



GET ORGANISED

2014/15 Campaign Guide

YOUNGGREENS.ORG.UK/CAMPAIGNS/GETORGANISED



Young Greens



BE ORGANISED

Young Greens working with trade unions

With zero hour contracts, youth unemployment, cuts in education, unpaid internships and a race to the bottom in employment rights, young people are finding employment tougher than ever.

So how can young people organise ourselves and what can the trade union movement offer us?

Trade unions are taking up the struggles currently faced by young people.

They are organising on campuses, in your local services, and in the private sector to fight back against the attack on young people.

We need to organise -and unionise - as Young Greens to be part of this struggle.

WHY DO TRADE UNIONS MATTER?

Trade unions have been around since the 19th century and have provided collective and individual support to workers ever since.

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN A TRADE UNION?

- Trade unions fight against discrimination in the workplace and wider society.
- Trade unions campaign for your safety. Unionised workplaces are safer.
- Trade unions fight against cuts and support job creation and security.
- Trade unions work collectively to get better pay, better leave, and better compensation when you need it.

WHY GET INVOLVED WITH TRADE UNIONS?

Simply put, the struggle and oppression that trade unions are fighting against is our fight too.

When lecturers and teachers strike, they are doing so for the good of our education.

When public sector workers strike, they are fighting to make sure our services are the best they can be.

When workers in the private sector strike, they are trying to improve their conditions so every worker can be treated the same.

By supporting trade unions, we are supporting our own struggle.

FACT: Workers in trade unions are £4,000 better off*

HISTORY OF YOUNG GREENS' INVOLVEMENT

The Young Greens have a strong history of supporting trade unions and workers' rights, from campaigning for a living wage, to fighting against cuts to local services, to marching on TUC demonstrations, and joining picket lines.

The Young Greens have a campaign called Fair Pay Campus calling for universities to pay their lowest earners a ratio of 10:1 with their top earners. Campaigns like this underpin the Young Greens' support for workers' rights and trade unions.



THE FAIR PAY CAMPAIGN

Growing academic evidence shows that institutions, organisations and societies with greater equality are more productive and their workers enjoy a greater sense of well being.

At 15:1, the Higher Education sector has the highest ratio between lowest & highest paid workers in the public sector.

The Young Greens want to see greater income equality in Higher Education and the rest of the public sector.

WHAT ABOUT THE LABOUR PARTY?

Historically, the Labour Party and unions have been closely related. Now, only the Green Party continually stands up for workers.

Unite and UNISON, the two biggest trade unions in the county, are affiliated to the Labour Party, with a further 13 also being affiliated.

However, if you join UNISON and other unions, you can opt out of donating to the political fund, which means your money will not go to the Labour Party. If you can't opt out, then you should bring it up with your branch.

If we are going to change the political landscape of England and Wales, then we need more Young Greens to join trade unions to help gain more support for the Green Party by getting organised from within.

It is not going to be an overnight transition, but some trade unions like rail union RMT are supporting the Green Party, and we are seeing more Young Greens joining trade unions.

As a political party, we have never been more forward facing towards trade unions.

With our Trade Union Liaison Officer on the Green Party Executive Committee, local parties supporting industrial action, and the work of the Green Party Trade Union Group, we are building towards great support for and from the trade unions.

But we need to **GET ORGANISED** as Young Greens to see greater change.

HOW YOU AND YOUR YOUNG GREENS GROUP CAN GET INVOLVED

1. The best and easiest action you can take is to **join a trade union!** By joining and recruiting others, you are joining a collective effort for a stronger organised labour movement.

2. Find out which trade unions you have on your campus, in your workplace and in the local area. The best thing to do is to **support the local campaigns and actions** that are already happening - collective action is more powerful than individual action! Most campuses will have branches of UCU and UNISON who will always be looking to work with Young Greens groups.

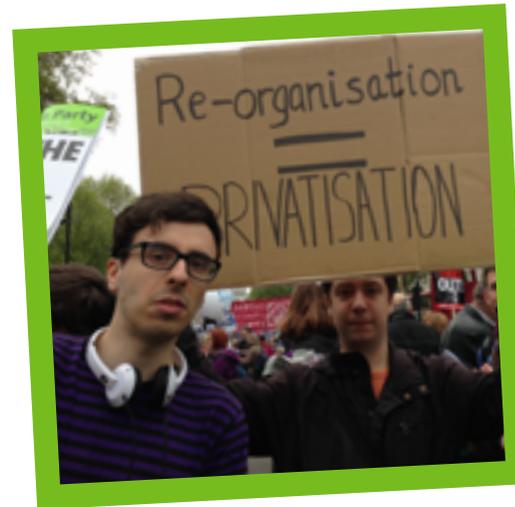
3. If your Young Greens group is university-based, speak to the election officers at your **Student Union** to call for support of trade unions on campus.



4. **Support industrial action** when it happens. This can be on campus, in your local authority or local business. Supporting strikes can be joining or supporting picket lines, not using services that are under industrial action, raising money for donations to strike funds, or writing supportive articles in your student or local media.

5. Hold **Young Greens group meetings** about modern worker issues, inviting local trade union representatives to speak. Supporting current collective issues is a big part of the social justice principles on which the Green Party is founded.

6. Make **freedom of information requests** to your university, workplace, or local authority about pay or any number of work issues, then start a campaign on the inequality that you find. Use this to lobby and campaign for better conditions for workers.



USEFUL LINKS

Young Greens' Get Organised Campaign

[younggreens.org.uk/campaigns/
getorganised](http://younggreens.org.uk/campaigns/getorganised)

Young Greens' Fair Pay Campus Campaign

fairpayunis.wordpress.com

TUC Young Workers

tuc.org.uk/about-tuc/young-workers

Join a Union

worksmart.org.uk/unionfinder

ULU-supported 3Cosas Campaign

3cosascampaign.wordpress.com

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[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/10860017/
Union-members-4000-a-year-better-off-government-
report-suggests.htm](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/10860017/Union-members-4000-a-year-better-off-government-report-suggests.htm)

