

January 13, 2017

Darlene Elias  
17 Clark St.  
Holyoke, Ma 01040  
[mialmavive@gmail.com](mailto:mialmavive@gmail.com)

Dear State Com please consider this correspondence as an application on my part to represent the Massachusetts Green Rainbow Party on the International Committee of Green Party of the United States.

I am a Puerto Rican woman born in Manhattan and raised primarily in the United States. I was part of the diaspora and lived in Arroyo, Puerto Rico near the beach as a young girl. I returned to NYC with my family and a few years later we moved to Holyoke, Mass., one of the areas with the highest concentration of Puerto Rican's outside of the island.

Throughout my life I was surrounded with rich Puerto Rican cultural traditions and norms. As an adult I make sure to travel to P.R. on a regular basis to absorb my language, culture, traditions and be around my people. Right now I am planning a trip in May 2017 to the island. I am fluent in Spanish and consider myself to be bilingual and bicultural. As a young woman I grew up watching my mother as an activist fight for the rights of Latinos in Holyoke and I continue in this tradition today. I have come to the forefront on social justice issues of housing, education, police brutality, racism and discrimination, and others. Recently I have organized around the fight to free Oscar Lopez Rivera and educate the public on the humanitarian and fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico. I also recently co founded the group Western Mass Boricuas for Liberation of Puerto Rico. We are a group that travels regionally and works to educate the public about the crisis in PR with presentations, and performances, that also include protest and rallies.

I would like to attend the annual FPVA conference in Mexico and present a workshop or lecture on the humanitarian and fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico. We need to educate the international public on this issue and garner as much support as we can. I am of the mindset that Puerto Rico has the right to self determine and the colonization of the island has and will contribute to its downfall. The diaspora and the international community needs to work together to do as much as we can to guard against the vulture funds of Wall St. and American capitalist in the best interest of Puerto Rico and Latin countries globally. With the FPVA I envision myself being part of a strong and influential coalition that rallies and garners support for Latinos and its allies around the world to fight imperialism and the injustices that result. Siempre en la Lucha mis amigos!

I am a register Green and a member of the GRP. I have worked as an activist in my community of Holyoke with the support of the GRP since 2011. The GRP has been very supportive with my endeavors and have uplifted my community and mentored me in many ways. Lastly, as a National Steering Committee Co Chair and the Massachusetts Co Chair of the Green Party, I hope to represent our party with pride and do our country justice. There have not been many Green Latinas rising to the occasion. Solidarity on a national and international level is a must amongst us Latinos and our allies in the struggle.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Elias

