shop, but now occupied by squatters. Squatters? Oh no. I imagined windows with the glass smashed out, no heating, and an evening ruled by dangerous leaders of anarchy.

This ridiculous dystopian vision is proof enough that I grew up in North America, where squatting is illegal (unless visibly occupied for twenty years, so basically impossible) and on the same level of societal taboo as joining a cult.

So, that evening when we rolled up on our bikes I was taken aback by what I saw, and felt stupid for my previous assumptions and total naiveté.

It was a small space in a residential neighbourhood, just outside the centre of Padua. Entering the room, because it really was just one room, we found people dancing and chatting on sofas. In the corner there was a bar about the size of a card table. The people were entirely normal and welcoming, and there was obviously a feeling of collective existence in this sweaty space.

That night my education in centri sociali, or as Wikipedia calls them 'self-managed social centres in Italy' began. As I visited more of these spaces, the things I saw and heard made me want to propagate the concept elsewhere, particularly across the ocean to North America—which is why I feel inspired to write about what I have learned.







I soon realized that diving into this topic was like opening an endlessly deep can of worms, and no short article will ever do justice to the impact of these spaces on local social rights and representation. Let this be then, an outsider's brief and generalized deconstruction of these created spaces, where citizens are given a platform and support system to advocate for their own place and rights within society.

The universal law of cause and effect argues that for every effect there is a definite cause – and for every cause, there is likewise a definite effect. Centri sociali develop as a response to a disproportionate social system, in which favored groups are equipped with the possibilities to experience a life free of barriers, and unfavored groups are left with the challenge of navigating life in that same society with fewer resources, and as stigmatized and marginalized individuals. Indicators of identity - like wealth, race, sexuality, gender orientation, country of origin, and migration status - singularly pigeonhole individuals into this 'unfavorable' societal group.

United by feelings of frustration, a lack of belonging, and a hope for a fairer future, these individuals bind together, and a centro sociale is born.

It is best to think of these spaces as living entities, in constant evolution thanks to a multitude of inputs, including culture, geography, and politics at all levels. The individuals participating are also bound to impact its narrative. In general, however, these spaces aim to reclaim their cities from capi-

talism and its side effects. Consider this example.

Some months after my first visit to the former butcher shop, a well-established home for migrants in a predominantly ethnic neighbourhood in Padua was closed on short notice. Many saw this act as a further step towards gentrification and a direct message to the entire community - "young, black men, you are not welcome here". The centri sociali in the city rallied around the black, migrant community; collectively protesting against xenophobia and advocating for their right to housing. It was like a type of collective protectionism – various identity groupings within an 'unfavourable' societal group advocating for each other (e.g. transgendered students advocating for black migrants).

I watched those protests pass by under my balcony, struck by the impact that a group of cognizant and engaged individuals can have on the societal fabric of a city. Disrupting the seemingly permanent stamp of capitalism - and thus overturning a system that is predicated on the idea of taking space, resources, and social rights away from marginalized groups—remains an unending pursuit.

The construction of any societal space - particularly one that is dedicated to the values, aspirations, and grievances of the 'other' - is bound to experience a stream of successes and setbacks. That, however, is not what is important. It is the tenacity to endure and reach further, that will define our days ahead.

# The Rights of the Self-Employed: *A Principle Challenge for the Trade Union Movement*

**Sam Murray**

We as Greens strive for wide-ranging legislative social and welfare packages to ensure that climate justice and social justice sit side by side. To achieve this, we, as Greens must work with trade unions to ensure that the just transition is truly fair on all levels of society and to remove any notion that tackling climate change is a middle-class political past time – it is not, it is a harrowing reality. This collaboration is vital, and with the failure of social democratic parties, the Greens must become the natural allies for trade unions.

As the world of work changes, the trade unions still have a shift to make, particularly on understanding the challenges of self-employment. The trade union movement has been focused on the public sector, leaving any notion of freelance work or self-employment to the fringes contained as issues within small unions.

As a member of the Musicians' Union in the UK I see this a lot interacting with the Trade Union Congress, who have to be constantly reminded that they do have self-employed members for whom legislation acts differently, and who are more vulnerable than regular employees and who are left without the protections that larger union members have. It is often forgotten that self-employed workers don't have union representatives to protect them, don't have the same basic work-

ing rights, and when they are exploited, they have limited resources for support. Trade unions like the Musicians' Union have become vital in providing the most basic of support and protection that many employed workers never have to worry about. Self-employed workers have been left behind when it comes to workers' rights – it is this frontier that must be tackled if social rights are to be truly universal.

Only now Trade Unions are waking up to the concept of the gig economy, the mass exploitation of self-employed workers using loopholes and gaps in workers legislation to turbo boost capitalism. We are seeing companies like Uber, Deliveroo and parcel delivery companies come under the spotlight as they carry out bogus self-employment practices to ensure workers can be exploited for minimal pay giving these companies excessive profit.

What many larger trade unions forget is that workers like musicians and other creatives have been through such practices for years – it is even called the 'gig economy' because of the way musicians are treated on gigs. Young musicians in particular are facing constant exploitation:





being told to play gigs for free for exposure, because their profession is really a hobby, being offered one drink as payment, despite having spent hours rehearsing, and then taking great effort to move equipment to a gig. This exploitation needs to stop.

Self-employed workers are denied a vast amount of fundamental worker protections and rights that employed staff have. In many countries across the EU many self-employed parents cannot access shared parental leave or maternity pay, with some countries only offering maternity pay to self-employed mothers enforcing a sexist trope that only women should care for babies. This ignores the role of fathers and non-binary parents, and it often remains vague surrounding the access for same-sex couples. There is also limited regulations on sick pay, meaning that when a self-employed worker is ill there is no safety net below them and they will lose a day's pay, which then often means a scramble for work to make it up. Self-employed workers, whilst often determining their own hours and often put under unrealistic pressure from clients, who expect fast turnarounds, are expected to work for long hours beyond average expectations compared to an employed full-time worker.

The Green movement must offer solutions for self-employed workers, including

adequate social rights and protections for them. We have already led the way in calling for a basic safety net of Universal Basic Income, which would vastly improve conditions for self-employed workers, and offer basic protections and financial security – but more is to be done. Working with the trade union movement we must devise and propose a welfare reform package of maternity rights, protection from exploitation and mental health support. For a Green society to be truly just, we must protect the future of self-employed work.





# Europe's Housing Crisis: *What Can We Learn From the Vienna Model?*

Adelina Stuparu, Sean Currie, Anne de Koster



In the 2019 EU elections, a surge in the number of young people voting throughout Europe shook Europe's political institutions. During the next five years we expect our representatives to address the issues relevant to us, young voters. This means, among other things, address the social struggles common for our generation. At the top of the list is access to good quality, affordable and integrated housing, solutions for which exist closer to home than one might think. Below, we provide an overview of issues and solutions that we expect to be considered and implemented, as discussed by young European participants at FYEG's event *Unconference: Social Europe Now!* in Bologna, April 2019.

A housing crisis has been growing throughout Europe, particularly in metropolitan areas. Increased demand coupled with fewer housing developments and greater unaffordability have caused a crisis of affordable housing shortages. These rapidly increasing costs have not been matched by wage increases, with young people particularly affected due to lower earning power. In contrast, older homeowners, especially in sought after locations, have benefitted from this trend, being able to charge high rents and thus pushing the less wealthy, the young, and immigrants out to less desirable neighbourhoods. Housing policies are at the core of this spiralling problem: the privatisation of public housing, which has resulted in it becoming a commodity rather than a human right/public good, and a lack of effective regulation of private developments and appropriate rent caps, for example, led to the current situation in which housing has stopped being accessible or affordable for many.

So we know what bad housing looks like. But what about good housing? What should we aspire to? Maybe the easiest way to think of this is as including five aspects. As a foundation, it should be community controlled. This means the residents of the housing decide how it is developed, what amenities are invested in, and so on. This sounds obvious, but it is a far cry from the landlord-controlled system currently infecting most of Europe. Community control helps to bring about the other aspects; namely, that it is good quality, sustainable for the community and the planet, secure (meaning that the residents know they can live there as

long as they like within humane and reasonable rules), and inclusive. There are several models to achieve this, but this discussion is complex and beyond the scope of this Ecosprinter article. Instead, we will show you one example which we looked at in Bologna.

Vienna is often talked of as one of the world's most affordable cities, largely resulting from a sound public sector housing model. Social housing in the Austrian capital is hugely popular, with two thirds of residents benefitting from it; neighbourhoods are often diverse because rent caps make the housing units affordable to multiple segments of the population. A Vienna resident can expect to pay no more than a third of their income on rent and the contracts are often awarded based on need: anyone earning around 45000E/year or less can qualify for public housing. When it is possible to access affordable housing to this extent, it is difficult for private investors to significantly raise the rent prices. The city funds the refurbishment and development of new housing with a combination of income tax, corporate tax, and a housing contribution made by employees in the city. When land speculation began driving up rent prices the local council reacted with tough measures on private developers, through a regulation that stopped them from charging more than 5E/sq<sup>2</sup> for two thirds of new developments in order to qualify for public subsidies. In short, the Vienna model provides good quality, affordable, inclusive, secure, and sustainable housing.

The Vienna model demonstrates that we do not have to accept a housing situation where powerful landlords impose poor quality homes that are insecure, unsustainable and exclusionary. **Solutions to the current crisis do exist, and they do not need to be isolated cases.** If we are to succeed at creating a more secure and sustainable housing environment in our towns and cities, the housing sector needs to be regulated and repaired by addressing the systemic issues that led to the specified issues. First and foremost the housing sector needs to be decommmodified, and policies have to consider the rights of residents more than the profits of investors, developers, and housing entrepreneurs.



# The Campaign to Have PrEP Fully Funded on the NHS in England is a Feminist Fight

Liam McClelland

It is widely accepted that the female contraceptive pill supported sexual freedom amongst women, enabling economic and social liberation. Whilst other alternatives such as the diaphragm existed, it is the pill that is credited with enabling women to have greater sexual freedom outside of the patriarchal confines of marriage. A holistic look at the 1960s also shows that a celebration of single life, and openness around sex and sexuality would lead to a number of pro-sex media publications and a huge shift in the previous morality rules that governed society. Simply put, individual sexual pleasure was accepted as a key facet of individual happiness and the pill enabled greater individual bodily autonomy to seek these pleasures.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been called a 'promiscuity pill' in some media publications, claiming that the preventative medication that could eradicate new HIV infections within the UK at the cost of £20million a year to the taxpayer could lead to more promiscuity between the MSM (men who have sex with men) community, decreased condom use and increase of other sexually transmitted infections. The estimated cost of medication to treat people living with HIV to the NHS is currently estimated to be around £660mil-

lion. However, this does not take into consideration the personal impact living with HIV has on a person such as the need to access mental health support which has been decimated under consecutive Conservative and coalition governments.

I feel uncomfortable making such an economic argument as numerous trials and research have been undertaken to show the effectiveness of PrEP and the long-term savings to the NHS. The purpose of this piece is rather to highlight the similar heteronormative patriarchal arguments against something that is now commonplace amongst the options for women to have better personal bodily autonomy and that of the potential options for people to protect themselves from the potential risk of HIV infection.

After originally being approved in 1957 for people with severe menstrual disorders, the pill was approved in America for contraceptive use in 1960. A large number of women in America, therefore, used to report to doctors with severe menstrual disorders. This is because, when patriarchal structures are in place that deliberately restrict a person's bodily autonomy, people in need will find ways to circumvent these restrictions. This is similar for PrEP impact trials: working poor peo-



ple can't afford to buy generic versions and have them shipped into the UK. Hence, in order to get the pill, people are left with either lying to the NHS to be prescribed Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) as both medications use the same drugs, or they are left at risk.

An argument we see time and time again is that people should just use a condom. Condoms, when used perfectly every single time, are 98% effective, which means that 2 out of 100 people who use condoms as their only method of protection from STIs, HIV, or unwanted pregnancy will be at risk. People are fallible, so outside of such clinical settings, condom effectiveness drops to around 82%, meaning 18 out of 100 people who use condoms as their only means of protection are now at risk. This is an increase of 900%. This is why it is often suggested that those who want to avoid pregnancy also use a primary contraceptive that is more than 99% effective, meaning that fewer than 1 in 100 people will get pregnant whilst using it. The same advice is used for people who want to take PrEP.

The types of sex had and contraception used will vary from person to person, hence we need to have a variety of options that are suitable for each individual. My concerns moving forward is that with Brexit we will see further cuts to GU (Genitourinary) medicine and HIV research. Whilst the UK has met the UNAIDS target to end HIV through the 90-90-90 targets (90% of HIV positive people diagnosed, 90% of those diagnosed on HIV medication, and 90% of those on medication confirmed as being HIV undetectable), this could be at risk. Therefore, we need to ensure that when we are campaigning for a Feminist Europe we are including equal access to healthcare for all people.





# Nicolas, stage manager for film shootings in Paris

Alexia Delfosse



*Nicolas is a stage manager for film shootings in Paris. He works for the cinema and television sector.*

"I take care of all the logistics of film and TV show shootings. They normally take place in Paris, sometimes in other regions of France. My work consists in asking for authorizations to film outside (in public places) or to park somewhere, in organising meals, accommodations, transports for the staff, sometimes in negotiating the prices of decors and in trying to find vehicles. For example, if we are shooting a movie that takes place in the 80's, it is my job to find cars from the 80's."

"I have been doing this job for 12 years, since 2007. I didn't really choose to do stage management at first. I wanted to work on film shootings and it was a good gateway to work quickly. I began to work in short films for free and then the people I worked with on these short films asked me to work with them on TV movies, and then on cinema movies."

"The working conditions are hard sometimes because we work many hours. The stage manager is often the first to arrive on the set and the last one to leave. We sometimes have to install the dressing rooms and everything has to be ready before the staff and cast arrive. As we are the first ones to arrive, sometimes I wake up at 4 am, and I come home at 11 pm. The extra hours are paid or not according to the film budget."

"Before I began to work in the cinema industry, when I arrived in Paris, I was living in squats. I couldn't afford rent in Paris and it granted me some time. Having to pay rent in Paris would have mean working in a full time restaurant and it would have been too complicated for me to run from set to set to distribute my CV."

"I benefit from a specific unemployment regime for people who are working in the film sector in France. It allows us to live when we are not shooting. We pay contributions to an organization called the UNEDIC when we are working and this organization gives us an unemployment benefit when we are not working. Therefore, I don't work the whole year, but rather only between 4 and 6 months depending on the years. There are some

years with more shootings, and therefore more work, but sometimes it is not the case. The rest of the time, I am unemployed but it allows me to work on personal projects and to support causes, e.g. the local campaign of the French Green Party (EELV) in the 12th district of Paris."

"I lost my unemployment benefits once\*. It was in 2013. This year was particularly harsh for everyone because there was a lot less shootings. As it was the year of the negotiations to reform our status for unemployment benefits, a lot of directors waited until the end of the negotiations to begin new projects. We were all in a difficult position. Hopefully, I could quickly find a big project of TV show for TF1 – one of the biggest TV channels in France. It allowed me to start over but this year was very difficult. Actually, that's a problem we have to face each year because it is never sure that we will have our hours done by the end of the year. This is the stressful part. There is some comfort in this situation because it allows us to work on personal projects but this stress is always here."

"I like the constant change that allows my work. From one set to another, we don't work with the same people, we don't do the same things. All the decors are different, therefore all the logistic is different on each set. Every film is a new challenge. We don't organise things the same way when we shoot an American movie in Paris as when we shoot a little French TV film in the south of France."

"I could work with the sisters Wachowski during the 15-day shooting of the last Sense 8 episode that took place in Paris. It was nice, but it is not the same logistic at all as a little French TV show. The latter would last 5 days of real shooting and I would have the impression of having worked for 3 months. But, the pleasure of being on set watching the actors of a show you like act has no price."

---

\* This benefits are based on a minimum of hours worked in one year.

# BURST THE TABOO

In late October 2019, activists with diverse backgrounds gathered at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, for FYEG's study session "Actions Speak Louder Than Words – Youth Engagement, Grassroots Activism and the Future of Democracy". In one of the most emotional and triggering sessions of this week-long seminar, they paused to reflect on the mental health of activists.

Out of the personal experiences of the participants and through the brainstorm on post-it notes many thoughts, opinions and concerns were raised. We share some of them with you here below with the hope that they will inspire you to reflect on your life as an activist, to investigate how it affects your mental health, to look out for the activists around you.

We can do so much more to take care of ourselves while fighting to fix the injustices in our communities and our world - but to do that, we must make this an open and frequent discussion, free from taboos, stigmas or shame. That's why we hope you'll linger on this page a bit longer and think about how this relates to you and how you can help.

getting more  
workload and  
pressure when  
fellow activist struggle  
mental health  
issues

MENTAL HEALTH  
FOR ME IS  
RESISTING  
APATHY.

Post-  
campaign  
'void'  
- loss of  
community

Why is  
everything so  
fucked.

FOR ME PAIN  
IS VISUAL.  
How do I HANDLE  
SO MUCH PAIN FELT  
BY EVERYONE I  
KNOW ABOUT?

Overwhelm  
caused by  
24/7  
digital  
activism

*The Ecosprinter, in collaboration with FYEG, has a podcast on mental health in the making, the idea of which sparked at this very event. Watch this space not to miss it!*



# Editors



**Cristiana Cerri Gambarelli** has an eye for symmetry and a love for the bewildering colour palettes nature has to offer. She dreamt of a two-year-long backpacking trip in South America and spent one year planning it in details, until learning that she could do a whole lot to dismantle capitalism and patriarchy in her European community. She quit flying instead and, at the time of publishing, she's done one year of full-time activism and is about to move to Brussels to work with FYEG. In her spare time, she creates visuals to post as educational Instagram stories, tests out fiction novels to see if one achieves detoxing her from non-fiction, teaches herself Illustration and investigates the strategy ahead to bring the Green Wave to Southern and Eastern Europe with the next European elections in sight.



**Tamar Jakeli** can be spotted with her megaphone and sometimes even her guitar at all protests related to environmental and social justice in Georgia. She is a member of the Secretariat of Georgian Young Greens and contributes to the organizational development and movement building. When not at protests or at the office, Tamar enjoys outdoors trips hiking, camping, skiing, climbing and swimming. When the muse strikes, Tamar writes songs both for her protests and her crushes. Before returning to Georgia, Tamar spent five years living and studying in the US, where she majored in International Affairs and Philosophy and presided over several student organizations. Tamar wants to spread hope and good cheers to motivate other young people to collectively reclaim our planet and our future!



**Simon Gergely Császár** is a former Executive Committee member of FYEG and currently works for the European Green Party as a political advisor on the Visegrád 4 countries, Eastern Partnership countries, and is involved with civil society relations. He hails from Hungary, has a particularly soft spot for social justice and runs a blog with some of his friends on the biggest crowdfunded leftist portal in the country. He is quite fond of Central European history and trying to understand the mental and historical patterns these societies carry.



**Alexia Delfosse** can be found doing yoga and meditation every now and then and loves the peaceful sound of a river's water running or a cat's meow. She loves hispanic civilizations and has a passion for the concept of "buen vivir". She is an ecofeminist environmental activist who wants to spread caring and love everywhere. She has been a member of the Ecosprinter Editorial Board since 2018, as part of a strong belief that every political layer is important to save our planet. That's why she is currently working as a campaign manager for the french green party local elections in the 12th district of Paris while finishing a Latin-American studies master's degree. In her spare time, she sings, reads and runs a lot and likes to go dancing - always at the sound of latin-american music.

# Meet the Writers



**Katja Raiher** Katja studies media, communication and psychology in Mannheim, Germany. Her motto is that it is only with the heart that one can see green. Hence she is a member of the German Old and Young Greens. Currently, Katja is an editor for a young green magazine, the Zitro. In Mannheim, Katja lives right next to a coal-powered energy plant. Every time she takes a stroll over the bridge and sees the smoke, Katja remembers that we still have a long way to go and the first step always means tackling our immediate environment.



**Lusine Kosakyan** Lusine is a young dynamic human rights advocate from Armenia. She is a co-founder of Frontline Youth Network aimed at connecting and empowering rural youth. Lusine is passionate about peacebuilding, especially with the focus on its relations to gender, as well as feminism, particularly gender education and violence against women.



**Sophie Walker** Sophie is a gender specialist and women's rights activist from Manchester. She is currently working with Opt Out, an open-source tech movement tackling gender-based violence online.



**Jelena Aleksic** Jelena is an activist and a student from Belgrade. She studies environmental science and sustainable development. Jelena is a member of Serbian Green Youth and she is really passionate about green politics, nature, books, food and good wine. Jelena has three dogs which she claims to love more than anything. Her role model is congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and she is hoping that she will meet her one day.



**Joana Messan** Joana is interested in inclusiveness, urban planning and sustainable development. She studied Business Law and Corporate Social Responsibility Management before she graduated in International Relations at Science Po Bordeaux. She is the founder of Tou-maï, the first association to promote Afro-Caribbean and afro descendant perspectives at her institution. In the long term Joana would like to contribute to finding solutions to environmental concerns and social divides in Europe and Africa.



**Sarah Laverty** Sarah is a member of the Green Party of Northern Ireland where she has previously sat on the party's Executive Committee as the Party Development Officer. She studied English and Spanish at Queen's University Belfast and shortly after became involved with Belfast Feminist Network where she supported campaigns for reproductive justice. Sarah currently works as a Policy and Public Affairs Consultant for NUS-USI, the national student movement in Northern Ireland.





**Laura Schubert** Laura is a Canadian/German climate and local food activist, with a love of hiking, farmers markets and endless Sunday lunches. Spreading her studies across Italy, Germany, and Canada, Laura completed degrees in Human Rights and Multi-level Governance as well as in Environment. Laura currently lives in Ljubljana, where she serves as an EU Interreg IVY volunteer at the Slovenian Forestry Service.



**Sam Murray** Dr Sam Murray is a former co-chair of the Young Greens of England and Wales and former FYEG EC Member. He correctly sits on the UK Trade Union Congress Young Workers Forum representing the Musicians Union.



**Adelina Stuparu** Adelina is interested in Eastern European/Balkan politics and grassroots environmental movements. She is a coordinator at our commons.org.



**Sean Currie** Sean is a political science student from Scotland. Inspired into activism by the campaign for Scottish independence in 2014, he currently co-convenes the Scottish Young Greens and spends his occasional free time dancing to the sweet melodies of German techno music.



**Anne de Koster** Anne is an activist and a nerd for anything urbanist/environmental. She is obsessed with dogs, Jane Austen novels and fighting the patriarchy. Anne is currently living in London, where she is studying sustainable urban planning.



**Liam McClelland** Liam is a passionate eco-socialist with interests in environmentalism, sexuality and gender, as well as theology and philosophy. Having contracted HIV in 2012, they use their platform to raise awareness and challenge stereotypes associated with those living with HIV.

**Alexia Delfosse** see page 27

# RECLAIM YOUR RIGHTS!

THE SOCIAL  
RIGHTS ISSUE

