

# YOUTH MANIFESTO 2017



Young Greens

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The Green Party wants to build a better, more positive future for everyone and in particular, young people. We want that future to be safer, happier, more equal and more secure.

as well as information on the Young Greens activities to get young people engaged in politics. If you want to find out more you can read all the Green Party's policies at:  
**[policy.greenparty.org.uk](https://policy.greenparty.org.uk)**

The politics of the future doesn't have to look like the politics of the past. The Youth Manifesto is a selection of youth related Green Party policies,

Young people directly shape Green Party policy, as a result we have arguably the most progressive and inclusive policies, such as:

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# CREDIBLE PLAN TO OPPOSE A HARD BREXIT

- > First and foremost we will immediately guarantee the right of EU citizens to remain in the UK and of UK citizens to remain in the EU, to keep families and friendships together.
- > We will protect and not compromise our freedom of movement so that we can access job opportunities, education, new cultural experiences and friendships across Europe.
- > We will defend the Human Rights Act and UK membership of the European Convention on Human rights.
- > We will protect our access to the Erasmus and Erasmus + funding schemes to broaden our learning experience and career opportunities. We will replace lost EU Higher Education Research Funding with

a UK equivalent that maintains or increases the current level of spending to protect internationally-renowned Higher Education Research.

- > We will guarantee essential workers rights collectively agreed by EU member states to protect young workers from exploitation.
- > We will ensure all environmental protections given to us by the EU remain in place to assist in our our fight against climate change. We will also maintain animal welfare standards.
- > We will hold a referendum on the Brexit deal with the option to reverse Article 50 if the deal is not in our interest.



# PROVIDING STABLE HOUSING FOR GENERATION RENT

- > We will introduce a living rent for all through rent controls, more secure tenancies for private renters, an end to letting fees, and mandatory licensing for all landlords.
- > We will encourage the creation of renters unions to allow collective bargaining on rent prices and to expose rogue letting agencies and landlords.
- > We will allow councils to borrow funds and invest further public money to build energy efficient housing for social rents.
- > We will abolish the bedroom tax which has disproportionately affected disabled people.

- > We will require local authorities to help homeless young people and stop them declaring people 'intentionally homeless', ensuring they work with partners to provide effective housing options and advice services for those who need it.
- > We will protect and expand the national stock of council housing by scrapping the right to buy scheme, stopping local authorities from selling off these properties and by allowing councils the right to purchase empty housing. These measures will shorten the council house waiting list.
- > We will reverse moves which discriminate young people from claiming housing benefit and will introduce measures to ensure no discrimination or variation of housing benefits.
- > We will make it illegal to discriminate against tenants who receive housing benefit, and scrap requirements for landlords to check the immigration status of tenants.
- > We will support community-led approaches to building new homes that young people can afford to rent and buy, and aim for house price stability to stop pricing out future generations.

## A FAIRER WORKING WORLD

- > We will increase the minimum wage so that it is a living wage and scrap age related bands.
- > We will work towards fair pay ratios, ensuring that the maximum wage in any organisation is no more than ten times the minimum wage in that organisation.
- > We recognise the importance of apprenticeships in providing opportunities for young people to learn new skills but these should not be used by employers to replace full time paid work. Apprenticeships and internships should be standardised to ensure a minimum standard of education, skills, training, support and personal development.
- > We believe that interns and trainees should be entitled to the national living wage and have access to trade union support in the workplace.
- > We will invest in creating training places and offering opportunities to unemployed people, in particular the young.
- > We reject workfare and forcing unemployed people into unsuitable jobs by threatening to remove benefits.
- > We will scrutinise the use of zero hours contracts, stopping their exploitative use, particularly in light of the gig economy.
- > We support workplace democracy, through encouragement of individual's membership to democratic Trade Unions and worker co-operatives.

## EDUCATION IS A PUBLIC GOOD

- > We believe in free education for all and we will abolish student tuition fees in Higher Education, re-introducing living grants to support time at University.
- > We will cancel all student debt issued by the Student Loans Company and held by the government, removing the burden of debt from a generation of students.
- > We believe that schools and colleges should have sufficient finance to provide a varied curriculum and smaller classes to ensure we can reach our full potential.
- > We will restore the educational maintenance allowance (EMA) for 16 and 17 year olds in England.
- > We will provide mandatory sex education that is LGBTIQ+– inclusive, healthy relationships education, equality and diversity education, positive body image and access to good quality personal, social, health and education (PSHE).
- > Teachers and educational staff should get comprehensive training on all diversity and inclusion issues.
- > Schools should promote equal opportunities in their anti-bullying procedures and equality issues should be monitored in teaching recruitment.
- > We will make youth services a priority public service, increasing the spending on youth services, youth councils, and non-curricular education and training.

## ECONOMIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- > The Green Party supports the nationalisation of public services and utilities and will reverse the trend towards privatisation. Key services must be free at the point of delivery so they are open and accessible to all.
- > We believe we should pay for these services with a taxation system that promotes fairness and rewards behaviour that's good for both society and the environment.
- > We will help local economies to thrive by promoting start-ups and small businesses. To do this, we will invest in institutions like the Green Investment Bank, small credit unions and community banks which support local areas and groups, enabling young people to get a fair start in business.
- > We will support the creation and maintaining of cultural enterprises through a tax on superstar performances to ensure reinvestment in local cultural and creative industries. We support the growth of creative industries, and a green economy is one which respects and promotes the role of creatives in society.
- > We support a financial transaction tax, known as the Robin Hood Tax, which will reduce industry's ability to gamble on short term financial deals and put money back into our economy.
- > We believe that wealth is created by all of society, not just the richest few. The rich should pay their fair share in taxes. We support a higher rate of income tax, the introduction of a wealth tax, and the closing of tax evasion loopholes.

## FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSION

- > We call for an end to discrimination and we will defend the rights of the oppressed. We will work to ensure respect for everyone whatever their ethnicity, gender, age, religious belief or non-belief, sexual orientation, class, size, disability or other status.
- > We will campaign for homophobic and transphobic crimes to be dealt with effectively and on a par with racist crimes.
- > We recognise that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary identities exist and are valid. We shall respect transgender and non-binary people's identities as real. We shall include, and push for further acceptance of, transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society.
- > We will seek to end the oppression of marginalised groups in the workplace through measures such as quotas on executive boards, anonymised CVs, and the incorporation of an impact assessment into all policy reviews.
- > We reject the xenophobic Prevent strategy and will pursue community-led collaborative approaches to tackling all forms of extremism instead.
- > We will include intersex as a protected status in current equality law, and acknowledge that individuals have legal protection in adopting a gender identity and expression.
- > We will decriminalise all aspects of sex work involving consenting adults. Workers in the sex industry should enjoy the same rights as other workers, such as the right to join unions.



## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FUTURE

- > We will introduce a wide reaching Environmental Protection Act to make a firm commitment on tackling the immediate threat of climate change. We will also work with businesses and other countries to maintain a commitment to keeping global temperature increases down.
- > We recognise air pollution is at an all time high across the UK, impacting people's respiratory health. To tackle this we want to introduce a new clean air act to ensure the right to breathe clean air.
- > We will ban fracking as a form of energy production in the UK, choosing to invest in more sustainable alternatives, including existing plans for Tidal lagoons in Wales, as well as wide reaching community owned wind and solar farm projects across the UK.
- > To protect the declining UK bee population, as well as other forms of wildlife, we will keep the ban harmful pesticides from agricultural use.
- > We want to localise the food chain, including assistance for small farms, starting farmers' markets, farm box schemes and locally owned co-ops.
- > We believe in phasing out all forms of factory farming of animals, enforcing strict animal welfare standards.
- > We will improve and increase direct Government investment in large-scale wind and other renewable energy generation, and properly invest in the grid. This will create much needed sustainable jobs. This is needed urgently – the private sector has simply not put enough money into responding to the renewable energy challenge.

## SAFEGUARDING OUR HEALTH

- > We will ensure that all health and dental services are always publicly provided and free at the point of access.
- > Prescription, and other charges, are wrong in principle, unfair in practice, and generate little income for the Health Service. Where they are in place, we will abolish them.
- > We will provide more funding for sexual health awareness campaigns, provide greater access to free condoms and sexual health clinics.
- > Sanitary Products are not a luxury and therefore VAT will no longer be added to their retail price. We will provide sanitary products to those in extreme financial need, including homeless people and young people from low-income backgrounds at no charge.

- > We will support NHS staff, such as Junior Doctors, who for too long have been underpaid, undervalued and ignored, and support their right to collectively organise.
- > We recognise the crucial, unpaid and difficult work done by those who are carers. We will improve the benefits system for carers as well as put systems in place to ensure they are supported and advised.

## MENTAL HEALTH

- > We reject the stigma surrounding mental health and will encourage several measures, including mental health awareness training within the public sector and encouraging a more open dialogue on the issue in wider society.
- > We will increase funding for mental health care, bringing it in line with spending on physical health care. This will ensure that we will have 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access to support services, including crisis care.
- > We recognise that mental health problems are made worse by the current isolation that many

- people face in society, the stress of overworking and pressures of modern day life. We will tackle this by protecting facilities such as community centres which will be used to provide specific resources for those faced with mental health difficulties, and call for a 4 day working week, to encourage a better work-life balance.
- > We will review the effectiveness of how services are structured, sensitive to the needs of all people, including assessment of how care is provided at the transition age of 18.

## ENSURING OUR PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

- > We will introduce the right to vote at 16 because we believe that young people should have a say, as proved by the Scottish Independence Referendum in 2014.

- > We will enable every young person to take an active role in democracy, introducing non-biased political education and promoting active citizenship.
- > We will introduce proportional representation, including for the House of Lords, to help fix our unfair electoral system, hold people to account, and make sure that every vote counts.
- > We believe that issues should be decided at a local level whenever possible. We will decentralise and localise, putting power back in the hands of people.
- > We will revive local government through grassroots democracy and the use of smaller community and district councils with enhanced powers including new tax-raising powers.

# CONNECTING US THROUGH IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- > We will return the railways to public ownership to improve services and make fares affordable. We will also regulate bus fares in order to promote public transport as a more environmentally friendly travel choice.
- > We will ensure every young person under the age of 18 and in full time education is entitled to free local public transport.
- > We will invest in stronger regional rail links, especially in Northern England and mid-Wales, to create a better connected transport infrastructure which HS2 and the national major roads programme will not provide.
- > We will continue to oppose airport expansions, such as the third runway proposed for Heathrow, as they pose a risk to public health through air and noise pollution.
- > We will invest in better walking and cycling routes and facilities, such as on street secure cycle storage in residential areas and cycle parking. We will also ensure that cycle routes are connected to other forms of public transport.
- > We support cycling and will provide safe places for young people to learn to cycle, as well as educating young people in all practices relating to cycle use, for example riding and maintenance.



# Young Greens

The youth branch of The Green Party



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