**Young Fabians Ideas Series - Internationalism**

**Regional Event Plan**

1. **Introduction**

Thank you for your interest in hosting a Young Fabian Ideas Series event on Internationalism. This briefing includes background information and some suggestions on how you can contribute your ideas.

1. **Background**

The Young Fabians Ideas Series research project aims to explore how a number of themes (Patriotism, Feminism, Environmentalism, Socialism/Capitalism and Internationalism) fit within our conception of a One Nation Labour Party and can contribute to our narrative in the run up to the General Election in 2015. The Ideas Series will culminate in a pamphlet, which will be launched at about Party Conference 2014.

The Young Fabians One Nation Ideas Series project on internationalism will explore how we can create a strong, coherent narrative on Britain’s place in the world that is relevant to the doorstep and look to reignite a passion for internationalism within the Labour Party.

The Internationalism project is being chaired by Jessica Toale with Vice-Chair Isaac Turner.

1. **Terms of reference**

There has always been a strong tradition of internationalism within the Labour Party. This stems, at its heart, from a belief that we achieve more together than alone and that collectivism, solidarity and the struggle for social justice have always extended beyond our borders.

There are no shortage of foreign policy and international issues affecting the UK – from the crises in Syria and Ukraine, EU reform, our military drawdown in Afghanistan, trade cooperation to deliberation of the future of global development policy at the UN - however, in these times of austerity, foreign affairs issues and Britain’s place in the world has largely taken a back seat to more pressing domestic issues.

In an increasingly complex and interdependent world, the linkages between the domestic and the international are stronger than ever. Many of the things that Britons say they care about are affected by influences beyond our borders – our economy, jobs, climate, energy bills, immigration, health etc.

We would like to address some of the following questions:

* What does internationalism mean within a One Nation Labour Party? How can it reflect the modern world, our values and our history?
* What issues define and characterise 21st century international political landscape and how does affect Britain?
* What does a distinctly Labour approach to foreign policy and internationalism look like? On which issues can we distinguish ourselves and what challenges will arise?
* How do we make internationalism relevant to voters again? How do we create greater consistency between our domestic and international agendas?

1. **Your Contribution**

We are keen to hear ideas from Young Fabians Members and people with a personal or professional interest in foreign affairs from around the country.

This project aims to be inclusive as possible and give participants an opportunity to determine the direction of the project – this could be through a formal event, written submission or informal networking event.

We have set up a Facebook Page to collate all information relating to the project. We will post event invitation, news articles, written synopses of events and initial drafts of the final pamphlet chapter. We are welcoming comment from all participants on the work we post, and we want to encourage members to post their own contributions. Please join our [Facebook page here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/YFinternationalism/).

Please also make sure to tweet and publicise the work you are doing to support this project with the hashtag #YFIdeas and @youngfabians

1. **Event Ideas**

Here is an indicative list of events you could host in your region:

* *Roundtable discussion* – Host a roundtable event with members and interested persons to discuss some of the questions outlined above and to find out what issues are most of interest to participants.
* *MP or local expert engagement / Q&A* – Engage your local MP if s/he has an interest or a background in foreign affairs or another local expert. Ask them to contribute their knowledge and experience on how they think foreign affairs issues will affect the UK and how the Labour Party should respond.
* *Written submissions* – as a group submit a discussion paper to the Facebook page on what issues you think should most be included in the final pamphlet.
* *Webchat* – Host an online debate around a set of questions with one or two expert speakers.
* *Informal Networking* – Project participants do not have to be limited to Young Fabians members. Link up with other local or student societies to broaden

**Please remember to post a synopsis and any photos of your event to our Facebook page.** All submissions will be considered in drafting the final pamphlet submission.

1. **Contact**

If you are interested in hosting an event in your area and want to know more, please do get in contact!

* Jessica Toale [jjtoale@gmail.com](mailto:jjtoale@gmail.com) 07966965959 @jjtoale
* Isaac Turner [i.j.turner@hotmail.com](mailto:i.j.turner@hotmail.com) 07539777705