

# #BEYOND THE ABROAD

ENDORSED BY THE **UOB** LIBERAL DEMOCRAT STUDENTS



The Conservatives, Labour, Greens, Reform, SNP, Plaid - what do they all share in common? Nationalism. We stand alone as true internationalists in the United Kingdom. Our values of freedom and equality have always been acknowledged by Liberal Democrats as universal. That's what truly ties us to our international partners, what makes us more than allies of convenience, what makes a true liberal family that stretches beyond borders. But so many of our members aren't even aware that we have global partners, even despite our party's internationalism. That's why I want to go beyond the abroad as a member of the International Committee - I want to take a step back, and check if our membership knows what we do. How many Young Liberals know what LYMEC or IFLRY is? Do they know about ALDE or the LI? The ELF or FNF?

The answer is often sadly no. And even if they do, they don't know the opportunities they provide. We've been indoctrinated in a post-Brexit world to think that the UK is cut off from the globe, when in reality for liberals, it's just as open as ever. Our friends and allies across Europe and the world are just as ready to work with us as before - we just have to reach out first. As Treasurer of our University Bristol society, I was able to apply to LYMEC and the ELF's Liberal Communicator's Network Youth Edition - and with an apparently strong application, get in and mingle and work with Communication Directors equivalent to our executive members - far above my level - and learn from veterans of European liberal politics. I only found out about this from following LYMEC's Instagram page.

I propose a radical change in the International Committee's workings. The work we do in representing the Young Liberals across the world is invaluable. However, there should be more people like me - Young Liberals who are at a lower level, interested still in representing their local party or society on the international stage. I was able to win a communications competition held at the end of the programme with a presentation on the international stature of Bristol, the city I lived in, and how even as university societies or local parties, our liberalism makes us part of an international network that conservatives or socialists just don't have. That chance to represent a slice of Britain, and a slice of liberalism beyond the national level is invaluable. That opportunity can be the coup for your local society - if you want to promote the Young Liberals in your local community, it'll be a lot easier when you can promote the opportunities provided by being part of a greater international liberal movement.

As a member of the International Committee, I would push for our International Officers to advocate for internationalism to be a core part of the federal executive's strategy for our party. I would advocate for an additional seat on the committee dedicated to internal promotion of our internationalism. I would also advocate for collaboration between our International Committee and the Branch Development officer to make promotion of our international opportunities a core part of foundation of branches and societies. I would also advocate for a semi-regular newsletter to be sent to all Young Liberals advertising the work of the International Communities and upcoming opportunities offered by our international partners. I believe this would enrich the party and interest new members who feel unrepresented by the inwards focus of our rivals.

**GO #BEYOND THE ABROAD**  
**ELECT OLIVER POYSER**  
**FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**