

Kirsty McMillan

Proposer: Cassius Ashcroft (Richmond and Twickenham Green Party)

Agenda item: I Nominations for Liberation Group Roles (Re-opened)

Which role are you applying for?:

Under 18 Young Greens Co-Chair

Candidate Statement

I am applying for the role of Under 18 Young Greens Co-Chair 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. Because we can't vote, the issues we face or are passionate about are ignored by the majority of political parties. Many of us care about climate change, LGBT+ rights, gender equality, social inequality and tackling racism. 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 co-chair of 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 to 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.

As a member of the LGBT+ community, I will strive to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in this group. I will ensure we are doing our best to accomodate our disabled members, as well as making politics more accessible to under 18s who may not know much to begin with. 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.

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 Co-Chair to expand this incredibly important group. Thank you.

Twitter:

@KirstyMcMillan8

Instagram:

@kirsty.eco / @kirstymcmillann

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

Yes



Local Party:

Richmond and Twickenham Greens

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.

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

Yes



Local Party:

Richmond and Twickenham Greens

I.1.1. Neve Fields

Agenda item: I.1. Disability Group (1 Co-Chair, 3 NPO)

Which role are you applying for?:

Young Greens Disability Group Co-Chair

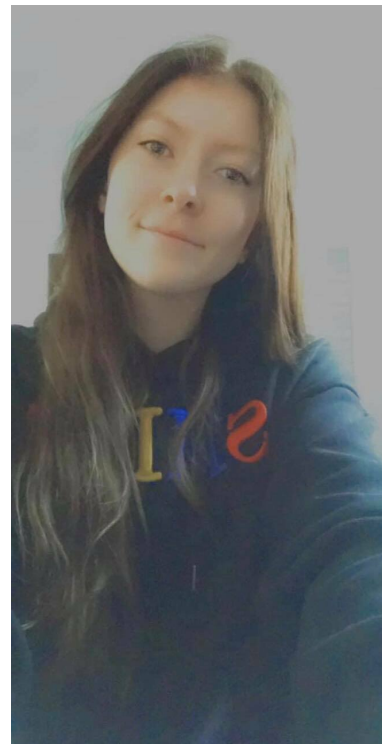
Candidate Statement

As someone who is Hard of Hearing, dyslexic and has a processing disorder, I know all too well the feeling of exclusion and lack of accessibility in the wider society and, sadly, sometimes within our own party. Unfortunately, it is often the case that accessibility for disabled people is an afterthought- this needs to change. I have been delighted by the willingness and encouragement within the Young Greens to make their content and events more accessible, this is a great positive step in the right direction, however- there is still a way to go in terms of accessibility and inclusivity for our disabled members. As part of my role as co-chair, I would work with the many Young Green committees to make sure that this changes and instead that accessibility is at the forefront of thinking within the Young Greens. In addition, recent events within the environmental and social justice movements have highlighted the importance of liberation groups. As co-chair I would work alongside the other young greens liberation groups to help make the party as intersectional and accessible as possible in order to properly represent all young greens.

Recently, with the increased effects of climate change and of corona virus being disproportionately felt by disabled people, it is becoming ever clearer the importance of disability representation within the party and wider society. As co-chair, I believe it is crucial that we increase and maintain the visibility of disabled young greens. This will be done by reaching out to our community, improving the accessibility within the young greens (such as the accessibility of events and online content), launching campaigns, holding events, and also maintaining a constant presence within the young greens. Another way I will facilitate an increased representation of disabled people as co-chair is by supporting and working towards getting more disabled young greens elected into local councils. In 2018 only 16% of local councillors had a long-term health condition or disability, this means that disabled people, and particularly disabled young people, are severely underrepresented in local governments.

I am currently the Disability Officer for my student's union and as part of this role I chair a disability support network, lead on the formation of new and creative campaigns, organise accessible and educational events and also chair meetings. My role as disability officer has taught me so much in terms of the disability community and skills in how to chair and run a committee. I also currently hold a position on the Midlands Young Greens committee as a non-portfolio officer. I believe that I will be able to use these experiences and skills in order to effectively and efficiently co-chair the Young Greens Disability Group.

Finally, I recognise the need to consult disabled members of the young greens- to gain an insight into their experience within the party and any issues they may have personally experienced. I acknowledge that I only know my own experience in relation to my disabilities and that, as our community is so



Local Party:
Loughborough and North West
Leicestershire

diverse, it is important to acknowledge that everyone's experience is different. This is why it is crucial to reach out to our community and gain a better awareness of current issues and areas of improvement to be able to work towards an inclusive party for every disabled member.

I believe that, with my passion and dedication, I am the best person to co-chair the Young Greens Disability Group and successfully represent and serve the young greens disabled community.

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/FieldsNeve

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

Yes

I.2.1. Kirsty McMillan

Agenda item: H.2. LGBTIQ+

Which role are you applying for?:
LGBTIQ+ Young Greens Co-Chair

Candidate Statement

I am standing to be the LGBTIQ+ Young Greens Co-Chair because I want to ensure all LGBT+ young people know that the Green Party is a safe space for them, a party free from homophobia and transphobia. I know that even in this current internal election, there are candidates who somehow believe it is fine to oppose trans human rights, but these attitudes are not welcome in the LGBTIQ+ Young Greens.

As co-chair, I would communicate with charities, fellow party members and inspirational LGBT+ individuals to arrange virtual talks, whether it be on diversity in the Green movement, or tackling transphobia etc. These could be in collaboration with other groups like the Trans Young Greens or Young Greens is Colour.

We need to be the party that is the loudest and proudest when it comes to LGBT+ rights and acceptance, whether this means having an LGBTIQ+ Young Greens group at Pride every year, or working with Green councillors to encourage schools to add LGBT+ history and literature into their curriculums. We can grow our social media platforms and use them to educate others about what self-ID means, or what reforms are needed to support non binary people. To gain supporters, we have to be vocal.

Other parties have LGBT groups, but we need to ensure that as the Green Party, we stand out as the only party really pushing for change. Vote for me as LGBTIQ+ Young Greens Co-Chair to really use our platform for the better to support queer, trans and non binary young greens. Thank you.

Twitter:

@KirstyMcMillan8

Instagram:

@kirsty.eco / @kirstymcmillann

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

Yes



Local Party:
Richmond and Twickenham Green
Party

I.2.2. Lollie Melton

Agenda item: H.2. LGBTIQA+

Which role are you applying for?:
LGBTIQA+ Young Greens Non-Portfolio Officer

Local Party:
Somerton and Frome

Candidate Statement

Over the past few years I have found a welcoming and supportive family in the Green Party. I feel empowered to take a more active role now and to build on the skills and community connections I have developed in my time as an activist to support the interests of all LGBTIQA+ people.

I know first-hand how alienating it can be growing up gay in a heteronormative society and working in a team with others who are committed to doing something about it would be so liberating! My ultimate goal is to do away with cisheteropatriarchy, with neoliberal capitalism and forced assimilation but it's a daunting task. Fighting this fight means not only changing individual minds but ultimately the structure of society. I know I only have a hope of doing this if it's as part of a strong community rallying together.

If I'm elected I promise to be courageous and communicative, to hold others to account as well as remaining humble and adaptive myself. I promise to keep empathy and respect for others at the centre of everything I do.

I am committed to furthering the cause of LGBTIQA+ liberation because I want every LGBTIQA+ person to be able to love and be loved without fear or shame. There is no better place to take this action than within an organization with such a clear moral vision of what really matters.

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

1.2.3. Isabel Daisy Woolgar (they/them)

Proposer: Isabel Woolgar (West Norfolk Green Party)

Agenda item: H.2. LGBTIQ+

Which role are you applying for?:
LGBTIQ+ Young Greens Co-Chair

Candidate Statement

I am standing for election for the post of Young Greens LGBTIQ+ Co-Chair because I want to help create a welcoming, positive community for all those who identify as LGBTIQ+ in the Young Greens. Having been a member of the Green Party for several years, and having been co-opted for the role of Co-Chair for the past few months, I would love to build on the momentum already in place to create a fantastic community for us.

If elected I will work towards three things. The first is to create a thriving community both online and offline. This will be done by sharing information and generating discussions on the facebook group and twitter, and by creating and supporting LGBTIQ+ events at conference and convention. Our community is very loving and supportive, and it would be great to encourage this in any way possible.

My second aim is to create a network between the liberation groups and to increase contact between them in order to create joint events, and for both members and officials to support one another. Liberation groups are at the heart of the Green Party and our voices can be the strongest. I believe that by strengthening the ties between us and generating mutual support we can have a real impact and voice within the Green Party.

My third aim is to ensure the safety and comfort of LGBTIQ+ folks at Green Party events and online. In recent years the rise of transphobia within the party has become a huge problem, one that affects the party as a whole and our LGBTIQ+ members specifically. I will work with conference to create a space which can be used as a down-time space, a community space, and as a way to escape if or when things become overwhelming.

I am passionate about the LGBTIQ+ Young Greens community, and will do all I can do to make every one of us safe, supported, heard, and welcomed within the party.

Twitter:

@lizzyWool

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

Oliver Thorn



Local Party:
West Norfolk Green Party

I.7.1. Ava Bojaniwska

Agenda item: H.7. Trans

Which role are you applying for?:
Trans Young Greens Co-Chair

Candidate Statement

Hi, I'm Ava, I'm 15 and I'm a transgender member of the green party. I am applying for this role as I would love to be more politically active in my local community but also in within the wider reach that this party offers. I'm applying for this position specifically because it also offers the opportunity to weigh in on issues that directly affect me.

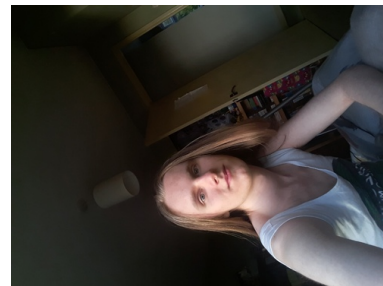
If successful in standing for this position I would hope to increase awareness and education of trans issues within our party and beyond by reaching out to green candidates at a local government level and encouraging them to support trans inclusion within their communities.

Although I have experienced transphobia as most trans people have, I am very aware that the transphobia I receive is nothing like that received by people of colour. I would like to make sure that trans pocs don't face discrimination within the party and although I plan on researching how to be a better ally to trans pocs I would love to hear first hand what I can do.

I would love the opportunity to represent the community I am a part of and hope that I get the opportunity to prove my worth.

Instagram:
ava.ro.boj

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



Local Party:
Cotswold Greens