

**WALES GREEN PARTY**

**MANIFESTO 2021**

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALES**



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR YOUNG GREEN CANDIDATES

As the Young Greens, we know that the prospect of a better future depends on us tackling the climate and nature crises whilst also eliminating the many inequalities in our society. This election is one of the most exciting in Wales' history, with 16- and 17-year olds given a vote, and a real chance of delivering a genuine green recovery from the devastating impact of COVID-19. Young people can lead the way.

We want to see a future young people can be hopeful about, that's why young people are at the heart of Green democracy. Our youth branch, the Young Greens, brings the energy and perspectives of young people to all our policymaking and encourages young people to stand for election.



**THIS YEAR WE HAVE THREE YOUNG GREEN  
REGIONAL LIST CANDIDATES IN WALES,  
AND WE STAND A REAL CHANCE  
OF GETTING THEM TO THE SENEDD!**

**IOLO KARS  
JONES**



**LEAD LIST  
CANDIDATE FOR  
NORTH WALES**

**MEGAN POPPY  
LLOYD**



**LEAD LIST  
CANDIDATE FOR  
SOUTH WALES  
WEST**

**TOMOS  
BARLOW**



**2<sup>ND</sup> LIST  
CANDIDATE FOR  
MID AND WEST  
WALES**

We are ready to take our place in the Senedd and to work for a system where all young people can thrive. In most of Wales, Labour will be unable to win any seats at all in the regional list vote – because they have already won their 'fair share' of constituency seats. This is where the Green Party comes in.

Only a vote for the Greens will ensure that these seats are filled by our hard working and dedicated candidates, and are not taken by far-right parties, putting our nation at risk.

# A MESSAGE FROM WALES GREEN PARTY LEADER



**ANTHONY SLAUGHTER**

The Green Party has long pushed for votes for 16- and 17-year-olds, one of our “radical” policies that, like many others, are becoming increasingly mainstream. With the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act coming into force last year, Wales will enter a new period of its democracy on May 6th, 2021 when a further 65,000 young people are able to vote.

This will bring more democratic accountability to Wales and ensure young people’s concerns are rightfully heard. We hope this younger sector of the electorate will increase pressure on our elected representatives and administration to look at new and different policies and deliver for the young people of Wales.

We welcome young people’s involvement in the democratic process, and we hope that you will consider what our party is looking to deliver for you, your families, your communities, and Wales.

Anthony Slaughter  
Leader, Wales Green Party

## A GREEN NEW DEAL TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

### WE NEED LESS TALK AND MORE ACTION ON THE CLIMATE AND NATURE CRISES.

Many things could already have been achieved in Wales but has been delayed by lack of political will. This includes:

- Banning single-use plastic and reducing waste – recycling alone is not good enough.

### WE PROPOSE A GREEN NEW DEAL.

This is a programme of generating 10s of 1000s of new green jobs across Wales to transform all sectors of society – including energy, zero-carbon housebuilding and retrofitting, transport, local food production, green tourism, new start-ups and the arts – as we emerge from the pandemic.

## EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN WALES

Wales needs an economy that works for young people. We will push for:

### DECENT PAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- We would end precarious situations for young people in work by ending zero-hour contracts.
- Many young people are facing poor work conditions and have been working on the front line during the pandemic. It’s time they were paid more fairly with a **genuine living wage for all**.
- We will work towards **ending the gender pay gap**. Women should not receive less pay than men for work of the same value.

### BETTER BUSINESS

- We support social and environmental forms of business where you can be creative, make a good living and provide benefits to people and the planet at the same time. **Business does not have to wreck the world – this must stop.**

### UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Young people have been severely affected by the pandemic which has also revealed the insecurity of zero-hour contracts that so many have been forced into.

- We support the immediate introduction of **Universal Basic Income** to make independent living possible for many young people.
- This will end the often stigmatised and unnecessary process of proving your right to claim benefits.
- It will also address the worst aspects of the gig economy, working conditions, and provide support for young people who want to start up in business.

## GETTING AROUND AND ACCESSING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Free public transport for everyone aged 21 and under.** Greens elected to Holyrood have already successfully achieved this in Scotland.
- Disabled people should have **equal access to all transport networks.** All train stations in Wales should have step-free access and all bus stops should be designed with disabled people in mind.

## SUPPORTING THE ARTS AND SAVING OUR MUSIC VENUES

As Young Greens, we truly value the Arts and Cultural Sector for what it provides to our society. Throughout the pandemic, we have all turned to books, films, music and art to help us. As we emerge from this crisis, the Arts will be just as crucial as we reconnect with each other and our much-loved local venues.

- We will **support everyone who works in the Arts and Music industry by calling for a Universal Basic Income** to support them. Arts and culture have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic and Brexit – so this is more important than ever.
- Music venues and spaces for young people to contribute to the Arts have been severely underfunded and undervalued by our planning system. We aim to reverse this by **overhauling our planning system.**



MEGAN POPPY LLOYD

## HOUSING JUSTICE FOR OUR GENERATION

Wales has some of the most energy inefficient homes in Europe, meaning many are in fuel poverty whilst many parts of Wales also suffer from high rents. For some young people, 'home' is also not safe from abuse, and support is needed for independent living in good conditions. Many fall into homelessness, through no fault of their own. These circumstances prevent young people from living an independent life when they are ready.

## AFFORDABLE, SECURE AND DECENT ACCOMMODATION IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

- **End youth homelessness** in Wales.
- Build **12,000 affordable homes across Wales each year**, to the highest energy efficiency standard, and predominantly social housing.
- **Retrofit existing housing stock** in Wales to work towards cheaper, warmer homes and the elimination of fuel poverty.
- **Remove short-hold tenancies.**
- **We support Right-to-Rent schemes** so those struggling with mortgage payments don't lose their homes.

## BETTER EDUCATION OUR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SUFFER FROM INCREASING MARKETISATION AND UNDERFUNDING.

This often means students in Wales are left feeling disillusioned and commodified. Our current education system puts many into debt or puts people off studying altogether.

- **Education should be free** and serve as a public good. We call for a write-off of student debt.
- **Reform Ofqual** so our schools, colleges and universities no longer serve as exam factories.
- More **investment in Further and Higher Education and apprenticeships** with support for study for those that need it.
- **Maintain EMA** – ensuring the Education Maintenance Allowance remains available for all school – and further education students who need it.
- More **involvement of young people in choosing the curriculum** – that is essential for creating a better future.
- **Incorporate political and civic education into the new curriculum** so young people have a well-rounded understanding of how the voting system works in Wales, and a thorough understanding of devolution.

- The **climate and nature emergencies should be taught in schools more comprehensively, now.**
- **Ensure the new curriculum is decolonised** and that diverse histories and role models are incorporated.
- Provide **mandatory consent-based, sex and relationship education** – age appropriate and LGBTIQ+ inclusive – in all schools from primary level onwards.
- We welcome the introduction of a new Erasmus+ scheme for Wales after the UK withdrawal from the programme. **International exchange provides countless benefits for students and young people** across Wales, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Properly fund Students' Unions** so they can provide the best support and opportunities for all who choose to study in Wales.



AMELIA WOMACK

## A JUST AND EQUAL NATION

Young people are sick of discrimination in our society and want to see an end to inequality.

## GREENS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SUPPORTING MORE RADICAL AND URGENT MEASURES TO CORRECT INJUSTICE.

- **Equality is a right**, whatever your gender, ethnicity, religious belief or non-belief, ability or disability, age, economic status or sexual orientation. We will create an **improved, robust remit for the Minister for Equality**.
- Wales Young Greens stand in **solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement** – it's vital we work towards building an anti-racist Wales. **We will establish a Race Equality Action Plan** covering all sectors of society. There is no environmental or social justice without racial justice.
- We will **develop a strategy to tackle all forms of gender-based violence**, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and trafficking. We will provide an education programme across Wales to tackle these issues.
- Wales must be a nation where everyone in the LGBTIQ+ community feels safe and can thrive.
- We will push for inclusion of intersex as a protected status and introduce legal protections for individuals adopting their own gender identity.
- We stand in solidarity with our trans siblings whose rights are under attack. **Trans men are men, trans women are women, non-binary identities exist and are valid**. We will include and push for further acceptance of transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society.
- We will campaign to end conversation 'therapy' in Wales.
- We will push for the decriminalisation of all aspects of sex work involving consenting adults. Workers in the sex industry should enjoy full workers rights including the right to join a trade union.

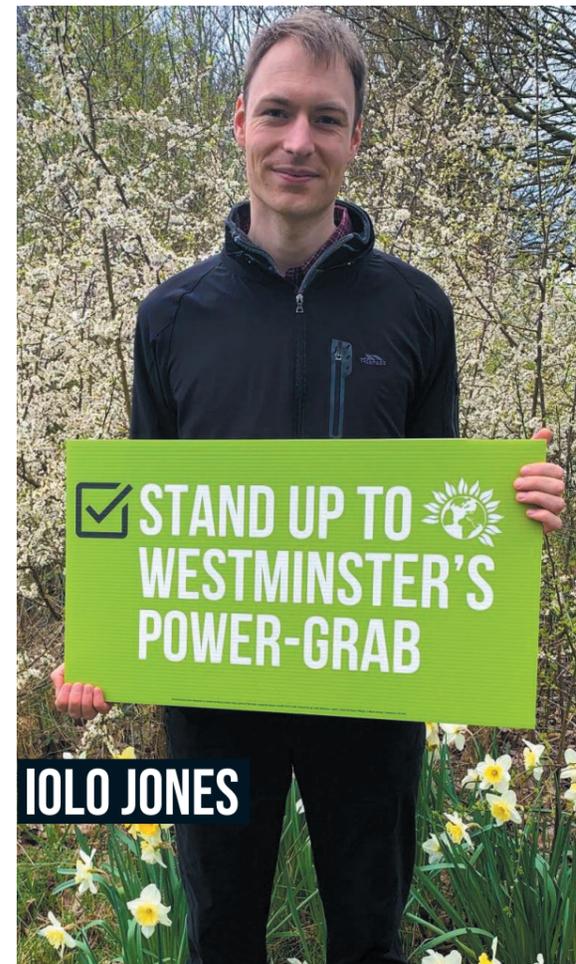
## A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH STRATEGY, WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN MIND THE PANDEMIC HAS SHOWN US HOW CRUCIAL OUR NHS IS TO KEEPING WALES HEALTHY.

We will work to ensure the government and our NHS are better prepared for future public health crises and that young people are considered in all health strategies.

- We will ensure that **all health and dental services are always publicly provided** and free at the point of access.
- We support a **15% pay increase for all NHS workers**.
- We **recognise the crucial, unpaid and difficult work done by those who are carers**. Our vision for a Universal Basic Income for Wales will ensure they are supported in their work.
- We will **increase funding for sexual health awareness** campaigns, provide greater access to free birth control and sexual health clinics.
- **Young trans people should not have their access to healthcare restricted**. We will work to reduce the limits to healthcare that young trans people are facing.
- We will **provide free sanitary products to those in extreme financial need**, including homeless people and young people from low-income backgrounds.
- We will push for the **decriminalisation of drug use**. We will advocate taking an evidence-based public health approach to drug use in order to minimise drug-related deaths.

## BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- We will ensure mental health and wellbeing are at the heart of all our health strategy.
- We recognise that **mental health problems are made worse by the pandemic** for many. The stress of working on the front line or in precarious jobs and the pressures of working from home can put even more strain on peoples' wellbeing.
- We will call for a **4-day working week** to encourage a better work life balance.
- For some, the furlough scheme has been an opportunity to pursue projects they want to pursue, reconnect with family and green spaces. We will seek to extend these benefits to all, with our plans for a universal basic income.
- We will ensure that **all young people can access better mental health services**, and ensure that these can be accessed through the medium of Welsh, where desired.
- Increase and sustain **proper funding for mental health support for students**.
- **Mental health services should be given equal parity with physical health services**.



## BUILDING AN INTERNATIONALIST WALES

- We stand in solidarity with all migrants and demand safe passage for refugees. **Refugees and migrants must always be welcome in Wales!**
- The loss of Freedom of Movement across Europe, for Welsh citizens, is devastating. We will **fight for Wales to regain our Freedom of Movement** – this is essential to offering hope and opportunities to young peoples' futures.
- International travel and exchange for young people needs to be made easier – we believe in **international cooperation and exchange**.

## BUILDING A MORE DEMOCRATIC WALES

Wales uses a system of voting where only 20 of the 60 members elected to the Senedd are done so on a proportional system.

- We support the introduction of the **Single Transferable Vote (STV)** system to make all votes count. STV is a fairer voting system than what we currently have. This would mean everyone's vote matters. Scotland, Northern Ireland and many other places across the world already use this system of proportional voting.
- Civil liberties are essential to us all – especially for young people seeking to remake the world. We support Wales being immediately in charge of justice and policing, under community control. **We oppose all attempts to restrict our right to protest for change**.
- We support Wales becoming an **independent green nation**, taking a lead in positive change and with the powers to make that change happen.

## WE BELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEAD THE WAY.

**TO READ OUR COMPLETE 2021**

**MANIFESTO PLEASE GO TO:**

**I DDARLLEN Y MANIFFESTO**

**HWN YN GYMRAEG, EWCH I:**

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**Email:** [contact@walesgreenparty.com](mailto:contact@walesgreenparty.com)

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Promoted by Chris Simpson on behalf of Wales Green Party, both at The Gate, Keppoch Street, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3JW.