



YOUNG LIBERALS

Summer 2024 Conference, London

Young Liberals Motions Superdoc for our 2024 Summer Conference in
London.

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A Fair Deal for Slaughterhouse Workers

Conference believes:

- A. According to Jessica Slade and Emma Alleyne the meat industry employs 75,000 people in approximately 250 slaughterhouses in the UK. The majority of these employees have limited educational attainment and come from a low socioeconomic background, with migrants making up 70% of employees
- B. The same paper states that slaughterhouse workers (SHWs) have been shown to have lower physical and psychological well-being compared with other professions
- C. Studies connect this employment to increased rates of domestic violence, substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- D. The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 states shackle line speeds should be used without undue haste and with proper regard for the welfare of the bird. It sets no specific maximum speed and does not take into account the safety of workers, while providing no requirement for other animals
- E. The huge demand for meat has encouraged slaughterhouses to increase the pace of slaughter, putting immense pressure on workers.
- F. Slaughterhouse workers are often asked to work long shifts in cold, damp, and noisy environments with inadequate hygiene facilities
- G. The Safe Slaughter Movement, supported by Alumni from Yale, aims to improve working conditions in Slaughterhouses by first building public support. Followed by a voluntary retail certification for meat products to empower and inform consumers that would then help introduce new regulations

Conference further believes:

- I. To improve working conditions in Slaughterhouses there must be a greater understanding in how this type of work affects employee well-being
- II. Further work by the government, independent bodies and other groups is needed to hold employers to account in order to protect employees
- III. The welfare of both animals and SHWs should be considered with regards to shackle line speeds in slaughterhouses.

- IV. It is important for the public to be aware of how their food is produced to be able to make better informed decisions that align with their beliefs

Conference calls for:

1. Further research to be carried out to:
 - a. Understand the link between slaughterhouse employment and psychological (i.e. mental health) as well as behavioural (i.e. antisocial behaviour) outcomes
 - b. Examine the psychological characteristics of individuals who seek employment in slaughterhouses as well as the longer-term effects of animal killing
2. Slaughterhouse employers to review all reasons for employee burnout, turnover and other performance issues
3. Independent inspections of slaughterhouse facilities to include a review of employee support provision
4. The government to:
 - a. Regulate specific and reasonable shackle line speeds that allow employees to work safely without excessive stress
 - b. Put an end to long shifts in the Slaughterhouse industry
 - c. Require the implementation of clinical supervision requirements for slaughterhouse employees to help in the early identification of psychological well-being issues
5. The measures presented above to be implemented in part by the methods introduced by the Safe Slaughter Movement

Defending and Reforming Trans Healthcare

Conference believes:

- A. That healthcare for trans and gender questioning people, both children and adults, is and has been fundamentally broken in the United Kingdom, with underfunding, political interference and a lack of joined-up comprehensive care.
- B. Decisions around healthcare and bodily autonomy should be made between an individual and their doctor, and politicians should not impose politically motivated restrictions, unsupported by medical evidence, upon healthcare.
- C. Trans and gender questioning children and young people deserve to be listened to and given access to the care and support that they need.

Conference further believes:

- A. That there are serious questions and concerns around the Cass Report including its methodology, its findings and its recommendations, and a lack of clarity in many key areas. The Cass Report should not be taken unquestionably and should not be used as a political tool to restrict the rights of trans and gender questioning children.
 - a. There should not be restrictions on the ability of trans and gender questioning children and young people to socially transition, including in schools, and all schools should be supportive of children expressing themselves.
 - b. Access to private trans healthcare options should not be restricted, and instead access to free NHS trans healthcare should be expanded and waitlists brought down.
 - c. Neurodivergence, disability or other health conditions should not impact on access to gender affirming care, including through longer waits caused by lengthy waiting lists for full assessment for other conditions. Neurodivergent young people who are autistic should not be infantilised and treated as less trustworthy in articulating their trans identity.

- B. While there are serious concerns with the report, it does recognise the existence of trans children and young people and rightly acknowledges what they have been saying for years: NHS services are comprehensively failing them.
- C. That the Cass report has been misrepresented and weaponised by anti-trans media organisations, politicians and groups, with Hillary Cass herself expressing concern that her review was being weaponised to suggest that trans people do not exist.
 - a. Cass also clarified that her review was not about defining what trans means or rolling back health care, stating "There are young people who absolutely benefit from a medical pathway, and we need to make sure that those young people have access — under a research protocol, because we need to improve the research — but not assume that that's the right pathway for everyone."
- D. That the Cass report was correct in its recommendation against a blanket ban on puberty blockers.
- E. That puberty blockers may be the correct treatment, and this should be a matter of medical judgement based on the needs of the child or young person and informed by best medical practices and evidence.
- F. There needs to be comprehensive reform of trans healthcare in the United Kingdom to ensure that all trans and gender questioning young people have access to timely, holistic and supportive healthcare.

Conference reaffirms that:

- A. Trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary.
- B. Trans children should be free and empowered to live as who they are and have their rights and liberties protected.
- C. Everyone deserves to have access to healthcare at no significant cost or unnecessary hindrance.
- D. There is no conflict or contradiction between supporting and protecting trans rights and the rights of women.
- E. WPATH guidance is the best practice for transgender healthcare.

Conference further reaffirms the policy motions “Trans Rights“ (Online Summer Conference - Summer 2020), “Supporting the Prescription of Hormone Blocking Medications to Gender Diverse People Under the Age of 18“ (Online Winter Conference - Winter 2021) and “Trans Children“ (Edinburgh Winter Conference - Winter 2022).

Conference calls on:

- A. The Government to reverse both the ban on the prescribing and supply of puberty blockers and reverse the restrictions within the NHS on the prescription of puberty blockers.
- B. The NHS to work and consult with trans people and healthcare professionals to reform healthcare for all trans and gender questioning people, including children and young people, in a way that ensures everyone has access to timely, holistic and supportive healthcare including by
 - a. Encouraging and empowering local GPs to deliver healthcare in a primary care setting, including prescribing hormones and agonists and monitoring these as something within their competency.
 - b. Replacing the gender identity clinic system with regional hubs of secondary tier support to support primary care practitioners in complex cases or with adolescents.
 - c. Removing NHS gatekeeping by treating specialists equitably regardless of if they work in the NHS or not when establishing shared care arrangements.
 - d. Reducing the burden on gender specialists by moving to a model of informed consent for starting treatment in line with international best practice.
 - e. Investing in healthcare research for transgender medicine to establish a high quality research base for medical decision making, including formally assessing the impact of progesterone in a hormone regime.
 - f. Ensuring where a transgender person presents with a non-gender-related issue or comorbidity they are treated appropriately and not as a second class citizen where all issues are blamed on the trans healthcare regime.
- C. Liberal Democrats parliamentarians to resist the restrictions proposed on trans healthcare, including the ban on puberty blockers and to support comprehensive trans healthcare reform.

Stop the Anti-Pylon Pile-On

Conference believes:

- a. According to industry bodies, Electricity demand in Great Britain is set to rise significantly as the UK moves closer to its net zero targets.
- b. The Electricity System Operator's "Beyond 2030" and "Holistic Network Design" sets out the recommended Grid infrastructure (onshore and offshore) required to facilitate this rise in demand, and UK, Scottish, and Welsh net zero targets.
- c. The queue for grid connections, including for renewable energy projects, is now decades long, with transmission infrastructure being a significant contributing cause of this.
- d. Building a new electricity transmission circuit in Great Britain can currently take around 14 years.
- e. The Electricity Networks Commissioner's report (the Winser report) highlighted the need to accelerate construction of grid infrastructure, and provided options to help accelerate this process, including compensating those living near new energy infrastructure.
- f. There has been opposition to the construction of new transmission infrastructure across Great Britain, with some campaigners calling for an "offshore grid" to be built.
- g. Electricity System Operator network designs and studies place a significant amount of proposed infrastructure offshore, although a fully offshore grid is not a viable option.
- h. Underground cabling of transmission circuits is possible, but extremely costly to consumers and can cause long term damage to the environment.
- i. Grid infrastructure unlocks opportunities, and economic growth, for local areas and the country.

Conference further believes:

1. There is a Climate Emergency.
2. There are no landscapes worth protecting on a dead planet.
3. Green infrastructure needs to be built at a rate to match the crisis we face.

4. The needs of the many outweigh the desires of the few.
5. The grid connection queue is unacceptably long, with too many renewables projects trapped in the queue.
6. There is an urgent need to invest in Great Britain's infrastructure, including its grid.
7. Local opposition to new infrastructure is somewhat understandable, and in a small number of cases justified, but essential major schemes cannot be held up in endless consultations or unreasonably blocked.
8. Local communities should be compensated for hosting new grid infrastructure.
9. Starmer's Labour have said they want to act on this issue, and they now need to turn words into action.

Conference calls for:

- I. The UK Government to streamline the process to construct transmission infrastructure in England, and lobby the Devolved Nations to follow suit.
- II. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to implement the "Pounds for Pylons" compensation element of the Winser report.
- III. Elected Liberal Democrats to be reasonable and balanced in their rhetoric on new grid infrastructure.
- IV. Parliamentary Liberal Democrats to hold Labour to account on their pledges to speed up the construction of grid infrastructure and cutting the connections queue.
- V. Young Liberals to speak up in support of building infrastructure required to meet vital net zero targets.

The Intergenerational Triple Lock

Conference believes:

- I. At the time it was brought in, the pension triple lock was an essential reform proposed by the Liberal Democrats in Government to restore the link between pensions and earnings after years of Labour failures.
- II. That since 2021 the Conservative Government has frozen tax thresholds in order to raise additional tax revenue, with the resulting “fiscal drag” being an effective stealth tax on working people.
- III. National Insurance was introduced by the Liberals as the bedrock of the welfare state when we were in Government over 100 years ago and was an absolutely essential and transformative reform.

Conference further believes:

- A. That while it is essential to ensure that the state pension continues to support those in old age and make sure that everybody is able to enjoy retirement without financial insecurity, the balance of burdens across different generations has come to weigh far too much on the young.
- B. That the increasing tax burden via fiscal drag alongside the housing and rental crisis, Brexit and many other issues have primarily hit young and working people and have significantly contributed to and worsened the cost of living crisis for those on low and middle incomes.
- C. National Insurance far too often has been used by Governments as a way to raise additional tax revenue, further putting burden on young and working people, and fails on modern standards of progressive taxation.
- D. Nobody on the National Minimum Wage should have a real terms cut to their income due to increases in inflation.
- E. That in order to ensure overall fairness between the different generations there needs to be a fundamental review of tax, pay and pensions.

Conference calls on:

1. The Government to introduce a “Intergenerational Triple Lock” to ensure intergenerational fairness and prosperity, which shall include legislating to endure that
 - a. The Income Tax personal allowance shall automatically increase each year by inflation.
 - b. The National Minimum Wage shall automatically increase each year by inflation.
 - c. The State Pension shall automatically increase each year by either inflation or earnings growth, whichever is higher.
2. The Government to abolish employee National Insurance contributions and increase income tax to ensure that there is an overall tax revenue neutral position, with the burden of income tax raises to fall primarily on those on higher incomes to compensate for years of Conservative fiscal drag and give real terms tax cuts to those on low incomes.
3. The Government to undergo a review of the State Pension in an age of increasing numbers of people with private pensions and an unfair distribution of personal wealth, to means test the State Pension based upon income and wealth and use the resulting expenditure savings to increase the level of the State Pension to those who qualify and lower the tax burden on those on low incomes.

Let Them Eat Biscuits and Go To the Bar

Conference believes:

- I. News reports in the right wing press attacking the Ministry of Defence for expenditure on biscuits with headlines like “TAKING THE BISCUIT Defence chiefs have blown £50k of taxpayers’ cash on posh biscuits for top brass and civil servants” and “Defence chiefs under fire for 'blowing taxpayer cash on biscuits'”
- II. That the reality is that a Freedom of Information request showed that the Ministry of Defence has spent £50,000 since 2016, which over the 8 year period averages as £6,250 per year, with a Ministry of Defence spokesperson saying “Limited refreshments are supplied in a small number of diplomatic meetings and such spending continues to reduce.”
- III. That the Ministry of Defence has already previously cut tea and biscuits in most meetings.
- IV. Reports that Sue Grey, the new Downing Street Chief of Staff, has plans to cut and restrict the subsidised bars in Westminster in an effort to tackle inappropriate behaviour and sexual harassment in Westminster.

Conference further believes:

- A. Civil Servants and Military Personnel working in the Ministry of Defence and other Government Departments, who have dedicated their careers to public service, should not have to work in an environment where they are constantly under attack and have even minor and inconsequential “perks” such as free tea and biscuits stripped away.
- B. While there are legitimate criticisms on ways in which the Government spends money, especially in regards to Defence, biscuit budgets are not a legitimate criticism and the news stories are part of long standing attacks and harassment against the Civil Service meant to undermine it as an institution.
- C. Staff in Westminster work long hours in an intense and stressful environment and due to the political realities of public finances and expenses for Members of Parliament are underpaid for the work that they do, which is essential for our democracy to function.

- D. The realities of public finances means that the Civil Service is not able to effectively compete with the city and other high paying jobs to attract and retain talent.
- E. The Government should do everything possible to ensure that it retains top talent including by offering light refreshments to civil servants, tea and biscuits in meetings and other relatively low cost perks and measures to ensure a positive work environment.
- F. Inappropriate behaviour and sexual harassment must be dealt with strongly and quickly, alongside cultural changes within Westminster to prevent the behavior taking place, but closing the bars in Westminster unfairly punishes everyone and is not an effective solution at fixing the issues.

Conference calls for:

1. The Government to resist calls for expenditure on biscuits to be cut further and to restore tea and biscuits in the Ministry of Defence.
2. The Government to expand light refreshments across Government departments and look at other relatively low cost small ways of improving the work environment for civil servants.
3. The bars in Westminster to remain open and for the Government and Parliamentary Authorities to continue working on more effective ways to tackle cultural and behavioural issues within Westminster.

Abolish the Voting Age

Conference believes that:

- A. Young people are disproportionately underrepresented in politics.
- B. It is widely accepted that the voting age should be lowered to 16 - this is currently already the case in Wales and Scotland for devolved elections.
- C. The Young Liberals, correctly, called for prisoners to be given the right to vote in Winter Conference 2023.
- D. For the general population, the only requirement for vote is based on age - which does not mean anything about ability.
- E. Historically people with power deny those without it by saying they are not ready or they are trying to protect them. Despite this, voting provides no harm to the individuals engaging in this.

Conference further believes that:

- I. Everyone should have the right to vote if they have the capacity to do so, either physically in person or by requesting either a postal or proxy vote.
- II. The right to vote is something to be protected.

Conference calls for:

- 1. The UK government to remove the age restrictions on the voting age limit at all tiers of elections
- 2. The Scottish and Welsh governments to remove the age restrictions on the voting age limit at all tiers of elections
- 3. The government to ensure political education occurs throughout mandatory education
- 4. The Liberal Democrats to adopt this position and fight for freedom to vote

Constitutional Amendment 1

Reports from appointed roles

Part A: Executive Regulations amendment to mandate appointed roles to submit reports to Exec meetings

In Executive Regulations, insert new Section 4.4 containing:

4. Further, some of those who hold roles appointed by the Executive are expected to submit reports to meetings of the Executive.
 - 4.a. Reports are expected from the following appointed role holders:
 - 4.a.i. The Registered Treasurer, with the assistance of the Registered Second Officer; and
 - 4.a.ii. The Designated Safeguarding Lead, with the assistance of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s).
 - 4.b. Where a member of the Executive holds an appointed role listed in 4.a. in addition to their Executive portfolio, they must submit distinct and separate reports for each.

Part B: Conference Standing Order amendment to receive reports from appointed roles

Replace Conference Standing Order 8.1 and its descendants with:

- 8.1. There shall be an Executive Scrutiny session to which reports shall be submitted, questions on those reports taken from the membership, and scrutiny motions debated.
 - 8.1.1. Reports are required to be submitted by the following role holders:
 - 8.1.1.a. Members of the Executive, including Representatives from each State Organisation, taken in the order set out in Section 6.1;
 - 8.1.1.b. Those who sit on any Federal Committee as the Young Liberals Representative; and
 - 8.1.1.c. Those in appointed roles, who are required to submit reports to meetings of the Executive, as set out in the Executive Regulations.
 - 8.1.2. Where a member of the Executive is ex-officio a Representative on a Federal Party Committee, that report shall be taken at the same time as that member's Executive portfolio report.
 - 8.1.3. Where a member of the Executive also holds an appointed role which requires a report to be submitted to conference, the two reports must be distinct and separate and may not be taken at the same time.

Constitutional Amendment 2

Constitution and Membership Regulations amendment to introduce membership resignation and re-application

In Section 5 of the constitution, insert new Section 5.10 of:

10. A member may voluntarily resign their membership by emailing their resignation to the Executive of the organisation.
 - 10.1 If a member who has resigned wishes to re-apply for membership, they must follow the process set out in the Membership Regulations.

In the Membership Regulations, insert new 7 and 8 of:

7. Any person who has resigned their membership may reapply.
 - 7.1 To reapply for membership, the applicant must email the Secretary with their request, which shall ordinarily be granted. Confirmation of their readmission must be communicated to the applicant within two weeks of the submission of the application.
 - 7.2 Any outstanding complaints or sanctions which were abandoned as a result of the resignation will continue from the point at which they were abandoned.
8. Any person who has had their membership revoked must wait the minimum amount of time specified by the sanction before reapplying.
 - 8.1 To reapply for membership, the applicant must email the Secretary with their request. The applicant shall be permitted to provide a written statement in support of their readmission.
 - 8.2 The Executive may vote to accept the application for membership by two-thirds majority. The decision shall be communicated to the applicant within four weeks of the submission of the application.

Constitutional Amendment 3

Age Rise

Conference recognises that the upper age limit for the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) is 35 years old.

Conference further recognises the large number of the youth wings of our European sister parties with an upper age limit of 35, including Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Ukraine.

Conference further recognises that the average age of councillors in 2022 was 59.5 years old.

Conference believes that the previous move to raise the age limit of the Young Liberals from 26 to 29 has been a great success and has come alongside the professionalisation of the organisation, with the Young Liberals reaching its peak of success and influence within the party.

Conference further believes that raising the age limit of the organisation to 30 would continue to broaden and strengthen the organisation, and ensure that the organisation acts as an effective body for all young people within the party.

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In Section 5 of the Constitution 5.a replace “29” with “35” so as to read [Full membership shall be open to:] “Liberal Democrat members aged 35 or younger (youth members);”

Constitutional Amendment 4

By-Elections

In Section 9 delete 4 and add new 4, 4a, 4b and 4bi:

4. Co-options shall not be used, and a by-election held in accordance with the Election and Co-options Regulations, if
 - a. The role of Chair is vacant
 - b. More than one Executive position is vacant.
 - i. Except where there is less than three months remaining in the term or there has previously been a by-election held in the preceding three months, in which case the Executive shall have the discretion to fill the roles via cooptions.

Justice and Freedom in Georgia

Conference believes:

- A. The Georgian people have consistently, and overwhelmingly indicated that they want to live in a state that is committed to the Rule of Law, Democratic Governance and the European Project. With every election in Modern Georgian history being won by a party promising further integration with the West.
- B. Sadly, Georgian democracy has come under violent attack both in the streets and within its legislature.

Conference further believes:

- 1. Georgia's Democracy, and the Georgian people's rights have sadly and consistently been under attack for well over a decade now. With demands for further integration into the Western World being ignored, and Protesters and Civic society activists being subject to human rights abuses and state-sponsored violence.
- 2. It's impossible to separate this attack on Georgian Civic Society from its relationship with its largest neighbour Russia, who in 2008 brutally and illegally invaded Georgia.
- 3. That although the conflict has been 'frozen' for over a decade, Russian-facing politicians have been at the forefront of the fight to erode Georgia's democracy, with the 'Georgian Dream' Party which came to power in the years following the war being led by a group with strong ties to Russia. Initially, Georgian Dream continued to work towards better relations with Europe. But in recent years Georgian democracy and civic society have consistently come under attack.
- 4. That in spite of this, Georgian Civic Society has flourished, in no small part thanks to European based NGOs and TNOs such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, and Friedrich Naumann Foundation which have all sought to promote Liberal values in Georgia, alongside providing valuable professional and political opportunities for it's Youth.
- 5. That the attack on Georgian Democracy and Civic Society has been highlighted through the Government's attempt to introduce a 'Foreign Agent' law which seeks to undermine NGOs independence and suppress freedom of speech, through shaming charities, events and individuals

which receive significant funding from Western groups, cataloguing Individuals, as well as groups, who they deem to be 'Foreign Agents'.

6. Opposition to the introduction of the 'Foreign Agent' law has been met with widespread opposition, with thousands of, mostly young, protesters taking to the streets of Tbilisi. Unfortunately this was met with violence from both the Police, Armed Forces and counter-demonstrators.
7. The International Community's reaction has been mixed. Whilst several European Governments were quick to denounce the Government's actions, many have been quiet - including our own.
8. In May the US State Department announced that it would sanction several figures at the head of Georgian Dream, restricting their ability to gain VISAs.
9. This commitment to sanctions has not been met by the UK, in spite of our strong ties with the elite of Georgia.

Conference reaffirms:

- a. That as outlined in the Liberal Democrats constitution 'Our [The Parties] responsibility for justice and liberty cannot be confined by national boundaries'
- b. The Young Liberals, being the youth wing of the Liberal Democrats, are bound by this constitutional responsibility.

Conference therefore believes:

- I. The Young Liberals have a duty to loudly support Youth lead movements that call for Justice and Liberty around the world.
- II. That the United Kingdom, and the International Community have so far failed to support the people of Georgia.
- III. That this year's Parliamentary elections in Georgia are pivotal.
- IV. That the Foreign Agent Law must be rescinded, justice must be served for the victims of Police brutality, and independent observers must be allowed to verify this year's elections.
- V. That the Liberal Democrats and Young Liberals have an obligation to join other Liberal Groups in denouncing Georgian Dream and calling for sanctions.
- VI. That the actions of Georgian Dream are not only undemocratic and illiberal, but also a direct, violent attack on Georgia's youth.

Conference calls for:

1. The UK government to condemn the Actions of the Georgian Government both in its attempts to crack down on civil liberties and its violent response to peaceful protests.
2. The UK government to match all sanctions introduced by the USA, and explore further measures until the Georgian government rescinds the Foreign Agent Law, releases all prisoners detained during the protests, and allows for a fair enquiry into the handling of the for protests.
3. The UK government to support all efforts to observe this year's elections in Georgia in order to ensure there is a fair, democratic outcome.
4. Renewed support for Georgian efforts to join NATO and the EU.

Fighting Against Transnational Repression in Asia

Conference believes that:

1. Transnational authoritarianism is characterised by the breaking down of the boundaries between state-led, domestic forms of control over citizens living “at home” and long-distance forms of repression targeting those who reside “abroad”.
2. Authoritarian states, such as China, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia, conduct political repression against their citizens who reside abroad.

Conference further believes that:

- I. Transnational repression creates and encourages domestic political persecution abroad, precipitating unjust negative impacts on both targets of repression and the foreign communities in which they may reside.
- II. There is no room for authoritarianism in a liberal democratic world.
- III. No one should face any form of persecution because of their political opinions.
- IV. Nation states have no jurisdiction or just cause to actively pursue or repress individuals residing outside of their borders without the express consent of the government under which those individuals currently reside.
- V. Under the principle of state sovereignty, it is unacceptable for any foreign government to coerce, or attempt to coerce, another country into oppressing exiled dissenters who reside abroad.

Conference calls for:

- A. The condemnation of all forms of transnational repression imposed by Asian authoritarian states.
- B. Sanctions to be imposed upon the relevant officials of Asian authoritarian states who conduct transnational repression.
- C. The Young Liberals and the Liberal Democrats to work closely with our Asian regional sister party, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats Youth (CALD Youth), to support their campaign to fight against transnational repression in Asia.
- D. The British government to work with like-minded democratic countries to acknowledge and commit to combating the transnational repressions perpetrated by authoritarian countries.

For the Creation of a World Super State

Conference believes:

1. National borders are increasingly less relevant in a globalised world.
2. Issues such as climate change, pandemics, and international terrorism require coordinated global responses.
3. Economic disparities and human rights violations are better addressed on a global scale.
4. A world super state can ensure equitable distribution of resources and promote peace and stability worldwide.
5. Greater political integration can lead to more efficient and effective governance.

Conference further believes:

- A. Sovereignty should not be an impediment to addressing global challenges.
- B. Cultural diversity and local autonomy can still be preserved within a world super state.
- C. Existing international organisations like the United Nations provide a foundational framework for the development of a world super state.
- D. Democratic representation at the global level is crucial to ensure accountability and inclusivity.
- E. A world super state can facilitate the protection of human rights universally.

Conference resolves:

- I. To advocate for the gradual development of a world super state through enhanced international cooperation and integration.
- II. To support reforms in international organisations aimed at increasing their capacity for global governance.
- III. To promote the establishment of global democratic institutions, such as a world parliament, to ensure representation of all people.

- IV. To call for the harmonisation of laws and regulations across nations to facilitate easier cooperation and integration.
- V. To engage with other political organisations and movements worldwide to build support for the creation of a world super state.
- VI. To educate and raise awareness among members and the public about the benefits and challenges of forming a world super state.
- VII. To ensure that the creation of a world super state prioritises social justice, environmental sustainability, and human rights.

Business Motion: Recognising Tessa Munt MP

Conference recognises the service of Tessa Munt MP as the Young Liberals Honorary President from September 2015 until October 2023, noting the following comments:

- I. Michael Chappell, Chair of Young Liberals UK in 2015 commented: “Tessa Munt joined Young Liberals as the Honorary President in the 2015/2016 Executive to support young liberals in the wake of the Morrissey Report. There was a feeling that Young People were excluded from the party as a whole and Tessa injected her wisdom and vigour in working to change that.”
- II. Thomas Gravatt and Finn Conway commented: “Tessa continued as Honorary President of the Young Liberals in 2017/18 Executive. She attended conferences in both Oxford and Swansea, and provided learning & development sessions on canvassing and self-advocacy. Tessa supported Young Liberals with a range of issues including lobbying on changes to the party disciplinary processes in the wake of the Morrissey Report, and motivating Young Liberals in the run-up to the Brexit Referendum and its fall-out. Tessa also offered mentoring to Young Liberal members with career development and the Young & Winning Campaign.”
- III. Callum Littlemore & Dan Schmeisling commented “As Honorary President of the Young Liberals in the 2018/19 Executive, Tessa attended the Glasgow and London conferences listening to members and motivating them in the run-up to the 2016 General Election. Tessa would always help troubleshoot issues and workshop problems and solutions which was invaluablely supportive. Tessa’s positivity helped motivate our executive and members, and Tessa helped YL’s advocacy as we raised YL’s age changes as a constitutional change within the Liberal Democrats.”
- IV. Tara Copeland, commented “As Honorary President of the Young Liberals in the 2019/20 Executive, Tessa was great in her endless support for YL, and was an incredible source of help during some difficult times and the good! Everyone I knew in the organisation loved and respected her so much and this giant force for good!”
- V. Eleanor Kelly commented “As Honorary President of the Young Liberals in the 2021/22 Executive, Tessa was an invaluable source of support and

guidance to Young Liberals on a whole range of areas, and was a huge help in motivating the executive throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Tessa supported the executive throughout our online events during the lockdown period and was able to attend our Manchester Conference virtually”

- VI. Janey Little, Young Liberals Chair commented “Conference thanks Tessa for her hard work and dedication to the organisation and her unrelenting commitment to championing young members and always having our backs.”

Conference therefore confers Honorary Life Membership upon Tessa Munt MP under Section 5(9) of the Young Liberals Constitution and further confers the title of “Honorary President Emeritus” for her contribution to the organisation, its objectives and most importantly the young members throughout her tenure that she has helped and supported.

Abolish Fee Paying Schools

Conference believes that:

- A. Research has shown that simply attending a fee paying school enhances prospects for entry to top universities and jobs, regardless of innate ability.
- B. State schools in richer areas often have better results and more involved parents, which benefits all children regardless of their own background, showing the positive impact of people from all backgrounds being encouraged to go to the local school, but also showing the postcode lottery of education which richer families can buy their way out of
- C. People who hold the top jobs in Britain – in politics, the judiciary and the media – are five times more likely to have gone to private school than the general population
- D. The average annual fee for a non-boarding school is £16,656, with the average UK salary being £34,963
- E. Finland has few private schools, having banned the ability to profit from education, and has one of the best education systems in the world (PISA)

Conference further believes that:

- I. Every child should have equal access to a good education
- II. Equality starts with education, and all children should receive equal access to a high standard of education

Conference calls for:

- 1. The government to abolish all fee paying schools, inclusive of private and public schools, throughout England
- 2. The government to make it illegal to profit from education that is mandatory to attend (i.e all education for those under the age of 18)

The Future of University Funding

Conference recognises and regrets the historic failure of the party in its broken promises around tuition fees while in Government between 2010 and 2015, but recognises the political realities that lead to the need to raise tuition fees.

Conference further recognises:

- I. The University funding crisis, with a report by the higher education regulator, the Office for Students, forecasting that 40% of England's universities would run budget deficits this year.
- II. That this funding crisis may lead to Universities having to close or merge.
- III. That the cost of many degrees for domestic students is currently run at a loss, with Universities becoming increasingly reliant on the income from foreign students.

Conference believes:

- A. Everyone who wants to go to University should have the opportunity to do so and restrictions should not be placed on students' ability to undertake degrees in academic, social and creative subjects.
- B. The current funding structure of University fees with top up central government funding is unsustainable, with it being unfair and politically unfeasible to either raise tuition fees or increase central government funding, without a clear and costed plan for how it would be paid for.
- C. The current system of student loan both fails to adequately fund higher education while failing to be truly progressive due to the ability of those on high incomes to "pay off" their student loans while those on middle and low incomes never pay off their debt in full.
- D. Funding higher education via general taxation, without a dedicated income stream, is both unfeasible in the current fiscal climate and leads to unfair restrictions on University places like in Scotland.
- E. A full, comprehensive and progressive graduate tax is the most fair way to ensure that funding for higher education institutions is both secure and so that more funding and investment can go into Britain's world leading higher educational institutions.

Conference calls on:

1. The Government to replace the current tuition fee funding model with a dedicated progressive graduate tax on the incomes of graduates until the age of 55, to primarily fund the University course costs of domestic undergraduate students, with any additional money directed to investments in Universities, post graduate grants and research.
2. Those who move abroad to be subject to a graduate tax, with failure to pay resulting in a fixed monthly repayment on the same basis as the current student loan repayment system.
3. All existing student debt to be forgiven, with all graduates transferred over to the new progressive graduate tax.