



CONGRESS REPORT 2017

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PREP TEAM FOREWORD

DEAR FRIENDS,

The 4th congress of the Global Young Greens is over, and we look back on an incredible event. More than 100 Young Greens from around the world came together in Liverpool for an unforgettable experience.

With five years having passed since the last Global Young Greens congress took place, it was a challenge to organize this congress. The world has changed, and the Green movement has been transformed.

Only with your help was it possible to organize the congress and to give Global Young Greens the opportunity to renew itself and to prepare a path to a future as an active and effective part of the Green movement. A new Steering Committee has been elected and are already building on the foundations laid at this and previous congresses. In Liverpool we modernised our statutes to adapt to the new challenges we have to face in the world of today and we are looking towards an exciting future.

In order to record the experience we gained for future generations and to share the exciting activities that took place during the congress with those who could not attend, we want to offer a small report of the things that happened in Liverpool.

Yours,

THE CONGRESS PREP-TEAM AND THE 2012-2017 STEERING COMMITTEE

Alice, Bernardo, Fabian, Jay, Jeroni, Joseph, Lara , Sam, Sarah, and Zuzana

INTRODUCTION TO GYG

Global Young Greens was established in 2007 by a team of like-minded young people from all over the world while attending the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The establishment of GYG also served as the first GYG Congress. The subsequent congresses were in Berlin in 2010, in Dakar in 2012 and Liverpool in 2017.

The Global Young Greens is an youth-led organization supporting and uniting the efforts of young people from the green-alternative spectrum around the world. It works towards ecological sustainability, social justice, grassroots democracy and peace.

Congress is the main decision making body of Global Young Greens. During the congress, the statutes can be amended and changed and the Steering Committee, the executive body for the time between the congresses, is elected.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESS

In 2015 the Steering Committee assembled a Preparation-Team for the congress - a group of individual Young Greens to coordinate and deliver the congress. The Prep-Team and SC developed the congress in cooperation with the Global Greens, searching for financial support, getting in touch with Young Green organizations new and old, as well as planning the programme in order to provide participants with an exciting experience during the four days of congress.

The team gained and lost members in the course of organising, but in the end we became close friends and a strong team, despite not meeting in person until arrival in Liverpool! It was a great pleasure to finally meet everyone we had been working with for over a year at the congress.

The congress took place as part of Greens 2017 - the joint congresses of the Global Greens, European Green Party, Green Party of England and Wales, and the Global Young Greens. This was the largest gathering of Green activists in history, taking place from the 30th of March to the 2nd of April in 2017 at the Arena and Conference Centre in Liverpool, United Kingdom.



The conference hall

FUNDRAISING

Global Young Greens is a non-profit organisation without sponsors or regular sources of funding - our ability to organise an inclusive congress was entirely dependent on successful fundraising. As a Young Green organization, it was important to us to be as independent as possible, meaning that we did not want to seek corporate sponsorship.

One of the biggest challenges in organising the congress was securing visas for delegates from the Global South, which prevented many Young Greens from attending. This sparked a demonstration against visa controls by Young Greens at the congress, organised by Sandy from Côte d'Ivoire.

Thanks to the efforts of our fundraising team, and the incredible generosity of our supporters, we raised the funding we needed to make the congress a success. This included both direct financial support, and sponsoring the attendance of individual Young Greens. In this section, we'd like to thank them all - in no particular order:

- The Greens / EFA in the European Parliament
- The Heinrich Böll Foundation
- The De Helling Foundation
- Terry Reintke MEP
- Molly Scott Cato MEP
- Keith Taylor MEP
- Linda Voortman MP
- Rasmus Ling MP
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung South Caucasus
- Green Forum Sweden
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy
- Grüne Jugend (Germany)
- Jonk Greng (Luxembourg)
- Ecolo J (Belgium)
- FYEG
- Bündnis 90/Die Grünen
- Gerhard Schick MP
- Katja Keul MP
- Maria Heubach MEP
- Tabea Roessner MP
- Hans-Christian Ströbele MP
- Sven-Christian Kindler MP
- Cem Özdemir MP
- Julia Verlinden MP
- Peter Meiwald MP
- Anton Hofreiter MP
- Doris Wagner MP

This does not include the countless individuals who provided individual acts of support, of who there are too many to thank here, but to whom we are eternally grateful.





The rally against visa controls

STRUCTURE AND RULES OF THE CONGRESS

Global Young Greens is a diverse and complicated network. Our intermittent meetings and limited resources mean that effective structures and rules are difficult to maintain.

For the congress, temporary rules of procedure were adopted, which can be read at <http://bit.ly/CYGProcedures>. This offered a simple, effective process for democratic decision making.

THE PROGRAMME AND SESSIONS

CONGRESS OPENING

We opened the congress with a warm welcome to our participants. We explained the structure of the congress, the rules of procedure, the code of conduct and the Steering Committee gave a report over the past few years. The Co-Chairs of the Young Greens of England and Wales made a welcoming speech to the attendees!

This was followed by a “speed networking” session, breaking the ice for the Young Greens who had gathered together.



Lara and Jeroni deliver the Steering Committee Report



Sam and Hannah from the Young Greens of England and Wales welcome delegates to Liverpool



Speed Networking

REGIONAL MEETINGS

AFRICA

Young Greens from Africa were represented by countries including Morocco, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, and Kenya. Of all the regions, African delegates faced the greatest difficulty acquiring visas to attend - with even the leader of the Ugandan Green Party being refused! This included Prep-Team member Sarah Kezie Nambalirwa, who despite months of work on organising the congress, was not able to attend in person.



Being Green is being right, and standing for what is right. During our session we realized that the biggest challenge for African Young Greens projects is financial stability; due to lack of sufficient funds many projects are left pending. We came up with ways to raise funds individually, through company sponsors and through campaigns in order to be able to fund Green projects in our home countries. We also realized that we need to create social awareness among the youth in order to be part of Green movement through radio, television advertisement, twitter, and facebook.

In Africa our major setback is the leaders. We are failing due to young people not standing up for their rights and letting tribalism and the older generation make decisions for our future without involving the youth in the decision making. African leaders make decisions for their power and selfish gain. Corruption is another major setback for many African countries. We particularly discussed Côte d'Ivoire cocoa plantations - the raw material for making chocolate has become a political movement and no longer economical. We as African representatives of the Green movement are standing for what is right. Our aim is to raise other youths who are passionate to see change. We believe that standing for what is right in a democratic way, which will better our countries and continent as a whole.

Samantha Anzemo, of Kenya, summarising the Young Green movement in Africa



AMERICAS

The Americas regional meeting was coordinated by Stephanie Cabovianco from Argentina. In comparison with previous years, the Americas were particularly well represented in Liverpool, with delegates attending from Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and, for the first time ever, the United States and Canada! In the session, delegates from the Americas discussed key issues that they felt were relevant to the Green movement across their region. These included food security, biodiversity, human rights, deforestation, extractivism and air quality. In smaller groups, the Americas delegates exchanged experiences, thoughts and ideas to inform the development of a common agenda. The discussion shed light upon the complexity of issues that the Americas face as such a large and diverse federation. Much of the future work of the Americas will involve consolidating clearer structures through which to articulate important issues as the region becomes ever more connected and active in the Global Young Greens movement.

ASIA-PACIFIC

During the regional meeting of the Asia-Pacific we took a big and important decision: we want to establish an active federation in our region! We discussed how we can work on this in the future and started with the networking part that is the beginning of building up an Asia-Pacific Young Greens federation. We also discussed how different the cultures in our region are. Due to this fact, the needs of the different countries in our region are very different and a good working federation is needed to discuss the huge variety of topics that are relevant to us before we bring our top priorities to the international level. After having taken the first steps towards planning our federation by exchanging e-mails and taking a decision on a medium to communicate, we brainstormed on concrete actions that we can do to start our project going.

Many Green organizations in our region are still very young and are looking forward to learning more from other organizations. An easy way to do so would be to first share articles about topics that are relevant in our countries. This way we can learn from and about one another.

EUROPE

Coordinated by FYEG, this busy session allowed participants to discuss what European delegates wanted from Global Young Greens, as well as discussing the role of FYEG in the Global Green movement.



Samantha Anzemo, from Kenya Young Greens



Delegates from the Americas



A few Young Greens from Asia

STRUCTURES WORKSHOP AND PLENARIES

In the structures workshop, Global Young Greens discussed the proposed amendments to the GYG Organisational Principles. The purpose of the workshop was to allow delegates to review and understand each amendment put forward, as well as learn about the process for passing amendments. Participants were encouraged to sit in language groups to ensure everyone correctly understood the proposed changes. Within these groups, Global Young Greens discussed their opinions and the pros and cons of the proposals, which they later presented to the workshop. The session consolidated understanding regarding GYG structures and amendments, and also encouraged GYG delegates to propose further amendments if they hadn't already done so.

After development in the workshop, the motions were taken to the plenary voting sessions. In the plenaries, each registered delegate was able to cast one vote, but the support of the majority of regions (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific, and Europe) was required to pass motions. This balanced the need to represent the majority of Young Green groups with making sure decisions were taken in a globally balanced way. Proposals were presented, debated, and voted on - and many motions were passed to update the constitution of Global Young Greens. These changes were recorded by the chairs of the sessions, and subsequently uploaded to the GYG website (www.globalyounggreens.org).

These sessions were supervised and chaired by the Structures and Procedures Committee of the Young Greens of England and Wales, led by Molly Arthurs and Tom Bolitho - to whose efforts GYG will always be indebted.



Discussion on the future of Global Young Greens



Judith (Fiji) speaks out



Delegates casting their votes



Thompson (Zambia) speaks his mind



Stephanie (Argentina) holds the floor

TRAINING SESSIONS

Bringing so many delegates together created an incredible opportunity for skill sharing, and the prep-team organised a wide range of training activities for attendees.

AN EMPOWERED WOMAN IS A DISOBEDIENT WOMAN — WITH TERRY REINTKE

During this session, a full room with energetic women spoke with Terry Reintke (German Member of the European Parliament) about methods on how to improve the participation of women in politics. In smaller groups participants discussed different methods, which were written down and shared with the congress by hanging it in the hallway of the venue. Also, the participants of the session made an individual promise to contribute to the empowerment of women in politics.

CYBERSECURITY

Delivered by tech consultant Fabio Natali, this session trained activists in cybersecurity - an essential skill for campaigners across the world, but especially in areas where Green activists are targeted for harassment.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

In politics, public speaking is an indispensable skill. If you want to change things and if you want people to listen to you, you must not only think about your message, but also about how to communicate it. Speaking in public is a situation that we often face, but not often enough to feel comfortable when giving a speech. During a three hour workshop, participants were trained to give speeches spontaneously and learnt more about how people perceive a speech. Everyone was asked to participate actively and while performing exercises in the group to get a better feeling of their body language, participants were able to learn from one another.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABILITY

One of the highlights of the week included a session led by Meghna Das, a senior programme specialist at UNICEF, who came to speak to Global Young Green delegates about the importance of youth in sustainability. She explained how children and young people are amongst those who are the most affected and disadvantaged by climate change, and emphasised the necessity of involving young people in the promotion of disaster risk reduction. Meghna also talked about a number of UNICEF programmes that are currently working to involve young people in disaster risk reduction, such as an international video blogging project that is currently operating across 3 continents.

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The elections for the new Steering Committee opened on Saturday. Two new SC members were to be elected for each region, with only that region's registered delegates able to vote for their own candidates.

The voting was conducted as a secret ballot using Single Transferable Vote, with the counting conducted by the Structures and Procedures Committee. GYG ran "hustings", where each candidate was invited to make a speech, and then answer questions from the audience. Delegates had several hours to collect their ballot papers and cast their vote, with the results announced in the closing session of the congress.

CLOSING SESSION

The closing session began with the announcement of the new Steering Committee! The successful candidates were warmly congratulated by the congress, and each made a brief remarks on their vision for Global Young Greens.

Next, Jakop Dalunde, a Swedish Member of the European Parliament, and former Member of the Swedish Parliament, gave the keynote speech. Jakop was invited in light of his experiences with the Swedish Young Greens, and the early age at which he was first elected. In his speech he elaborated on his experiences and provided the congress with valuable advice on how Young Greens can be inclusive and effective. Jakop argued that it was essential for Young Green groups to be more than social clubs, and that we should aim to be the politicians of today, not tomorrow.

The Congress ended with a the outgoing Steering Committee giving a few words of reflection. They then opened the floor for everyone to say what was on their hearts: this was a warm, emotional way to bring the conference to an end, with some attendees describing it as the best experience of their lives!

Finally, the sponsors and prep-team were thanked, and the congress ended.



Terry Reintke (bottom left)



Jakop Dalunde delivers the keynote address

GLOBAL YOUNG GREENS CONGRESS PROGRAMME 2017



THU 30 MARCH

Congress Opening 9:00 - 12:00

Room 3A

This session will include a welcome from the Young Greens of England and Wales, reports from the current Steering Committee, Adoption of Rules of Procedures, and introductions and networking for Young Greens attending the congress.

All Young Greens are invited to attend this session.

Regional Meetups 12:30 - 14:00

Africa: Room 5

Americas: Room 8

Asia-Pacific: Room 9

Europe: Room 4B

Sessions for Young Greens from from each region to meet to discuss the state of their organisations, and make plans for the congress and for the future.

All Young Greens are invited to attend their regions meetup.

FRI 31 MARCH

Global Young Greens Structures Workshop 9:00 - 12:00

Room 11B

Around the world, the Young Green movement has never been stronger, and it has never been easier to organise on a international scale. In this workshop, we'll be developing a new structure for Global Young Greens.

This session is open to registered Global Young Greens delegates.

An Empowered Woman is a Disobedient Woman 12:30 - 14:00

Room 13

Led by Terry Reintke MEP, this workshop will focus on women's participation in politics and on instruments for developing female leadership in political activism.

This session is open to women and non-binary Global Young Greens delegates.

Training Sessions 14:30 - 18:00

Hosted by external trainers, these sessions will teach the skills Young Greens need to lead their movements. Please pre-book by emailing joseph@globalyounggreens.org

Cybersecurity for Activists (Liberty)

It's My Turn Now! (Public Speaking)

Sustainable Development Programmes as Agents of Change (Unicef)

These sessions are open to Global Young Greens delegates who have pre-booked.

SAT 1 APRIL

Global Young Greens Structures Plenary 9:00 - 12:30

Room 12

This is the main voting session of the Global Young Greens congress, which will see the adoption of new structures for Global Young Greens.

This session is open to registered Global Young Greens delegates.

GYG Congress Group Photo 13:00

Meet at ACC west entrance. *All Young Greens are invited to attend.*

Global Young Greens Planning Workshop 14:00 - 15:30

Room 12

In this session, Young Greens will develop plans for international collaboration and organising.

This session is open to registered Global Young Greens delegates.

Steering Committee Hustings 16:00 - 17:30

Room 12

Who will lead the Global Young Greens? This is your chance to question the candidates for the new Global Young Greens Steering Committee.

All Young Greens are invited to attend this session.

SUN 2 APRIL

Future of Global Young Greens Plenary 9:00 - 12:00

Room 12

This session will include skill sharing and the adoption of a strategy for the future of Global Young Greens.

This session is open to registered Global Young Greens delegates.

Closing Session 15:00 - 16:30

Room 3A

At this closing session, Global Young Greens will announce the new Steering Committee, as well as hearing from the keynote speaker of the congress.

All Young Greens are invited to attend this session.

This listing does not include socials and wider Green2017 events.

For more information visit greens2017.org



NEW STEERING COMMITTEE AND THE FUTURE

Following decisions taken at congress, the new Steering Committee has much foundational work to establish and reforms to carry out. The Global Young Greens Steering Committee was elected as follows:

AFRICAS

Samantha Anzemo (Kenya)
Thompson Luzendi (Zambia)

AMERICAS

Gloria Polanco (Dominican Republic)
Ian Soutar (Canada)

ASIA-PACIFIC

Zoe Lee (Taiwan)
Janmejai Tiwari (India)

EUROPE

Joseph Harmer (United Kingdom)
Alice Hubbard (United Kingdom)



The new steering committee! From left: Samantha, Joseph, Zoe, Janmejai, Thompson, Ian, Gloria, Alice

THE FUTURE

Delegates developed plans and priorities for the future of Global Young Greens. In particular, some key areas that the new Steering Committee will need to investigate and develop are as follows:

EXPANDING THE NETWORK

- Increasing membership, especially where the Green movement growing
- Planning different types of events and on a more frequent basis

COMMUNICATION

- Improving communication with members via the publication of a newsletter on a monthly basis
- Utilise social media and the GYG website in more effective and engaging ways
- Promote the campaigns of Young Greens around the world

WORKING GROUPS


- Supporting the creation of working groups to carry out particular tasks on specific issues
- Carrying out the mandate agreed at congress to investigate the structures and procedures of GYG

STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

The Steering Committee will guide the reform of the structures and procedures of GYG to ensure stable foundations upon which to build a stronger and wider-reaching network of international Young Greens. This includes areas such as clarifying the roles and tasks of SC members, introducing further organisational bodies such as committees and working groups, and building a comprehensive database of Young Green member organisations.

INCLUSIVITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- Integrating the ideas and participation of Young Greens
- Conducting regular surveys to gauge the opinions and insights of GYG members



The new Steering Committee welcomes your suggestions, comments and insights. Please do not hesitate to contact us at info@globalyounggreens.org!

PARTICIPANTS

Despite the incredible turnout of over a hundred delegates from across six continents, and many more non-voting attendees, many members of the Young Greens movement were not able to attend due to visa restrictions, lack of funding, or security concerns. Among others, the representatives of Young Greens Philippines, Burundi Green Movement, Young Green Women Sierra Leone, Afrique Togo Ecologie, Afghanistan Young Greens, Uganda Young Greens, Rwanda Young Greens, Serbian Green Youth, Parti Vert de Guinea, Indonesia Young Greens, and the Green Party of Lebanon were unable to attend in person after being refused visas.

The list below includes all Young Green groups represented by voting delegates at the 2017 Global Young Green Congress.

EUROPE

Young Cyprus Greens
ecolo j (Belgium)
Jong Groen (Belgium)
Óige Ghlas (Ireland)
Young Greens Northern Ireland
Young Greens of England and Wales
Ecolo Jovem “Os Verdes” (Portugal)
Scottish Young Greens
Grüne Jugend (Germany)
Mladi Zeleni (Czech Republic)
Red Equo Joven (Spain)
ViNO (Finland)
Rinjte e Gjëlber (Albania)
Genc Yesiller (Turkey)
Green Youth of Ukraine
Cooperation and Development
Network Eastern Europe
Jeunes écologistes (France)
Lehet Más a Jövő (Hungary)
déi jonk gréng (Luxembourg)
Junge Grüne (Austria)
Vinstri græn (Iceland)
Alternattiva Demokratika
Zghazagh (Malta)

Macedonian Young Greens
DWARS (the Netherlands)
Grønn Ungdom (Norway)
Junge Grüne Schweiz (Switzerland)
Grön Ungdom (Sweden)
Georgian Young Greens
REVOLT (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Giovani Verdi (Italy)
Green Generation (Belarus)
Stowarzyszenie Ostra Zieleń
(Poland)

AMERICAS

Partido Alianza Verde (Colombia)
Movimiento Verde (Guatemala).
Partido Verde (Brazil)
Young Greens of Canada
Young Greens of the United States
Partido Socialista Verde
(Dominican Republic)
Los Verdes (Argentina)
Young Greens of Chile

ASIA

Mongolian Green Party
Young Greens Korea
Young Greens Aotearoa (New
Zealand)
Australian Young Greens
PNG Green Party
Taiwan Young Greens
Tree Party (Taiwan)
Uttarakhand Parivartan Party
Youth
Nepal Young Greens
Japan Young Greens
Green Party of Fiji
Pakistan Young Greens

AFRICA

Parti de Gouche Verts du Maroc
(Morocco)
Uganda Young Greens
Kenya Young Greens
West Africa Young Greens
Federation
Zambia Green Party
UCAD-Green Party (Zimbabwe)

CONGRESS 2017

#GREENS 2017



European
Greens

GLOBAL
GREENS



Car Park
Entrance



CLOSING REMARKS

The Global Young Greens congress is a unique event. Every few years, young, Green activists from around the world gather to continue building a network of incredible activists and organisers. In Liverpool, we were joined by campaigners from across six continents, from the established, developed parties in Europe to the burgeoning groups of Africa. Despite the hugely different circumstances and challenges we face, we are all committed to a Green vision for our world - and in Liverpool, we brought that vision a step closer to reality.

We, the organisers, didn't know each other. We were just volunteers committed to environmentalism, internationalism and social justice, who worked together to unite the international Young Green movement for four days. The congress was self-organised, grassroots and organic - and wonderful.

For those who took part or supported the congress: thank you. The Young Green movement has never been so strong, and we have so much hope for our future.

See you next time!

