



WHO WE ARE

We, the **Green Youth - Green Alternative Youth**, are a political youth organisation working towards a fundamentally better society. We believe that the world we live in can be radically changed and reshaped to be humane. We fight for a different, new society that focuses on human needs instead of profit.

We see ourselves as part of the green alternative movement. Political parties play a vital role in our fight for a fairer world. That is why we have established ourselves as a youth organisation of the party “The Greens”.

WHAT WE DO

We are a nationwide collection of organised groups that meet regularly. During our meetings, we discuss various political issues, formulate political demands, and try to convey them to the world through actions and campaigns. Anyone under 30 is welcome at our meetings, regardless of political background knowledge.

We try to establish discussion platforms for critical thinking and independent formation of opinions by arranging various educational events and seminars. Once a year, we meet at a national general assembly. Additionally, we host a “Green Alternative Summer Camp” in the summer.

WHAT WE WANT

We want to empower as many young people as possible to become politically active and fundamentally transform societal conditions. We want to radically change society, making it social and ecological. We want to live in a world where all people are able to lead a free life and enjoy an unspoiled environment.

Our plan for the next few years is to inspire many young people, rebuild the Green party, and to work on creating a solidary and ecological society in the long run.

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OUR STORY

Green youth organisations have been around since 1992. Back then, the first “Green Alternative Youth” organisation was founded in Vienna. After a re-foundation in 2003, the Green Alternative Youth was replaced by the "Young Greens" in 2011. After a disagreement between them and the Greens, we founded a new "Greens and Green Alternative Youth" in 2017.

Since 2017, the Greens have also been undergoing changes. This creates many challenges for us, as well as opportunities. The next few years will be crucial for us as well as for the Greens.

Topics:

A GOOD LIFE FOR EVERYONE

The richest percentage of Austria’s population owns 25% of the country’s wealth. In comparison, almost half of the country owns practically no wealth at all. That means: Our society is extremely unequal. Inequality, however, is no natural phenomenon. Instead, it is the result of political decisions and an unjust political system. We are of the opinion that public spaces, natural resources, as well as the public transport system should belong to everyone, not only those who profit from them.

Our goal is for the differences between social classes to disappear for the long-term. All people should have the same opportunity to lead a good life. This most certainly includes a high level of social security and a dense network of social property.

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CRITIQUE OF CAPITALISM

Capitalism is a social system and an economic model in which capital must permanently multiply itself. This self-multiplication is possible if companies produce profit with the help of their employees and continue investing in order to create capital and profit again. During this process, production takes place only to generate profit, not to tend to people's needs. To that end, wages are cut while workdays become longer.

Capitalism has produced plenty of wealth, particularly in the "Western" societies. However, it has also produced an incredible amount of inequality, causing people to sell their labour in order to barely make a living. On top of that, its catastrophic effects on the foundations of our existence has been evident for decades: Climate crisis, environmental disasters, the extinction of species, plastic in the ocean: These are all consequences of capitalism, of an economic system that must produce profit, cannot forego growth, and is always looking for new ways to exploit capital. Capitalism is an economic and social system that destroys the foundations of our existence. That is why we are trying to overcome it.

ANTIFASCISM

The extreme right is on the rise. Authoritarian and reactionary ideas have been gaining ground since before the governmental participation of the German nationalist FPÖ (Freedom Party of Austria). Left wing and progressive parties seem at a loss as to what an effective response might be to neoliberalism and its crisis. This is currently leading to a sweeping right-wing political turn. Democracy, which was won after a long process and against great resistance, is threatened! A growing number of right-wing organisations and conservative intellectuals are publicly speaking out against democracy and the participation of all in society.

These conditions provide an ideal platform for a renewed rise of fascism. Fascism is an ideology of authoritarian inequality, which assumes that people can be divided into different groups: into "standings", into "nations", into different social classes. We oppose this and say: For a society in which everyone can flourish freely and live a free life! Against a life under fascism!

CLIMATE PROTECTION

Our natural resources are threatened. While the climate crisis, environmental toxins, and an expanding overexploitation of natural resources are causing immense destruction, the established parties are showing little interest in becoming active and implementing political measures. This is not changed by the fact that most people have fully understood the seriousness of the situation. The consequences of the climate crisis are also apparent in Austria.

What we need now are far-reaching measures and a comprehensive restructuring of our economic system. We need climate policies in the interest of people and the environment instead of the industry. An energy system without lignite is possible, as is an end to environmental toxins in agriculture!

FEMINISM

It is often claimed that women are equal nowadays and that feminism is no longer necessary. Previous achievements such as the women's right to vote and legal equality for women are often referred to. The truth is, however, that the structural discrimination of women is deeply rooted within our society. The fact that, to this day, women earn a quarter less than men for the same job and are more frequently victims of violence clearly shows that we still live in a society dominated by men.

As long as harassment and sexual violence are part of many women's everyday life, as long as women have to do almost three-quarters of the unpaid work, as long as women are not regarded as equal and are forced into traditionally "female" roles from kindergarten onwards - that is how long we will remain feminists!

We demand equal opportunity for all, irrespective of gender or social class! As a youth organisation, we have the opportunity to help build a new, fundamentally just society, and this society will be a feminist one.

EDUCATION

Our education system works like a factory. It produces a dull mass and makes us sick. Instead of encouraging critical thinking, our current education system aims at making students useful for the job market. Today's neoliberal school system acts solely in the interest of the economy. In order to keep this system upright, schools must make preliminary selections for companies.

As a result, youngsters are drilled to focus on performance and competition from a young age. This artificially generated competitiveness serves to single out students and exclude certain social groups from higher education. Therefore, education is still extremely unequally distributed. To a large extent, it is the size of parents' wallets that decides who has how much access to education, who visits which school, and who has access to university. That needs to change! Education must be available to everyone! We demand a change in the educational mindset and a revolution of our outdated education system.

WORK

More and more people feel they are running out of time and are under permanent stress. Precarious employment is on the rise, working conditions are deteriorating, and ever more people are affected by performance-related illnesses. Work is the centre of our lives. We want to work to live - not live to work! For some time now, the automation of many jobs would have made it possible for us to work less for the same wage. That would mean more time for more important things and an improved quality of life.

However, as long as politics acts in the interest of growth and profit, a reduction of working hours seems impossible! The very concept of work also needs redefining. Housework, raising children, and the care of relatives: All these activities are work, but they are unpaid and mostly carried out by women. This is not fair! That is why we demand a fundamentally different organisation of work within society, which we must force politically!