

B2 Motion on Population Control

Proposer: Joshua Alston (Leeds)

Agenda item: B Motions of Policy and Organisation (Closed 18th July)

Summary

To add a Young Greens stance on population control advocacy within the environmental movement to the record of policy statements.

1 Motion on Population Control

2 This motion notes:

3 The richest 10% of the global population produce more than 50% of global climate
4 emissions.[\[1\]](#)

5 Longstanding racist anxieties surrounding global population rise particularly
6 among people of colour are particularly popular among the global far-right.[\[2\]](#)
7 Fear of a declining white population and white replacement have been a constant
8 justification for white supremacy since earliest colonisation, and has been
9 embraced by far-right terrorists.[\[3\]](#)

10 Elements of the environmental movement have adopted 'populationist' explanations
11 for climate change. This theory views climate change as primarily caused by
12 demographic expansion among people of colour in the Global South and argues for
13 population control as a solution for this.[\[4\]](#)

14 This motion believes:

15 Climate change cannot be adequately explained by global population rise, owing
16 to the ongoing global inequality in carbon emission between the wealthy and the
17 poor.

18 Blaming climate change on global population creates a false explanation for
19 climate change which is unmoored for the global economic forces that produce
20 climate change, and therefore constitutes a form of climate change denial.

21 Population control creates a racist narrative in which people of colour having
22 too many children are blamed for climate change.

23 Population control reflects violent far-right ideas which views population rise
24 among people of colour and the global south as a threat to white security. These
25 ideas have no place in the environmental movement.

26 This motion resolves:

27 To insert into the Young Greens record of policy statements the following:

28 'The Young Greens believe that climate change results from our current fossil
29 fuel based economic system. The need to change this urgent. Global population
30 rise cannot adequately explain climate change. Population control advocacy
31 creates a racist narrative where responsibility for climate change is placed on
32 people of colour who are seen as having too many children.

33 Advocacy for population control has no place in the Green Party or the wider
34 environmental movement.'

- 35 [1] Timothy Gore, Extreme Climate Inequality: Why the Paris climate deal must
36 put the poorest, lowest emitting and most vulnerable people first (Oxfam, 2015)
- 37 [2] Eric Kaufman, Whiteshift: Population, Immigration and the Future of White
38 Minorities (New York: Abrams Press, 2019) – note Kaufman is a white supremacist.
39 Do not pay money for this book.
- 40 [3] Rose Schwartzburg, Guardian, 'The White Replacement Theory Motivates Alt-
41 Right Killers the World Over'
42 <[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/05/great-replacement-theory-](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/05/great-replacement-theory-alt-right-killers-el-paso)
43 [alt-right-killers-el-paso](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/aug/05/great-replacement-theory-alt-right-killers-el-paso)> [Accessed 18/7/2020]
- 44 [4] For example Michael Moore dir. Planet of the Humans (Los Angeles, 2020)

Supporters

Matthew Hull (Camden Green Party); Rosie Rawle (Oxfordshire); Tom Hazell (Oxfordshire Green Party)