

## **My Vision for FYEG for the term 2020 to 2021**

My vision for the role of a European political youth organisation, especially one that focuses on environmental and social justice, is to hold our elected officials to account. We must do this by ensuring that those who are marginalised are included in our policies. I have seen this with the resolution we have written about the Platform Economy for the European Green Party.

### **Training**

With the spotlight rightly on Black Lives Matter I would like to organise Unconscious Bias training within the FYEG executive and offer this training out to our member organisations. One idea I have had is that MOs use their second space for the General Assembly and other FYEG organised events to encourage members from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups. I passionately believe in gender balancing, one shortcoming of this gender balancing I have seen is that we are just sending people who are white to all our events. We need to work more with member organisations to encourage more representation.

I would like to see more FYEG representation at our member organisations annual meetings to help raise our profile. This will also help us to be accountable to those who may not be aware of the work that we do. I would like to see the Executive Committee reach out to member organisations to see what support and expertise we can offer. I am obviously interested in ensuring the Young Greens of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England post Brexit can continue to be involved in events where the funding for travel and accommodation has come from the European Parliament.

### **Campaigns**

#### **Mental Health**

As a member of the Social Europe Working Group I would continue to contribute to the subcommittees on refugee rights and mental health. Due to living with Chronic Depression and Anxiety I am very keen on supporting the mental health subcommittee. I would like to see the subcommittee create a document for our member organisations to sign and agree too. This document would centre our activist's wellbeing, ensuring member organisations regularly check in with their volunteers to ensure we don't see activist burn out.

#### **LGBTIQA+ Rights**

My long-term plans would be to expand on the European LGBTIQA+ Rights informal workshop that Mina and I organised during the 2019 General Assembly. We are seeing a rise in right-wing rhetoric that is being directed at the LGBTIQA+ community. This rhetoric will not stop with the suppressing of LGBTIQA+ human rights, but will then move on to other communities. This is happening with the erosion of rights for women in Poland and the continued Islamophobia across many European Member States. I am especially motivated to work on these following recent proposals from the UK government that would see further restrictions placed on transgender persons. The resurgent far-right parties and their attacks on Europe's LGBTIQA+ community.

## **Housing**

With so many young people living in private rented accommodation I would like us to start a housing rights working group that would focus on the policy for a minimum standard for people renting both through social and private landlords. We need to ensure that, whilst private landlords exist, they are investing a percentage of their profits each year into improving the energy efficiency of their properties and the appliances in their properties. Currently working for a large social housing landlord in the UK I see constantly the issues that many social tenants face in terms of repairs and the quality of the housing that we provide.

I would love to see us working on a campaign to eradicate fuel poverty. As someone who's energy bills increase from around £40 a month during summer to over £100 a month during winter I am concerned that many other people also face these steep price rises. For many people in winter there is a difficult choice between heating your home and eating. I would like to see this campaign focus on how renewable energy and advancements in technology (solar panels, solar battery storage) can help households and communities become more energy self-sufficient.

## **Covid and Green Recovery**

With the possibility of a second wave and further travel restrictions I would like to see this executive committee look at other ways we can achieve our campaigns. The move to online meetings has been useful yet often inaccessible for members with poor internet connections. I am also aware the impact of remote working may have on our office-based staff's ability to support our campaign aims so we must also manage our expectations of what we can achieve and continue to communicate these changes with our members.

FYEG must be at the centre of all talks that the European Greens have around implementing a green recovery. It is our younger members that will face the brunt of any economic slump and less employment opportunities. We must ensure that our mother parties and the party within the European Parliament ensures opportunities for young people so we don't end up with a generation facing not only a climate emergency but also less employment opportunities due to a potential global recession.