

B10AsPassed without Error Green Party Executive to Terminate the Appointment of the Policing and Domestic Safety Spokesperson

Proposer: Raphael Hill (Brighton & Hove)
Agenda item: B Motions of Policy and Organisation
Status: Modified

1 'Green Party Executive to Consider Terminating the Appointment of the Policing
2 and Domestic Safety Spokesperson'.

3 Summary:

4 We, as the Young Green Conference, call for the Green Party Executive to
5 consider terminating the appointment of the Policing and Domestic Safety
6 Spokesperson, Shahrar Ali. We ask for this consideration to be taken once
7 guidance has been given by GPRC to GPEx which establishes a clear process for
8 terminating a spokesperson's appointment. We would also advise that there be
9 consultation with all of the GPEW liberation groups with this process.

10 This motion focuses on two instances of where we believe the values of the Young
11 Greens and the policies of the GPEW are in conflict with Shahrar Ali's online
12 statements. The first instance is Shahrar's claim that it is unprofessional to
13 wear a badge advertising your sexuality in a "patient setting". The second
14 instance is Shahrar's public statements related to his motion to prohibit
15 GenderGP from operating in the UK.

16 Key terms:

17 GPEW= Green Party of England and Wales

18 GPEx= Green Party Executive ('is responsible for the day to day running of the
19 party.')

20 GPRC= Green Party Regional Council ('a forum for dialogue between Regions,
21 responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party and for
22 supporting and advising the Green Party Executive, particularly on matters of
23 political strategy.')

24 Before going further into this it needs to be made clear what this resolution
25 does not seek to do.

26 • This is not a motion which is concerned with Shahrar Ali's membership to
27 the Green Party of England and Wales.

28 • We do seek to determine any qualities about the character of Shahrar Ali.

29 What does this resolution seek to do?

30 • Make a case on the grounds of two instances that Shahrar's online
31 statements have not met the Code of Conduct required of GPEW spokespeople.

32 The Spokesperson Code of Conduct states that 'GPEW reserves the right to
33 terminate the appointment of spokespeople before the end of their term, subject
34 to the needs and reputation of the party.' However, we are aware of the
35 procedural difficulty of this as this has not been done previously. We hope the
36 Green Party Regional Council can provide a clear mechanism to allow for this and

37 for GPEx to be able to use this when it is deemed appropriate by them in future.
38 This includes in this instance.

39 The following contains the evidence on which we wish to claim the Spokesperson
40 Code of Conduct has not been adhered to:

41 **1. Shahrar's claim that it is unprofessional to advertise your sexuality**
42 **in a patient setting.**

43 Evidence:

44 1. 'Judging from responses to this, CQC would be advised to follow up with
45 clarification they are not advocating for clinicians & care workers to
46 advertise their sexuality in patient settings. Professionalism dictates
47 clear role responsibilities & scrupulous boundaries.' (28th February 2021)
48 <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1366157075571748864>

49 2. 'Nice riposte but of course you completely miss the point. Advertising
50 sexuality to patients - as per badges - in clinical or care environment is
51 unprofessional and inappropriate.' (7th March 2021)
52 <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1368369686019252228>

53 3. 'Then you just don't get it. At all. You think it's appropriate for a
54 clinician or care worker to advertise their sexuality in a patient
55 setting? It's highly inappropriate.' (7th March 2021)
56 <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1368363245573185544>

57 **Polices which this contradicts:**

58 WR321 The Green Party will support and improve legislation to make it an offence
59 to harass or discriminate directly or indirectly against people at work, on
60 grounds of race, sex, family status or responsibilities, disability, sexual
61 orientation, religious belief, age, political opinion or physical appearance.
62 This will include people who are disadvantaged by reason of resistance to
63 discrimination.

64 HE207 The Green Party recognises that the Health Service, and all public
65 services, influence the life of the community and the country. It is important
66 that there is no discrimination in employment and that the NHS is a leader in
67 challenging racism, homophobia, transphobia, and prejudice and discrimination
68 based on disabilities or faith.

69 RR503 Sexual orientation or relationship status shall not affect the decision
70 whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a
71 person's work, their sexual orientation or relationship status is of no
72 consequence in their ability to undertake the work required.

73 **Reasoning:**

74 The image by the Care Quality Commission had a man with some buttons on his
75 lanyard stating, 'I'm gay', 'he him', 'trans ally' & 'I like men'. While it
76 isn't specified in the post, the fact that the individual being quote tweeted is
77 gay is important to this. While the comments Shahrar makes talk more generally

78 about sexuality, the fact that this quote tweets a photo of a gay man suggests
79 that the open display of his sexuality specifically is 'highly inappropriate' to
80 Shahrar. Shahrar quote tweeted the Care Quality Commission post to make his
81 first statement. Shahrar is asking the Care Quality Commission to 'follow up
82 with a clarification' and that in his mind you should not 'advertise your
83 sexuality' if you are a care worker or clinician. Our view is that being open
84 about your sexuality in any workplace is in no way unprofessional. This includes
85 in the context of providing care work.

86 Sexual orientation is a protected characteristic and so it would not be
87 appropriate for clinicians or care workers to be asked to hide their sexuality
88 under the Equalities Act of 2010 and so the Clinical Care Commission would be
89 wrong to do so. This is contrary to WR321 & HE207.

90 If someone were to be open about their sexuality and for it to be considered
91 'highly inappropriate' then this would be likely within their workplace context
92 to affect their status within the company. This is contrary to RR503.

93 It is important to note here that Shahrar does not give an explanation as to why
94 only those working in a patient setting should be treated in this way. For
95 LGBTQ+ people who are patients in a care context, this can in fact have the
96 effect of putting them at ease. This openness helps to make better connections
97 with the people who care for them and creates a clear sense that this is a safe
98 space. If open displays of sexuality are not allowed for carers/clinicians, it
99 can have an isolating effect on people receiving care, due to the lack of other
100 openly LGBTQ+ people.

101 Finally, Shahrar is acting in his capacity as spokesperson when he is tweeting.
102 His twitter is public and shows and his spokesperson role is in his Twitter
103 description. At this point in time (February-March 2021), he was our Home
104 Affairs Spokesperson. His role now includes 'Domestic Safety' which would relate
105 to services that provide care to vulnerable people. By having a spokesperson who
106 has made these prior statements and by GPEW not acting upon this, we would be
107 taking a step back from trying to achieve equality in the workplace especially
108 for those with sexualities that are marginalised in mainstream society. This is
109 not something that we can accept as Young Greens.

110 2. **Shahrar's public statements related to his motion to prohibit**
111 **GenderGP**
from operating in the UK.

112 Evidence:

113 1. EMERGENCY MOTION: PROHIBIT GENDERGP FROM OPERATING IN UK on
114 Grounds of
115 Patient Safety, Lack of Child Informed Consent & Safeguarding Failures.
116 This EM will be voted on at #gpconf plenary! Full text in image & thread.
117 @TheGreenParty members pls support motion. #GenderGP #Tavistock
(March 4th
2021): <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1367461683510341632>

118 2. Full text of motion available on Shahrar's Twitter here (March 4th 2021):
119 <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1367461683510341632/photo/1> This

can

also be found at <http://electshahrar.co.uk/gpew-em-prohibit-gendergp-from-uk>

3. 'Why this motion and why now? How long are we going to sit on our hands or turn a blind eye to evidence of clear #safeguardingfailure and risk to #patientsafety or lack of #childinformedconsent or lack of #parentconsent?

No! Greens must take a stand and show the way. Emergency.' (March 4th 2021) <https://twitter.com/ShahrarAli/status/1367466645741002758>

Polices which this contradicts:

RR533 The NHS should better recognise the increasing need for Gender Identity Clinics and increase service provision, across the country.

RR534 The NHS should remove barriers to accessing services for trans people, with thorough review of access to services for Children and Young People and for those who have self prescribed or self funded gender treatment in the UK or abroad.

Reasoning:

Shahrar asks the Green Party Conference to 'Prohibit GenderGP from operating in the UK on grounds of patient safety'. If GenderGP were to be prohibited from operating in the UK, then this would create an additional barrier to trans people who need to access services that provide gender affirming therapy. This would reduce service provision and create further barriers and so conflicts with RR533 & RR534.

This also further conflicts with RR534 as RR534's proposed 'thorough review' relates to access to services for children and young people. This is explicitly linked to the need to remove barriers for young people and children. Shahrar tweets express concern that GenderGp are 'providing puberty blockers to children as young as 10 and hormones to others at 12'. This implies that puberty blockers, when used on children are harmful. It is important to state that puberty blockers can be used by both trans and cis children safely, as in instances of early puberty, the NHS can provide puberty blockers when 'girls have signs of puberty before 8 years of age. Boys have signs of puberty before 9 years of age.' <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/early-or-delayed-puberty/>

NHS policy accepts that a child under 8 years old should not have to go through menstruation when they and their parents do not consent to that. We also have already made it explicit that as a party we recognise the right to gender affirming therapy for 'children and young people'. Shahrar's motion seeks to undermine that right by claiming that GenderGP is acting inappropriately, when in fact it is following standard NHS practice with regards to the age of children accessing puberty blockers.

Shahrar's motion seeks to interfere with the actions of the Care Quality Commission. The regulation of healthcare providers must be independent of politicians and of the Green Party Conference.

In conclusion:

162 We call for GPEX to consider the following evidence provided when considering
163 whether to terminate the appointment of the Policing and Domestic Safety
164 Spokesperson. We ask that Young Green Co-Chairs when representing the Young
165 Greens on this matter will act in accordance with the views of this motion.
166 We hope they bear in mind the views of the Young Greens Conference on this
167 matter alongside the views of the GPEW liberation groups.

Supporters

Alexander Sallons (Brighton and Hove); Heni Tinker (Brighton & Hove Green Party);
Patrick McAllister - Bristol Young Greens co-Chair (Bristol Green Party)