GSC2 Sophie Shanahan

Agenda item: E.3.1 Green Students Committee Co-Convenor (x2 - also sit on EC)

Which role are you applying for?:
Green Students Committee Co-Convenor



Local Party:
Bristol Green Party

Candidate Statement

The Green Party is unequivocally the party of students and young people. As the Young Greens, we need to continue to fight for the right to free education, fair housing policies for students and push for a strong focus on mental health.

As student committee co-convenor, I would hope to build on the excellent work carried out by the committee over the past year. Particularly, I would continue to offer support for rent striking campaigns and use what we have learnt over this difficult year to continue to win rent rebates for the students who have been fighting so unrelentingly against unfair housing policies. I would also like to continue current work to eradicate the sexual violence, transphobia and immutable racism that have left such a stain on the education system.

Throughout the pandemic, government guidance has left university students feeling forgotten time and time again and so it is of the utmost importance that we now fight for student voices to be heard. Universities need to understand the immense strain placed upon students over the past year and ensure that effective, comprehensive policies are implemented to support students both academically and in a wellbeing capacity. The mental health of students is paramount, particularly after a year of such constant interruption to their education.

Building on the party's success in this year's local elections, I would be looking to support and nurture new and growing student groups, particularly in 'green surge' areas, in order to build a base of young green activists across the country. It would also be great to build local networks of green student groups to support each other in events and campaigning, especially in areas where the party has less of a presence.

I have been lucky enough to act as a committee member for the Bristol Green Society and expect to assume the role of co-chair of the Bristol Young Greens for the next academic year. I hope to inject all I have learnt from these experiences into my role on the EC. University campuses can be a real driving force for activism, and as student committee co-convenor I would hope to support students in executing campaigns that can effect real change.

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/_sophieshanahan

Supporter 1 Name:
Isobel Browne-Wilkinson
Supporter 1 Local Party/Affiliated Group:
Bristol Green Party
Supporter 2 Name:
Billy Wassell
Supporter 2 Local Party/Affiliated Group:
Cheltenham Green Party

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Yes