

# GLOBAL YOUNG GREENS Congress22

**Digital Congress Report 2022**

## **Congress Introduction**

Dear Global Young Greens,

We have been living in extraordinary times these past years, which is why your Congress Committee (CC) made the decision to host the fifth GYG Congress online. Due to the extreme situations being faced by every country around the world, we anticipated complications for many of our members. We were, however, quite pleased with the turnout for this event and we believe that it was successful in bringing together members from all regions to connect, collaborate and get some important work done!

Of course we would have preferred to be able to meet in person for this event, but given that nearly six years had passed since our previous Congress we were determined to have an opportunity for our members to gather and discuss the future of GYG.

With the decision to move online, we then also faced the struggle of working with time zones, leaving us to make the hard choice of convening for just three hours each day. We lament that this inevitably led to some members unable to participate, but we believe that we still managed to create a space where almost all of us were able to work together on equal footing.

The following is a brief summary of everything we were able to accomplish together!

In camaraderie,

Your GYG Congress Committee

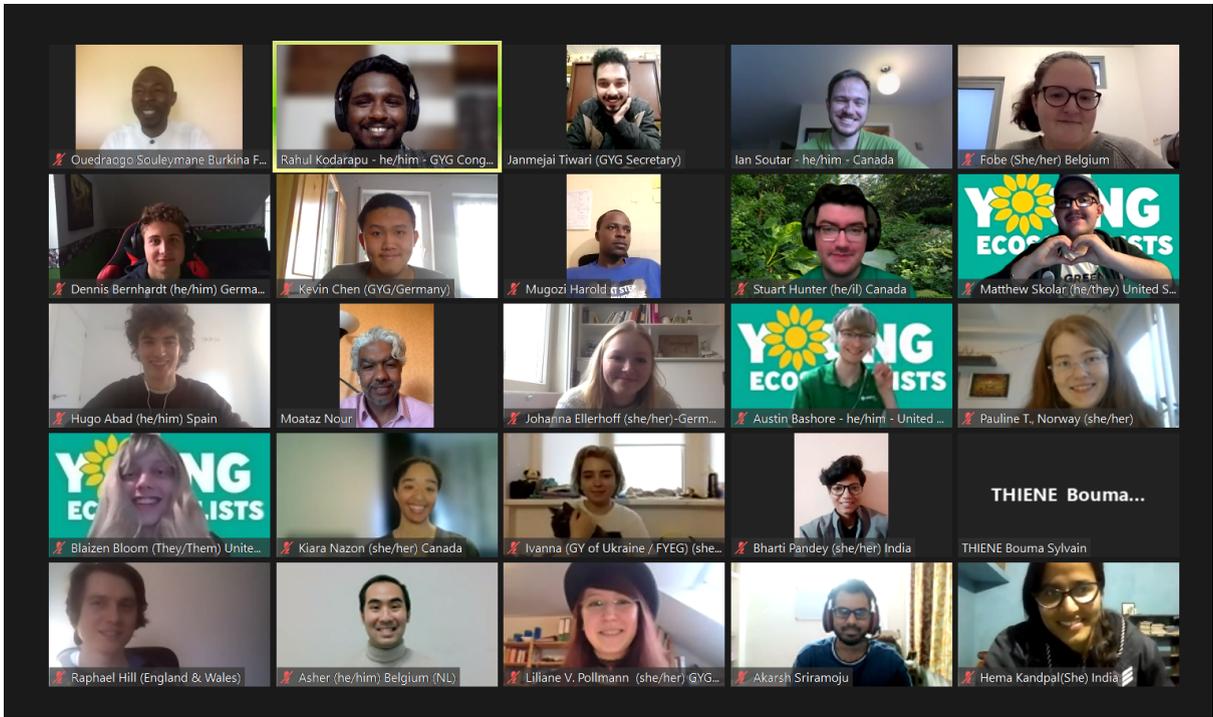
Kira, Rahul, Ian, Liliane, Austin, Pia, Javier, Woorin, Angel, Lorenz, Kevin and Emilie.

## What is GYG?

In 2007, in Nairobi, Kenya, the idea of the Global Young Greens came to fruition. A group of like-minded youth attending the World Social Forum officially established GYG and in effect made their event the very first Congress. We have since gotten together in Berlin (2010), Dakar (2012), Liverpool (2017) and now through the internet via videoconference.

We are a youth led organisation, composed of individuals under the age of 35 who ascribe to the [Global Greens Charter](#). We participate most commonly as members of Green Parties in our respective countries, however we have many members who participate through other organisations that have also committed to the Charter. Together, we strive to promote sustainability, social justice, grassroots democracy and peace.

Congress is the highest decision making body for our organisation, and it is here that we can continue to improve how we function and the structures that guide our work: the Organisational Principles (OPs). This living document guides the next highest decision making body for GYG: the Steering Committee (SC).



## How Congress Worked

As we have shared, it was a difficult but necessary decision to move this Congress online. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the team agreed unanimously (however sadly) that waiting for the global situation to change was not tenable for GYG, and attempting to hold anything in-person would be irresponsible. Instead, we chose the hour that was more reasonable for most of our members to do the most vital work, then added an hour to either side of that to make our “full day.”

Congress was held via video conference. Despite our best efforts to find a more reputable platform that could fit the needs of the event, we finally settled with Zoom, understanding that it is the platform that most of our members are familiar with.

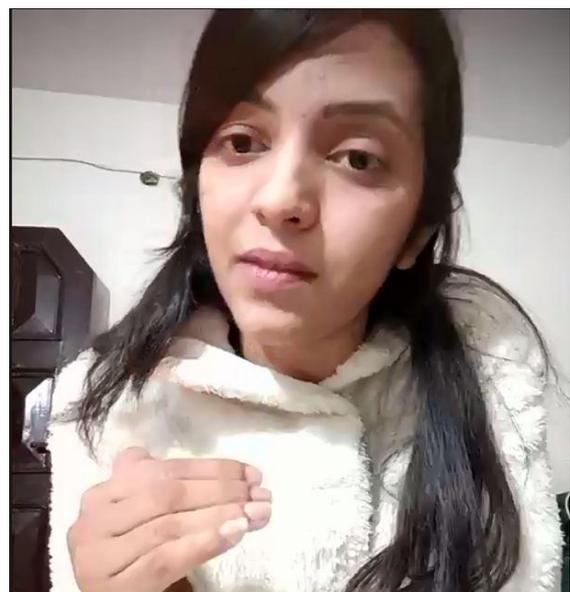
## The Programme

Congress opened on Friday with a determined effort to ensure that our members would actually have an opportunity to engage freely with each other. Before the official opening, we hosted a series of breakout rooms for members to interact, switching out the rooms every five minutes or so.

This was followed by the proper opening ceremony where the Congress Committee welcomed members, followed by the Steering Committee sharing some remarks about the rest of the event.

With the formalities out of the way, we were fortunate to welcome our guest speaker Snigdha Tiwari, human rights advocate from India and national representative to the Asia Pacific Greens Federation, who spoke to her experience as a delegate for the Global Greens at COP26.

The day’s events were concluded with another hour of breakout rooms, hosted by members of the Young Ecosocialists of the Green Party US and from Les Jeunes Ecologistes.



## Who Was There

We were very pleased to have participation from all the regions of the world. Not all members were able to join, but delegates were present from the following Member Organisations:

### Africa

Algeria:	Parti Vert d'Algérie pour le Développement
Burkina Faso:	Coordination des Jeunes Écolos du Faso (CJEF)
Rwanda:	Democratic Green Party of Rwanda - Youth
West Africa:	Réseau des Jeunes Écologistes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

### Americas

Argentina:	Partido Verde Argentina - Youth
Bolivia:	Partido Verde Bolivia - Youth
Brasil:	Partido Verde - Youth
Canada:	Young Greens of Canada - Jeunes Vert du Canada
Chile:	Partido Ecologista Verde - Youth
Dominican:	Partido Socialista Verde - Youth
Guatemala:	Partido Verde Guatemala - Youth
Mexico:	Partido Verde Ecológico de México - Youth
Venezuela:	Movimiento Ecologico de Venezuela - Youth

### Asia-Pacific

India:	India Young Greens
India:	Uttarakand Students Organization (USO)
Korea:	Young Greens of Korea
Lebanon:	Green Party of Lebanon - Youth Wing
Taiwan:	Taiwan Young Greens

### Europe

Belgium:	Jong Groen
England/Wales:	Young Greens of England and Wales
France:	Les Jeunes Écologistes
Georgia:	საქართველოს ახალგაზრდა მწვანეები
Germany:	Grüne Jugend
Norway:	Grønn Ungdom
Portugal:	Ecolojovem "Os Verdes"
Spain:	Juventud Verde

# GLOBAL YOUNG GREENS Congress22



## Saturday

### GYG Platform Development

There are many committees and working groups in GYG, and one of those groups, the Economic Working Group (EWG), created a policy paper. Historically, GYG policy had always been focused on our Organisational Principles (OPs), so this policy paper sparked the debate of *where to put it*.

We put it to you, the Members, to decide! The first and third hours of the day were dedicated to this conversation. Chaired by Liliane Pollmann and hosted by Adam Svensson from the EWG, the session taught us what worked and what didn't in the process of developing this policy paper, and this guided us into a larger conversation about the development of a policy platform for GYG.

While there were concerns about potentially needing to amend the OPs to make room for such a platform, it was deemed unnecessary, opting instead for more working groups with the intention of presenting at future Congresses.

### The Memorandum of Understanding

Over the last several years, GYG has been working closely with the Global Greens to clearly define the relationship between our organisations. While many GYG's members are also members of Global Greens, there are many ways in which our organisations differ.

Together, our two organisations developed a proposal, a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) that would officially define our relationship. One article of the MOU committed GYG to present changes to its OPs at the next congress, hence we dedicated time to discuss and vote on these changes.

As anticipated, the conversation, hosted by Oversight Committee member Alice Hubbard, was long and much required discussion. When we reached the end of the hour, the members agreed to move this discussion to Plenary on Sunday to debate further.

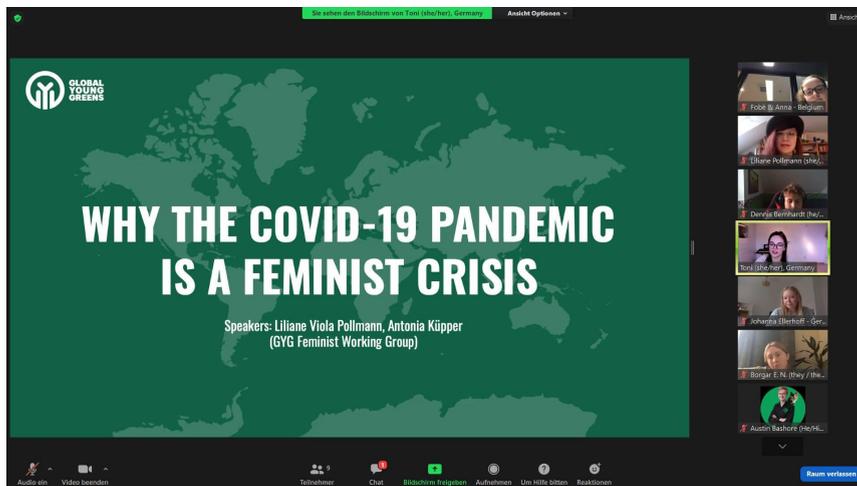
*Special thanks to Beth Hanley from the Global Greens for offering live interpretation services in French!*

# Sunday

## Workshops

### **Feminist Working Group: Why the COVID-19 Pandemic is a Feminist Crisis**

Hosted by GYG's Feminist Working Group, Antonia Küpper and Liliane Pollmann hosted a conversation about the way the pandemic has particularly affected women and what might be done moving forwards. In the later part of this session the discussion was opened up to participants.



### **COP26 Working Group What Happened at the COP26**

Hosted by the COP26 Working Group, Janmejai Tiwari led a review of COP26 from the perspective of GYG and its delegates. As our first time participating at COP with official Observer Status, we were able to send eleven delegates as representatives of GYG and affect change directly at the international level.

Having learned much, the Working Group shared ideas of how the next COP Working Group might have greater success at future conventions.

## Plenary

Hosted by the Oversight Committee, the first half of Plenary was centred on the continued debate of the GYG/GG MOU, having been deferred from Saturday to allow for more discussion.

Along with the two amendments required to accommodate the MOU in our OPs, Congress also had the opportunity to debate proposals from Ecolojovem “Os Verdes” from Portugal and a joint proposal submitted by the GYG Steering Committee and the Structures and Procedures Working Group.

Together, we successfully passed four motions:

Page 6, 4 c) i)	Page 8, 4 d) i)	Page 12, 5 c) ii)	Page 8, 4, d) i) *
Addition of the following sentence: “All Steering Committee members must be members of a Global Green Member Organisation if it exists in their country of residence.”	Addition of the following sentence: “All Oversight Committee members must be members of a Global Green Member Organisation if it exists in their country of residence.”	Add "or in the case there is a global or regional situation that does not allow for in-person voting".	Add “Should an Oversight Committee member need to be replaced before the end of their mandate, the Steering Committee can decide to fill the vacancy by means of co-option via an open call.” after the composition.
In Favour: 15	In Favour: 10	In Favour: 23	In Favour: 21
Against: 8	Against: 8	Against: 0	Against: 1
<i>Passed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Passed</i>

\*We note that upon insertion to the OPs, the Oversight Committee amended the placement of additional text<sup>1</sup> from page 8, 4d)i) to page 12, 5a)ii) for documental clarity.

The updated version of the Organisational Principles has been uploaded to the GYG website. They can be found by following [this link here](#), or by going to the GYG home page, then selecting News & Activities > Resources > Documents.

<sup>1</sup> The Oversight Committee holds the right to amend the Organisational Principles for documental clarity as per section 4d)ii) of the Organisational Principles.



## Closing Ceremony

Having only a slight delay from the ongoing debate in Plenary, we were able to reach the end of Congress with many great achievements!

After some closing remarks from the Congress Committee and the Steering Committee, we were thrilled to introduce our final guest speaker: Dr. Amita Kuttner, interim leader of the Green Party of Canada.

With a PhD in Astrophysics, Amita shared his insights on perspective in politics, particularly from the point of view of young people like himself, and how extraordinarily small some things can seem when we remember our place in the universe.

It was difficult to say goodbye, but with time zones pushing well past midnight for some delegates, we had to offer our thanks to everyone for their participation and finally complete this last session for Congress.

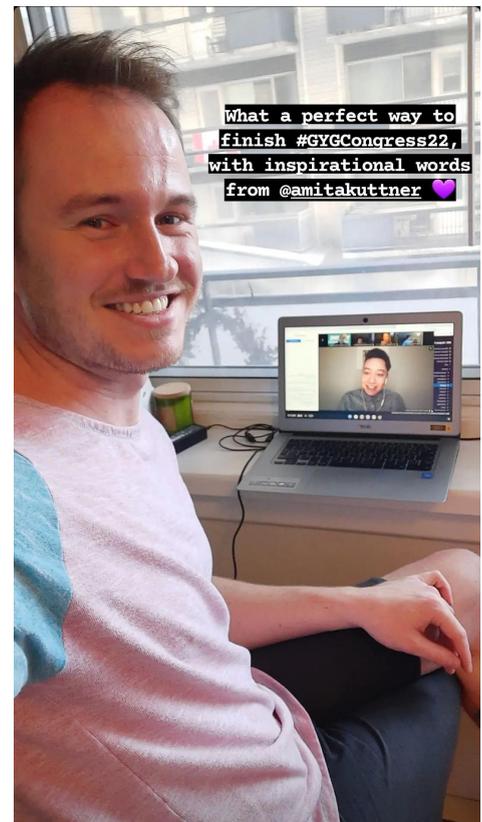


## Looking Forward

All of us can agree that while productive, online Congress can hardly compare with the power of an in-person event. Although we don't yet know when we will be "past the pandemic," rest assured that we are already looking forward to the next opportunity for us to get together in the non-digital world.

We are hugely thankful to all our volunteers and for all of the delegates who took time from their schedules to join us for these three days of Congress! We hope that our members have been encouraged to engage more with GYG and help make our next event even bigger!

Make sure you follow GYG to see about more ways to get involved!





**GLOBAL  
YOUNG  
GREENS**

website:	<a href="http://www.globalyounggreens.org">www.globalyounggreens.org</a>
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