

1.4.1. Kirsty McMillan

Agenda item: H.4. Under 18

Which role are you applying for?:

U18 Young Greens Non-Portfolio Officer

Candidate Statement

I am applying for the role of Under 18 Young Greens Non-Portfolio Officer because I know that many under 18s, like myself, are very knowledgeable when it comes to politics, and are frustrated that we are constantly viewed as too immature or naive to vote. And because we can't vote, the issues we face or are passionate about are ignored by the majority of political parties. We care about climate change, LGBT+ rights, tackling racism, about gender equality and social inequality. So many under 18s believe in our Green Party policies and values, and yet they do not associate themselves with the Green Party. We are not seen as the party for young people.

By electing me as an NPO for this liberation group, we can change all that. I would ensure Young Greens activists are at as many youth-led events as possible, whether that is a climate strike, a BLM protest or a Grenfell memorial event. The climate strikers should all be Green supporters, yet most of them are not. All of those strikers will be potential voters at the next general election, and we need to make sure they join us. By improving the Green Party's presence at these youth-led events, we can solidify our claims to be a party that supports and joins the strikers in demanding climate and social justice.

I will increase the group's social media presence, as it is currently difficult to find out about the U18 Greens and any events we may be hosting. By increasing our social media presence, we can encourage more under 18s to learn about our Green policies and join the party.

As an NPO, I would also strive to create an accepting atmosphere for women, people of colour and the LGBT+ community. I think the U18 group should collaborate with other Young Greens liberation groups so that under 18s have the chance to learn more about what policies are needed to help members of different groups.

The under 18s are a largely 'untapped market' of future voters. We must elevate our profile as a party among under 18s if we are to gain more electoral success, locally and nationally. We must spend time with under 18s, rather than ignoring them as many parties continue to do. Vote for me as Under 18 Young Greens NPO to expand this incredibly important group. Thank you.

Twitter:

@KirstyMcMillan8

Instagram:

@kirstymcmillann

Do you self-identify as belonging to this Liberation Group? (Yes/No/Unsure):

Yes



Local Party:

Richmond and Twickenham
Greens