

## **D1 Young Greens Constitution 2018/2019**

Organization: Young Greens  
Resolution date: 07/24/2019  
Agenda item: D Amendments to the Constitution/Standing Orders

### 1 **Young Greens Constitution 2018/2019**

## 2 **Article 1: Name, Membership and Objectives**

3 1.1 The name of the organisation is “Young Greens of England and Wales”.

4 1.2 The accepted abbreviations are “Young Greens” or “YG” and in all  
5 publications this name and abbreviations shall be synonymous.

6 1.3 The geographical boundaries of the Young Greens are England and Wales.

7 1.4 The Young Greens aim to encourage young people to become active in politics  
8 and within the Green Party of England and Wales.

9 1.5 The Young Greens consists of:

10 1.5.1 all members of the Green Party of England and Wales aged 29 years or less;

11 1.5.2 all members of the Green Party of England and Wales who are full-time  
12 students regardless of age;

13 1.6 Membership of the Young Greens includes voting rights to all elections in  
14 accordance with this constitution.

15 1.7 An individual’s membership of the Young Greens can be permanently  
16 terminated by an absolute two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee  
17 with the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures Committee.  
18 Where the individual is a member of those committees, they will not be able to  
19 vote on or be required to approve the termination and the absolute two-thirds  
20 majority will exclude that individual.

21 1.8 Termination of membership can only occur if their membership is considered  
22 to be detrimental to the work of the Young Greens. Prior to that, however, the  
23 Young Greens Complaints and Disputes Procedure should have been used, as  
24 outlined in Article 5.

25 **Article 2: Organisation**

26 2.1 The Young Greens is composed of individual members, committees and  
27 Affiliated Groups, whose constitutions, aims and values should be consistent  
28 with those of the Young Greens and the Green Party of England and Wales.

29 2.2 The Young Greens will be run by an Executive Committee, defined in Byelaw 1.

30 2.3 There will be a Structures and Procedures Committee with responsibility for  
31 constitutional affairs and inclusivity, as defined in Byelaw 2.

32 2.4 There will be a Senate consisting of at least two representatives from each  
33 of the groups from the Regions of England, and Wales, as outlined in Byelaw 3.

34 2.5 There will be a Green Students Committee consisting of two Co-Convenors and  
35 five Non-Portfolio Officers, defined in Byelaw 4.

36 2.6 The Executive Committee, Structures and Procedures Committee, Senate Co-  
37 Chairs and the Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will be elected at the  
38 Young Greens Annual General Meeting according to the provisions in Section D of  
39 the Standing Orders.

40 2.7 Subcommittees may be formed either by a member of the Executive Committee,  
41 where a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee has passed, or by a  
42 petition of 25 members to a General Meeting.

43 2.8. All other groups outside of the committees defined in sections 2.2-2.5 will  
44 be named Affiliated Groups, including Groups for the Regions of England, Wales,  
45 Local Groups or Liberation Groups.

46 2.8 Affiliated Group constitutions should state that they are a part of the  
47 Young Greens of England and Wales and not contradict the Young Greens  
48 constitution in any way.

49 2.9 For a group to be affiliated, they must be accepted by an absolute majority  
50 vote of the Executive Committee.

51 2.10 The Executive Committee must keep a list of affiliated groups and review it  
52 each year after Convention.

53 2.11 An affiliated group of the Young Greens can be disaffiliated by an absolute  
54 two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee if they are in violation of  
55 this constitution or if their membership is considered detrimental to the work  
56 of the Young Greens.

57 **Article 3: Amendment of the Constitution**

58 3.1 This constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at a  
59 General Meeting.

60 3.2 The byelaws to this constitution which all have the status of parts of this  
61 constitution may be amended, created or revoked by a two-thirds majority vote at  
62 a General Meeting.

63 3.3 A minor change to the constitution and standing orders, for the purpose of  
64 the editing power that is held by SPC, is defined as one where the meaning of a  
65 clause, or outcome of a clause, has not been altered (although it may be  
66 clarified), nor additional clauses introduced; and the change is for the  
67 purposes of correcting errors or inconsistencies in typography, spelling, or  
68 grammar; clarifying a meaning, or correcting the numbering of clauses.

## 69 **Article 4: The Standing Orders**

70 4.1 The Standing Orders is a document which governs any elections within the  
71 Young Greens and the processes of Convention and a General Meeting.

72 4.2 The Standing Orders must be followed at all times. They can be amended by a  
73 two-thirds majority at a General Meeting.

74 4.3 Where there is a perceived contradiction between the Constitution and  
75 Standing Orders, the Structures and Procedures Committee shall rule on the  
76 correct interpretation with precedence given to the Constitution.

## 77 **Article 5: Complaints and Disputes**

78 5.1 There shall be a Complaints and Disputes Subcommittee (C&D).

79 5.2 C&D will be constituted of a permanent representative from Structures and  
80 Procedures Committee (hereby known as the SPC Rep), who will chair the group, as  
81 well as four volunteers from the Young Greens membership, to make five total  
82 members. Two of these four spaces should be advertised first to the Young Greens  
83 Liberation Group Co-Chairs, with priority given to Young Greens of Colour and  
84 Young Greens Women of Colour, before being opened to the wider membership if no  
85 volunteers step forward who are Liberation Group Co-Chairs. Where there are too  
86 many volunteers, selection will be made by SPC; candidates may be put on a  
87 reserve list that would be used when other members are recused (see 2.). Where  
88 there are too few volunteers, the remaining membership will be drawn by lots  
89 from: Co-Convenors of Groups of the Regions of England, and Wales; Green  
90 Students Committee members; and Young Green Liberation Group Co-Chairs. At least  
91 two members of C&D should not be self-defining men.

92 5.3. C&D should have 5 participating members for every case dealt with. A  
93 reserve list of members may be created by SPC in order to ensure that this is  
94 possible, as members may be taking leave of absence. It may also be that members  
95 have personal interests in the outcome of a case, or possess personal or  
96 professional relations, amicable or otherwise, with those involved in a case.  
97 Applications for recusal may be made by members of C&D, SPC, EC any Young Green

98 directly involved within a case, and are submitted to SPC, and may be done so by  
99 or on the behalf of a member of C&D. A majority vote from SPC determines if a  
100 member is recused. If the SPC Rep is recused, C&D is to vote on an acting Chair  
101 for a case, who must be a member of C&D. Recusal should happen before the point  
102 of formal intervention (the implementation of Section B.3).

103 5.4 C&D membership will be from its initiation until the following Young Greens  
104 Convention, after which C&D will be re-formulated following Article 5.2. It is  
105 permissible to re-volunteer. Complaints and Disputes will be dealt with by a  
106 single C&D only and will not be passed on between re-formulations (except in the  
107 case of resignations). This may lead to persons carrying out C&D duties for as  
108 long as a complaint of dispute takes to judge on.

109 5.5 Members are to submit complaints based on breaches of the Young Greens  
110 Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green Party Constitution, Green  
111 Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or any other organisational  
112 policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and Young Greens, including  
113 anti-harassment and Safe Space policies.

114 5.6. Any complaints about another member of the Young Greens, or disputes that a  
115 member feels they need help resolving, should go in the first instance to the  
116 C&D. If for whatever reason a member does not feel comfortable approaching any  
117 C&D member, they may go to Young Greens Staff, Young Greens Non-Portfolio  
118 Officer with the Equality and Diversity Portfolio or to the Structures and  
119 Procedures Committee.

120 5.7 In the first instance when a complaint is lodged, a member of the C&D will  
121 speak to involved parties and attempt to resolve the issue informally whilst  
122 maintaining clear records, in accordance with Article 5.14.

123 5.8 Where any involved parties feel that hasn't worked, or where any parties  
124 refuse the informal intervention, the complaint should be made in writing. All  
125 involved parties will have equal chance to state their own case.

126 5.9 C&D Committee will consider the complaint and make a judgment, in writing,  
127 to all parties. Judgements should include a ruling on whether there have been  
128 breaches of the Young Greens Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green  
129 Party Constitution, Green Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or  
130 any other organisational policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and  
131 Young Greens, including anti-harassment and Safe Space policies.

132 5.10 After a judgement, C&D committee will make a recommendation of action to  
133 either or both complainants. In cases where there is a need for disciplinary  
134 action, to SPC or another relevant body where appropriate. These disciplinary  
135 actions may include, but are not limited to:

136 5.10.1 Ban from Young Greens Events/Spaces, for a period of up to 12 months

137 5.10.2 Suspension of Young Greens membership, for a period of up to 12 months

138 5.10.3 Censure from holding a position within the Young Greens, for a period of  
139 up to 12 months

140 5.10.4 Permanent termination of membership, as outlined in Article 1.7

141 5.11 Where the case is deemed to be serious enough, C&D committee may recommend  
142 a suspension for the period of the investigation and which must be agreed by the  
143 Chair of the Structures of Procedures Committee.

144 5.12 If the recommended action(s) following a judgment are not followed by the  
145 involved parties, C&D should make recommendations of action to the EC or SPC.

146 5.13 If an individual; wishes to appeal a judgment made by C&D, they may do so  
147 by communicating to SPC. The grounds for an appeal are if new evidence emerges,  
148 or if C&D broke procedure. SPC should look over the evidence presented by the  
149 appellant and may make a ruling on whether the appeals process should be  
150 initiated. In this case, appeals will be heard by a new group formulated on the  
151 same basis as C&D in 5.3 but excluding C&D members that made the original  
152 judgment. This may be drawn from the list of reserve members.

153 5.14 There should be clear minutes and records of actions kept of all C&D  
154 meetings. These may be disclosed beyond C&D at the discretion of C&D Committee,  
155 and a need for confidentiality and fair treatment must be considered. C&D are to  
156 submit reports of each case to SPC. SPC will then include a general, anonymous  
157 summary of these in their annual report.

158 5.15 A response to all initial complaints should be made to the initiator of the  
159 complaint within 48 hours of receiving the complaint, in which the standard  
160 process is outlined to them and how C&D intend to carry out the informal  
161 mediation.

162 5.16 Informal mediation should start within 5 days of a complaint or dispute  
163 being lodged.

164 5.17 A judgment should be made within 3 weeks of a complaint or dispute being  
165 lodged in writing following informal mediation failing or where the written  
166 statement refuses informal mediation.

167 5.18 Any requests for updates from any involved party should be responded to  
168 within 72 hours.

169 5.19 Extensions to these deadlines should be sought from SPC in extenuating  
170 circumstances

171 5.20 Malicious complaints made against a Young Greens member are serious and a  
172 breach of the principles outlined in the Constitution as well as the GPEW Code  
173 of Conduct. C&D Committee will dismiss malicious complaints and may notify  
174 relevant parties that a malicious complaint has been made.

175 **Article 6: The Young Greens Record of Policy**  
176 **Statements**

177 6.1 There shall be a Young Greens Record of Policy Statements (hereafter YG  
178 RoPS) that contains contemporary policy statements from the Young Greens of  
179 England and Wales.

180 6.2 Actions from Young Green bodies should not contradict statements in the  
181 RoPS.

182 6.3 Statements may be submitted to the YG RoPS by a simple majority vote of a  
183 motion submitted to Convention. Alternatively, statements may be submitted to  
184 the YG RoPS by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee, with the  
185 consent of SPC. All statements added between Conventions are to be reported to  
186 the following Young Greens Annual General Meeting by SPC and recorded in SPC  
187 monthly reports.

188 6.4 Statements may be removed from the YG RoPS by a simple majority vote of a  
189 motion submitted to Convention. Alternatively, statements may be removed from  
190 the YG RoPS by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee, with the  
191 consent of SPC. All statements removed between Conventions are to be reported to  
192 the following Young Greens Annual General Meeting by SPC and recorded in SPC  
193 monthly reports.

194 6.5 After five years of a statement being entered into the YG RoPS, it is  
195 considered to be in grace as recorded by SPC. This means that it will be  
196 reported to be in grace to the following Young Greens Annual General Meeting by  
197 SPC, who will give Convention the chance to vote on whether it should stay in  
198 the YG RoPS, which requires a simple majority. This restarts the five-year  
199 placement of that statement into the YG RoPS.

200 6.6 The YG RoPS should be publicly available.

201 **Article 7: The Young Greens Record of**  
202 **Organisational Statements**

203 7.1 There shall be a Young Greens Record of Organisational Statements (hereafter  
204 YG RoOS) that contains organisational policies from the Young Greens of England  
205 and Wales.

206 7.2 Actions from Young Green bodies should not contradict statements in the  
207 RoOS.

208 7.3 Statements may be submitted to the YG RoOS by a simple majority vote of a  
209 motion submitted to Convention. Alternatively, statements may be submitted to  
210 the YG RoOS by a simple majority vote of the EC, with the consent of SPC. All  
211 statements added between Conventions are to be reported to the following Young  
212 Greens Annual General Meeting by SPC and recorded in SPC monthly reports.

213 7.4 Statements may be removed from the YG RoOS by a simple majority vote of a  
214 motion submitted to Convention. Alternatively, statements may be removed from  
215 the YG RoOS by a simple majority vote of the EC, with the consent of SPC. All  
216 statements removed between Conventions are to be reported to the following Young  
217 Greens Annual General Meeting by SPC and recorded in SPC monthly reports.

218 7.5 Each year EC will review the RoOS and bring a list of statements they judge  
219 to be out of date to Convention for a vote of retention or removal.

220 7.6 The YG RoOS should be publicly available.

## 221 **Article 8: Safe Spaces Policy**

222 8.1 The Young Greens are committed to providing an environment free of racism,  
223 sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, religious discrimination or any other  
224 types of oppression, including, but not limited to, oppression against non-  
225 binary identities and sex workers.

226 8.2 The Young Greens are committed to providing an environment free of bullying,  
227 name-calling or any forms of abusive behaviour.

228 8.3 The Young Greens are committed to challenging these types of oppression  
229 whenever they occur in Young Greens spaces.

230 8.4 The Young Greens are committed to having a victim centred approach when safe  
231 spaces are jeopardised.

232 8.5 The Young Greens will follow guidance regarding safe spaces in the RoOS.

233 8.6 When it comes from outside of the Young Greens but within the Green Party,  
234 individuals in the Young Greens are encouraged to report all forms of oppression  
235 or discrimination including hate crime to the Green Party of England and Wales  
236 through the standard complaints procedures for further investigation into these  
237 matters. Individuals may contact the Young Greens Complaints and Disputes  
238 Committee to receive support in doing so.

## 239 **Article 9: Safeguarding**

240 9.1 Young Greens EC shall appoint a Safeguarding Officer and Deputy Safeguarding  
241 Officer.

242 9.2 The Safeguarding Officer and their Deputy have the duty to:

243 9.2.1 Lead on the development of safeguards for the Young Greens.

244 9.2.2 To promote the safety and welfare of children and young people in the  
245 Young Greens.

246 9.2.3 Receive and record information from anyone who has concerns.

247 9.2.4 Assess the information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining  
248 more information where necessary.

249 9.2.5 Consult initially with a statutory child protection agency, such as the  
250 local children's social care teams or the NSPCC with any doubts or concerns.

251 9.2.6 Make a formal referral when required to a statutory child protection  
252 agency or the police.

253 9.3 It is not their job to decide whether a child or a young person has been  
254 abused or not. These roles can be shared with other roles within the Young  
255 Greens.

256 9.4 Young Greens will follow the guidance regarding safeguarding in the RoOS.

## 257 **Byelaws of the Young Greens of England and Wales**

### 258 **Byelaw 1: The Young Greens Executive Committee**

259 1.1 There shall be an Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as "the  
260 Executive Committee" or "EC") which shall consist of:

261 1.1.1 Two Co-Chairs, of which at least one must be not a self-defining man.

262 1.1.2 Treasurer.

263 1.1.3 Six Non-Portfolio Officers.

264 1.1.4 Young Greens Senate Co-chairs, of which at least one must be not a self-  
265 defining man.

266 1.2 EC Elections shall be carried out according to Section D of the Standing  
267 Orders, following the procedures, timescale and gender balance rules described  
268 therein.

269 1.3 The aim and responsibility of the EC is to:

270 1.3.1 Provide an overall direction and strategic planning.

271 1.3.2 Support all members and bodies within the Young Greens.

272 1.3.3 Represent the Young Greens externally, including running the website and  
273 social media and representing the Young Greens at events.



274 1.4 EC members shall individually provide a monthly report to the membership, to  
275 be published on the members' website, and an end-of-year report to the Young  
276 Greens Annual General Meeting.

277 1.5 EC as a whole shall provide a quarterly report with a summary of activities,  
278 to be published on the members' website. A quarterly online question and  
279 answer session hosted by SPC should follow and be promoted to all members with a  
280 call for questions.

281 1.6 EC members shall individually provide a six-month progress report to the  
282 membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members  
283 at the annual autumn event.

284 1.7 Vacant positions may be co-opted at any time throughout the year following  
285 the procedure outlined in Section D6 of the Standing Orders.

286 1.8 The quorum for EC decisions is 50% + 1 of all EC members.

## 287 **Byelaw 2: The Structures and Procedures Committee**

288 2.1 There shall be a Structures and Procedures Committee (hereafter known as  
289 "the Structures and Procedures Committee" or "SPC") which shall consist  
290 of:

291 2.1.1 Five members, where one member is selected within as Chair.

292 2.1.2 The chair shall be selected at the first meeting of SPC after the Annual  
293 Ballot.

294 2.1.3 The position of chair may also be taken as a job-share between two members  
295 of SPC who will then be referred to as co-chairs.

296 2.1.4 If the chair or co-chairs resigns, SPC shall select a new chair or co-  
297 chairs at their next available meeting.

298 2.2 Elections will be carried out according to Section D of the Standing Orders,  
299 following the procedures, timescale and gender balance rules described therein.

300 2.3 The aim and responsibility of the Structures and Procedures Committee is to:

301 2.3.1 Uphold this Constitution, byelaws and Standing Orders.

302 2.3.2 Oversee updates and clarifications to these, including through elections  
303 and the Annual General meeting.

304 2.3.3 Make rulings on interpretation of this constitution and to declare acts  
305 constitutional or otherwise.

306 2.3.4 Make minor changes to the Constitution and the Standing Orders to ensure  
307 it is standardised and accurate, as outlined in Article 3.3 of this  
308 Constitution.

309 2.3.5 As part of this role, the Structures and Procedures Committee will run a  
310 General Meeting as described in Sections B and C of the Standing Orders.

311 2.3.6. Additionally, the Structures and Procedures Committee is responsible for  
312 ensuring accountability of the Young Greens at large.

313 2.4 The Chair of the Structures and Procedures Committee has the right to attend  
314 all meetings of the Executive Committee, but not vote, as a representative of  
315 the Structures and Procedures Committee and should be consulted on major  
316 decisions.

317 2.5 The Structures and Procedures Committee shall provide a monthly report to  
318 the membership, to be published on the members' website, and an end-of-year  
319 report to the Young Greens Annual General Meeting. This shall detail any minor  
320 changes made to the constitution and standing orders.

321 2.8 SPC members shall individually provide a six-month progress report to the  
322 membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session with members  
323 at the autumn event.

### 324 **Byelaw 3: The Young Greens Senate**

325 3.1 The Young Greens Senate shall consist of two Co-Chairs, where no more than 1  
326 defines as a man, plus two representatives from each group from the regions of  
327 England and Wales, where no more than one defines as a man from each group.

328 3.2 The Co-Chairs shall be elected in line with Section D of the Standing Orders  
329 following the procedures, timescale and gender balance rules described therein.

330 3.3 The aim and responsibility of the Young Greens Senate is to:

331 3.3.1 Ensure the direction and decisions of the Young Greens are representative  
332 of the membership

333 3.3.2 Provide an extra layer of organisation and support to help develop local  
334 groups.

335 3.3.3 Share best practice between Groups of the Regions of England, and Wales.

336 3.4 The Co-Chairs of the Senate may be dismissed by a vote of no confidence  
337 where two-thirds absolute majority of the Senate or of EC have voted thus.

338 3.5 If needed, EC will co-opt Senate Co-Chairs throughout the year following  
339 Section D6.1 of the Standing Orders.

340 3.6 The representatives from the regions of England and Wales will be elected at  
341 the discretion of the group they represent.

342 3.7. Where there is no representative from a region of England and Wales, these  
343 may be co-opted by the Senate following Section D6.5 of the Standing Orders.

344 3.8 The Young Greens Senate must meet at least 6 times a year, where 2 meetings  
345 are in person.

346 3.9 The Young Greens Senate shall provide a quarterly report with a summary of  
347 activities, to be published on the members' website.

348 3.10 Senate Co-Chairs members shall individually provide a six-month progress  
349 report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability session  
350 with members at the annual autumn event

#### 351 **Byelaw 4: Green Students Committee**

352 4.1 The Green Students Committee shall be led by two Co-Convenors, of which at  
353 least one must not self-define as a man.

354 4.2 The Co-Convenors shall be elected in line with Section D of the Standing  
355 Orders following the procedures, timescale and gender balance rules described  
356 therein.

357 4.3 The aim and responsibility of the Green Students Committee is to:

358 4.3.1 Encourage Young Greens to stand for positions in their student unions,  
359 NUS, and as NUS delegates as well as support Young Greens holding those  
360 positions.

361 4.3.2 Involve Young Greens in NUS campaigns and activities.

362 4.3.3 Liaise with relevant external bodies.

363 4.3.4 Direct Young Greens to chosen student campaigns and organisations.

364 4.4 Green Students Committee members shall provide a quarterly report to the  
365 membership, to be published on the members' website, and an end-of-year report  
366 to the Young Greens Annual General Meeting.

367 4.5 Vacant positions may be co-opted at any time throughout the year following  
368 the procedure outlined in the standing orders.

369 4.6 Green Students Campaign Committee members shall together provide a six-month  
370 progress report to the membership and take part in a face-to-face accountability  
371 session with members at the annual autumn event.

372 **Byelaw 5: Liberation Groups**

373 5.1 Liberation groups are there to represent individuals that face current and  
374 historic oppression, discrimination and/or are marginalised in wider society  
375 based around a shared characteristic.

376 5.2 The purpose of liberation groups is to ensure the voice and perspective of  
377 people in marginalised groups are well represented and heard within the  
378 structures and policies of the Green Party.

379 5.3 Young Greens are free to join any group where they self-define as sharing  
380 the identity of that group. As Such, these groups will be organised and be led  
381 by self-identifying members.

382 5.4 The current list of liberation groups is as follows:

383 5.4.1 Disability.

384 5.4.2 LGBTIQ+.

385 5.4.3 People of Colour.

386 5.4.4 Sex Workers.

387 5.4.5 Trans.

388 5.4.6 Under 18.

389 5.4.7 Women.

390 5.4.8 Women of Colour.

391 5.5 A new group can be set up if:

392 5.5.1 The proposed group face current and historic oppression, discrimination  
393 and/or are marginalised in wider society based around a shared characteristic.

394 5.5.2 The proposer can demonstrate that at least 5 members will actively join  
395 the group.

396 5.6 The EC will use their discretion in approving the creation of new Liberation  
397 Groups and will bring a motion of ratification to the next General Meeting.

398 5.7 Each Liberation group shall elect from their membership at least two Co-  
399 chairs, where no more than one self-defines as a man.

400 5.8 The election should be organised by said Liberation group using a system of  
401 Single Transferable Vote, for which advice can be sought from SPC, to ensure  
402 that the rules in 5.7 are satisfied.

403 5.9 Liberation Groups may also be additionally led by a committee, at the  
404 discretion of the Liberation Group members.

405 5.10 The Liberation Group Co-Chairs, or Committee where appropriate, are in  
406 charge of moderating any online spaces they group holds, organising training  
407 days and meet-ups, upholding the safe space policy at all times, and  
408 representing their liberation group concerns to the EC member responsible for  
409 equality and diversity.

## 410 **Byelaw 6: International Affiliation**

411 6.1 The Young Greens of England and Wales is a full member organisation of the  
412 Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG).

413 6.2 The Young Greens of England and Wales are a member of the Global Young  
414 Greens (GYG) by virtue of its membership of the FYEG.

415 6.3 As a member both organisations, the Young Greens will endeavour to send at  
416 least one delegate to the FYEG General Assembly or GYG Congress.

417 6.4 The first international delegate shall be a member of EC.

418 6.5 If there is to be a second general assembly delegate (hereafter referred to  
419 as the elected delegate), they should be appointed by election from the general  
420 membership in line with Section D of the Standing Orders.

421 6.6 Additional observers for the general assembly may be appointed by EC.

422 6.7 In the event of the Global Young Greens Congress being held the same year as  
423 the FYEG General Assembly, this election will occur twice. All members, despite  
424 any prior delegate status, will be able to be a candidate in this election, in  
425 line with Section D of the Standing Orders.

426 6.8 At the general assembly the first delegate and the elected international  
427 delegate shall be given one vote each (as permitted by the FYEG constitution).  
428 The first delegate will consult EC for advice on how to vote on motions, the  
429 elected international delegate will vote independently as part of their elected  
430 mandate. They can seek advice from EC and indeed agree with the EC delegate  
431 vote.

432 6.9 If any member of Young Greens of England and Wales wishes to run for  
433 election to any roles within the FYEG or GYG, they must consult and seek the  
434 nomination of the EC.

## **D2 Young Greens Standing Orders 2018/2019**

Organization: Young Greens  
Resolution date: 07/24/2019  
Agenda item: D Amendments to the Constitution/Standing Orders

### 1 **Young Greens Standing Orders 2018/19**

### 2 **Section A: Young Greens Convention**

3 A1.1 The Young Greens Convention shall be held once per year in Spring.

4 A1.2 The Young Greens Convention will take place for two days during a weekend.

5 A1.3 Liberation groups will be allocated a session at convention where they will  
6 provide a report to its membership on activities undertaken since last  
7 convention and for any other purpose the group sees fit.

### 8 **Section B: Annual General Meetings**

#### 9 **Part 1: Competency of the Annual General Meeting**

10 B1.1 The Young Greens Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at Young Greens  
11 Annual Convention.

12 B1.2 The Annual General Meeting is the highest decision-making body within the  
13 Young Greens.

14 B1.3 There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens at any General  
15 Meeting for decisions to be binding.

16 B1.4 The AGM accepts/rejects/amends motions, resolutions and changes to the  
17 Constitution or Standing Orders.

18 B1.5 The AGM ratifies decisions about joining or leaving partnerships and  
19 membership within other organisations/networks.

20 B1.6 The actions and priorities of the Executive Committee may be set by  
21 resolutions passed at the Young Greens AGM.

22 B1.7 A General Meeting will be held at a bi-national autumn event

23 **Part 2: Organisation of the Annual General Meeting**

24 B2.1 The Annual General Meeting agenda must be structured, organised and agreed  
25 by the Executive Committee (EC) and Structures and Procedures Committee (SPC).

26 B2.2 SPC must appoint a chair and deputy chair for the Annual General Meeting.  
27 The chair and deputy chair must not be proposers of any motions to the Annual  
28 General Meeting.

29 B2.3 SPC must ensure that all members respect the Constitution and Standing  
30 Orders.

31 B2.4 SPC must take Annual General Meeting minutes of all official business  
32 including recording any votes, important discussions, and decisions.

33 B2.5 SPC must keep a record of newly adopted/amended documents and email the  
34 Young Greens' Co-Chairs a copy of newly adopted/amended documents as well as the  
35 minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

36 B2.6 SPC must inform EC to take note of any newly adopted entries into the  
37 Record of Policy Statements, entries into the Record of Organisational  
38 Statements, amendments to the constitution and amendments to the standing orders  
39 (hereafter referred to as motions).

40 B2.7 A prioritisation ballot will occur, conducted by SPC, on the first day of  
41 Convention for attendees at the Annual General Meeting in order to decide the  
42 order of motions taken.

43 **Part 3: Motions and Reports**

44 B3.1 It shall be the role of SPC to compile submitted reports, motions and  
45 amendments.

46 B3.2 The Annual General Meeting must take note of mandatory annual reports by  
47 the:

48 B3.2.1 Executive Committee Co-Chairs.

49 B3.2.2 Treasurer.

50 B3.2.3 Non-Portfolio EC Officers.

51 B3.2.4 Senate Co-Chairs.

52 B3.2.5 Structures and Procedures Committee.

53 B3.2.6 Green Students Committee Co-Convenors.

54 B3.3 Annual reports detailed in B3.2 must be submitted to SPC at least 1 week  
55 before the AGM.

56 B3.4 Individual members, EC and Affiliated Young Greens Groups have the right to  
57 submit motions and amendments.

58 B3.5 For all submissions, there must be a named proposer and at least 3 other  
59 co-proposers or at least one other co-proposer if submitting on behalf of an  
60 Affiliated YG Group or recognised committee.

61 B3.6 In the case of motions being submitted which seek to amend the Constitution  
62 or Standing Orders being accepted for discussion, paper copies of the  
63 Constitution and Standing Orders must be made available for members attending  
64 the General Meeting.

65 B3.7 The timescale for the submission of motions and amendments shall be as  
66 follows:

67 B3.7.1 At least 8 weeks before the Annual General Meeting, EC must send out a  
68 call including guidelines for submission of motions, resolutions and changes to  
69 the Constitution or Standing Orders, all relevant dates and where to find  
70 motions once they are posted on the members' website.

71 B3.7.2 Submission for motions shall close exactly 4 weeks before the AGM.

72 B3.7.3 Following this, SPC must post all submissions at the earliest possible  
73 moment.

74 B3.7.4 Exactly 1 week before the AGM, submission of amendments to motions will  
75 close.

76 B3.7.5 Amendments may not substantially change the intention of the motion and  
77 nor may they require changes to another section of the Constitution or Standing  
78 Orders.

79 B3.8 Exactly 5 days before the Annual General Meeting, SPC must ensure that all  
80 members are emailed (regardless of Annual General Meeting registration status)  
81 copies of all motions and amendments to both as well as the reports detailed in  
82 B3.2.

83 B3.9 The only amendments which shall be accepted from the floor during the AGM  
84 are minor textual amendments (e.g. grammatical corrections) and friendly verbal  
85 amendments (i.e. where both the proposer of the original paper and the proposer  
86 of the verbal amendment agree to an amendment).



87 B3.10 Emergency motions, defined as being brought due to an event occurring past  
88 the original motion deadline, will be accepted up until 17.00 on the day before  
89 the AGM.

90 B3.11 The text of Emergency Motions should be submitted by email and the list of  
91 proposers by email and/or paper copy, both to the Chair of SPC.

92 B3.12 Emergency Motions shall be prioritised at the AGM by SPC on the basis of  
93 the number of co-proposers to each Emergency Motion.

#### 94 **Part 4: Motion Voting Procedures**

95 B4.1 When debating a motion or amendment at the Annual General Meeting, the  
96 proposer will be asked by the chair to propose the motion or amendment by  
97 explaining what the motion or amendment is for and then giving a brief speech in  
98 favour of the motion.

99 B4.2 Following this the chair will open debate on the motion or amendment by  
100 asking for a limited number of brief alternating speeches in favour and against  
101 the motion, firstly against and then in favour of the motion or amendment until  
102 either no one wishes to make a speech or there has been sufficient debate on the  
103 motion or amendment.

104 B4.3 If it is unclear if there has been sufficient debate a straw poll will be  
105 taken by raising hands with the options either for more debate or move to a  
106 vote.

107 B4.4 At any point before the vote is taken, any member can ask for  
108 clarification, raise points of information or propose procedural motions (e.g.  
109 minor textural amendments, taking by parts).

110 B4.5 If a motion or amendment has received lengthy debate the proposer may  
111 request a brief right of reply before the vote is taken.

112 B4.6 When voting on motion proposals the possibilities are 'yes', 'no' or  
113 'abstention'.

114 B4.7 Depending on the nature of the proposal, the following types of majority  
115 may be required for a motion to be passed.

116 B4.7.1 Simple majority: majority of the votes cast in person.

117 B4.7.2 Two-thirds majority: two-thirds of the votes cast in person.

118 B4.7.3 Absolute two-thirds majority: two-thirds majority of the votes cast by  
119 the entire membership of the body.

120 B4.8 Amendments to the Constitution including accompanying Byelaws or Standing

121 Orders will be accepted with a two-thirds majority.

122 B4.9 Unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or Standing Orders, everything  
123 else will be accepted with a simple majority.

124 B4.10 SPC shall be responsible for counting the votes.

125 B4.11 Results of votes must be announced during the meeting.

## 126 **Section C: Emergency General Meetings**

127 C1.1 An Emergency General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by an absolute  
128 two-thirds majority of the Senate, or by an absolute two-thirds majority of EC,  
129 or by a minimum of 5% of the Young Greens membership petitioning the EC for an  
130 EGM.

131 C1.2 The same procedure as for AGM motion submission, organisation and voting  
132 shall apply to an EGM following Section B Parts 2,3,4.

## 133 **Section D: Autumn General Meeting**

134 1. There will be a Young Greens General Meeting held at the autumn

135 2. The Autumn General Meeting consists solely of accountability sessions for the  
136 following representatives elected in the annual ballot:

137 Young Greens Co-chairs

138 Treasurer

139 Non-portfolio EC members

140 Region Senate Co-Chairs

141 Green Students Committee

142 3. The Autumn General Meeting must take note of mandatory six-month progress  
143 reports from those representatives.

144 4. The accountability session will take the form of a face-to-face Q&A with the  
145 membership

146 5. There must be at least 25 members of the Young Greens excluding employees at  
147 any General Meeting for decisions to be binding

148 6. Motions of no confidence may be put forward during the accountability session  
149 and will pass with a two-thirds majority

150 7. Motions of no confidence may be put forward during the accountability session  
151 Censure and Commendations and will pass with a simple majority

152 8. Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Autumn General Meeting

153 9. Young Greens employees have no voting rights

## 154 **Section E: Internal Elections**

### 155 **Part 1: Candidacy**

156 E1.1 All members of the Young Greens are eligible to be candidates for roles  
157 within the Executive Committee, Structures and Procedures Committee members, the  
158 Senate Co-Chairs, and the Green Students Committee Co-Convenors providing they  
159 abide by the rules such as gender quotas.

160 E1.2 Only those Young Greens who self-define as belonging to a specific  
161 Liberation group may be candidates for election within that respective  
162 Liberation group.

163 E1.3 Members who hold a position on the Structure and Procedures Committee may  
164 not be candidates for any other position other than SPC until they no longer  
165 hold position on the SPC.

166 E1.4 Candidates must have two nominees, who are members of the Young Greens in  
167 accordance with Article 1 of the constitution, and may provide a candidate  
168 statement, campaign video, and social media links if they wish.

169 E1.5 Members of the Young Greens may not be nominated for nor hold more than one  
170 of the following posts in the Young Greens:

171 E1.5.1 Any EC role

172 E1.5.2 Senate representatives of the Regions of England, and Wales

173 E1.5.3 Structures and Procedures Committee

174 E1.5.4 Green Students Committee Co-Convenor

175 E1.6 Members of the Young Greens may put themselves forward as a job share for  
176 any of the following posts within the Young Greens annual ballot:

177 E1.6.1 Treasurer

178 E1.6.2 Non-Portfolio Officer

179 E1.6.3 Member of Structures and Procedures Committee

180 E1.7 Should one part of the job share resign or be removed from their position  
181 for whatever reason, their counterpart(s) will be able to either:

182 E1.7.1 advertise to co-opt a replacement for the exiting part of the job share

183 E1.7.2 continue to carry out their role without the exiting part of the job  
184 share, without replacing them

185 E1.7.3 resign from their role

186 **Part 2: Term of Office**

187 E2.1 All roles shall be elected for a term of office of 1 year, which should be  
188 completed should the officer no longer fit the requirements described in  
189 Constitution Article 1.5 during their term, accepting variations as described  
190 below.

191 E2.2 For EC roles and other officers elected at the AGM the term of office shall  
192 run until the following year's AGM except in the cases of resignation or removal  
193 by a vote of no confidence.

194 E2.3 A vote of no confidence shall occur for an individual role if the  
195 Structures and Procedures Committee are petitioned by 25% of the committee or  
196 other body which the role is part of.

197 E2.4 A vote of no confidence may also be called for any individual role if the  
198 Structures and Procedures Committee are petitioned by 5% of the Young Greens  
199 membership.

200 E2.5 If the role a vote of no confidence is being petitioned for falls within  
201 the Structures and Procedures Committee then it shall instead be EC that is  
202 petitioned by the members of the relevant committee, body, or general  
203 membership.

204 E2.6 Complete anonymity shall be maintained throughout by the committee which is  
205 petitioned, both relating to the petitioners and the vote.

206 E2.7 No member may sit on the same body for more than 5 terms consecutively,  
207 irrespective of election or co-option.

208 E2.8 No member may hold the same post for more than 3 terms, irrespective of  
209 election or co-option.

210 **Part 3: Election Timescale**

211 E3.1 The following election timescale applies only to YG roles elected in the  
212 "Annual Ballot" at convention, namely Executive Committee, Structures and  
213 Procedures Committee members, the Senate Co-Chairs, and Co-Convenors of the  
214 Green Students Committee.

215 E3.2 Liberation Group Co-Chairs, Groups for the Regions of England and Wales,  
216 Green Students Committee and any other affiliated Young Greens Groups shall be  
217 elected with a separate timescale to be decided by those respective groups.

218 E3.3 The Elected International Delegate shall be elected in line with the  
219 procedure below, with the process beginning three months prior to the event they  
220 will be attending.

221 E3.4 At least 8 weeks before the AGM the Executive Committee must send out a  
222 call for applications to all Executive Committee roles, Senate Co-Chair  
223 positions, and Structure and Procedures Committee positions which must set out  
224 the rest of the timescale and how to apply.

225 E3.5 Exactly 4 weeks before the AGM applications will close for all roles  
226 elected at Convention except for roles that received no applications during the  
227 initial period.

228 E3.6 As close as possible to 2 weeks before the AGM a live online video hustings  
229 will take place for all roles elected at Convention, which all candidates for  
230 these roles are invited to take part in.

231 E3.7 Exactly 2 weeks before the AGM voting will open in accordance with Standing  
232 Orders D4.3.

233 E3.8 At 17.00 the day before the AGM applications will close for roles which  
234 gained no applications as set out in D3.4.

235 E3.9 A further in-person hustings shall be held at Convention; each candidate  
236 has the right to participate in these as well as to submit a statement in  
237 advance.

238 E3.10 Voting shall close during Convention between the in-person hustings  
239 detailed in D3.8 and the announcement of results (the exact time to be at the  
240 discretion of SPC). The time of this should be clearly identified on the  
241 Convention Timetable and voting platform.

242 E3.11 The election of successful candidates shall be announced during  
243 Convention.

244 **Part 4: Electoral System and Gender Balance**

- 245 E4.1 Every Young Green is eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting and  
246 associated elections where they have 1 vote.
- 247 E4.2 All positions shall all be elected using the Single Transferable Vote (STV)  
248 system with a provision for negative voting (re-open nominations, acronym RON).
- 249 E4.2.1 Single Transferable Vote quota for election is calculated as follows:  
250 total valid vote divided by one more than the number of seats up for election  
251 plus one (or rounded up) to avoid ties:  $(TVV/(seats+1)) + 1$ .
- 252 E4.3 Voting will take place via secret, secure online ballot arranged by an  
253 Electoral Returning Officer (ERO), appointed by the Structures and Procedures  
254 Committee (SPC).
- 255 E4.4 SPC, or the ERO if authorised to do so by SPC, is responsible for counting  
256 the votes.
- 257 E4.5 The counting of votes and electing of successful candidates for the  
258 positions of Co-Chair, Senate Co-Chair and Treasurer will take place before the  
259 counting for EC Non-Portfolio position so that the gender balance criteria  
260 described below can be applied.
- 261 E4.6 The following rules will apply to the elections of, separately, Co-Chairs  
262 and Senate Co-Chairs in compliance with paragraph 1.2 of Constitution Byelaw 1.
- 263 E4.6.1 The candidate with the highest number of first preference votes will be  
264 elected in the first round in which a candidate passes the quota required by the  
265 STV method.
- 266 E4.6.2 If the successful candidate is not a self-defining man, the second  
267 candidate elected by the STV method will be elected to the second Co-Chair  
268 position, regardless of gender identity.
- 269 E4.6.3 If the first successful candidate is a self-defining man, all other self-  
270 defining men will be excluded from the vote and their further preferences  
271 allocated to the remaining candidates from whom the second Co-Chair will be  
272 elected.
- 273 E4.7 Following the election of the aforementioned roles a number of Non-  
274 Portfolio positions will be reserved for candidates who are not self-defining  
275 men to ensure that EC shall comprise of no more than 50% of members who self-  
276 define as men. The number of roles reserved will be calculated based on the  
277 number of self-defining men elected to the Co-Chair, Senate Co-Chair and  
278 treasurer positions.
- 279 E4.8 The election of Green Students Committee Co-Convenors will take place  
280 following the same rules as laid out for EC Co-Chairs and Senate Co-Chairs in  
281 D4.6.

282 E4.9 The election of the International Delegate will take place such that if the  
283 delegate appointed by EC self-identifies as a man then the elected delegate  
284 cannot be someone who also self-identifies as a man. Thus, the delegate  
285 appointed by EC will be declared before the nomination period opens.

286 E4.10 The election of members to Structures and Procedures will be carried out  
287 such that no more than 50% of the places are taken by self-defining men with  
288 places reserved, as necessary, to ensure this.

## 289 **Part 5: Campaigning Rules**

290 E5.1 Candidates for any role in Young Greens elections, and proposers of  
291 motions, are entitled to campaign and must all follow the same rules except for  
292 D5.2 which will only apply to roles explicitly mentioned.

293 E5.2 The amount spent on a campaign by a candidate in the annual Young Greens  
294 ballot (EC, Structures and Procedures Committee, Senate Co-Chairs, Green  
295 Students Committee Co-Convenors) must not exceed £30. This includes leaflets,  
296 online campaigning and similar expenditure the candidate has incurred as a  
297 result of being a candidate for a position within the Young Greens. It also  
298 includes expenditure incurred by the supporters of the candidate. At least 50%  
299 of all spending will be reimbursed by the Young Greens providing receipts are  
300 provided to the Young Greens Treasurer within 30 days of the close of elections.  
301 The same amount of money will be reimbursed for every candidate running for any  
302 one role.

303 E5.3 Candidates and proposers may use the contact details of people they know  
304 personally to directly canvass for support, via their own networks, in the run  
305 up to the election but must not use details of members they only know via  
306 official Young Greens channels – for example those they have gleaned through  
307 previously holding an elected position within the Young Greens or those they  
308 have gained from mailing lists.

309 E5.4 Candidates and proposers may campaign online and use social media to  
310 canvass for support but only strictly in a personal capacity.

311 E5.5 Candidates and proposers may not use official Young Greens or Green Party  
312 communication channels such as administrative email and Facebook privileges.

313 E5.6 Each candidate is entitled to their submitted nomination statement being  
314 circulated amongst the membership via email and posting on the Young Greens  
315 website.

316 E5.7 Campaigns must focus on the benefits of the candidate they are supporting,  
317 not the flaws of the candidates opposing them. Negative campaigning is not  
318 permitted.

319 E5.8 Bribery, coercion and mistreating of members is strictly forbidden.

320 E5.9 Any member, regardless of candidate status, can report a suspected breach

321 of these rules to the Electoral Returning Officer in the case of electoral  
322 breaches, Structures and Procedures in the case of motions, or, where they feel  
323 that is inappropriate, to Young Greens Staff.

324 E5.10 Any suspected electoral breach of these rules will be investigated by the  
325 Electoral Returning Officer and the Structures and Procedures Committee who will  
326 have the following options open to them:

327 E5.10.1 Any candidate suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from  
328 the election pending investigation by the Electoral Returning Officer and the  
329 Structures and Procedures Committee. If the investigation cannot be completed by  
330 the AGM, the election will be re-run.

331 E5.10.2 Any candidate found to have broken these rules, the Electoral Returning  
332 Officer and the Structures and Procedures Committee may expel the candidate from  
333 the current election with the election otherwise continuing as normal.

334 E5.10.3 Anyone shown to have broken the rules and to be acting on behalf of a  
335 candidate will also lead to the expulsion of that candidate from this election.

336 E5.10.3 Candidates removed from the current election due to the actions of  
337 themselves or others will still be eligible to be a candidate for future  
338 elections to any position within the Young Greens.

339 E5.11 Any suspected non-electoral breaches, during an election and by a  
340 candidate, of the Young Greens Constitution, Young Greens Standing Orders, Green  
341 Party Constitution, Green Party Standing Orders, Green Party Code of Conduct or  
342 any other organisational policies of the Green Party of England and Wales and  
343 Young Greens, including anti-harassment and Safe Space policies, will be  
344 investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have the  
345 following options open to them:

346 E5.11.1 Any candidate suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from  
347 the election pending investigation by the Structures and Procedures Committee.  
348 If the investigation cannot be completed by the AGM, the election will be re-  
349 run.

350 E5.11.2 Any candidate found to have broken these rules may be expelled from the  
351 current election with the election otherwise continuing as normal.

352 E5.12 Following any action as described in D5.11.1 or D5.11.2, the Structures  
353 and Procedures Committee shall refer the case to the Complaints and Disciplinary  
354 Committee for full investigation as described in Article 5 of the Constitution,  
355 from 5.6 onwards.

356 E5.13 Any suspected breach of these rules in relation to the proposal of motions  
357 will be investigated by the Structures and Procedures Committee who will have  
358 the following options open to them.

359 E5.13.1 Any proposer suspected of breaking these rules may be suspended from



360 proposing the motion pending investigation by the Electoral Returning Officer  
361 and the Structures and Procedures Committee and an alternative proposer must be  
362 found by the remaining co-proposers.

363 E5.13.2 For serious breaches of these rules, Structures and Procedures Committee  
364 may rule the motion or amendment out of order and remove it from the General  
365 Meeting agenda.

366 E5.14 A person is accountable to these rules from the opening of the nominations  
367 period, however, may only announce their candidacy and begin publicly  
368 campaigning after the close of nominations.

## 369 **Part 6: Co-options**

370 E6.1 Any vacant EC role, including Senate Co-Chairs, may be co-opted by a  
371 majority vote of EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and  
372 Procedures Committee, after a call out and a hustings has taken place.

373 E6.2 When advertising vacant EC Non-Portfolio positions, the Executive Committee  
374 are able to advertise specific available portfolio(s), as decided by a majority  
375 vote of EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures  
376 Committee.

377 E6.3 Any vacant SPC role may be co-opted by a majority vote of SPC, after a call  
378 out has taken place.

379 E6.4 If it is not possible to co-opt for SPC roles in accordance with D6.3,  
380 these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of EC, after a call out has taken  
381 place.

382 E6.5 Senate Representatives for the regions of England and Wales may be co-  
383 opted, in the absence of an elected representative from the group they would  
384 represent, by a majority vote of Senate plus the agreement of the Chair of the  
385 Structures and Procedures Committee, after a call out to eligible members and a  
386 hustings has taken place.

387 E6.6 Vacant Green Students Committee Co-Convenor roles may be co-opted by a  
388 majority vote of the Green Students Committee after a call out by the Green  
389 Students Committee has taken place.

390 E6.7 If it is not possible to co-opt for Green Students Committee Co-Convenor  
391 roles in accordance with D6.3, these roles may be co-opted by a majority vote of  
392 EC plus the agreement of the Chair of the Structures and Procedures Committee,  
393 after a call out and a hustings has taken place.