

Tim Robinson

for International Committee

Who am I?

I am a final year UCL student, originally from Wimbledon in SW London. I'm studying a liberal arts degree with a heavy focus on international relations, and I've just returned from a year of study in South Korea. I joined the party in 2015 and I don't see myself anywhere else in the future.

In 2016, I coordinated UCL's Stronger in Europe campaign, running voter registration drives, leafleting, helping with social media, and mobilising other pro-EU students. I've also campaigned in two GE campaigns and the by-election in Richmond Park where I was born.

My mother's family are from Former Yugoslavia so ethnic and sectarian conflict has always been a particular interest of mine. Other areas of interest include international collective security, and LGBT rights in East Asia.



Where do I stand?

Internationalism

The Liberal Democrats are the party of internationalism. I believe that we must see our commitment to European integration as part of a broader project of global integration. Our belief in open borders, free trade, human rights and intergovernmental cooperation must not end where Europe does. European integration will have achieved nothing if our individual nationalisms are merely supplanted by a form of pan-European nationalism. I will ensure that internationalism is the basis for our European policy.

European Integration

I will always support Britain's membership of the EU, but I am concerned that the party has not put enough planning into contingencies in case Brexit goes ahead as planned by the government. What will our platform be after 29th March 2019? We cannot leave these questions until the last moment. I believe that we must have a conversation within YL about what our next move should be.

Beyond Western Europe

I believe that we need to make greater efforts to interact with and assist liberal movements beyond our comfort zone in Western Europe. Liberalism flourishes in Western Europe, and arguably, our efforts in Europe should focus heavily on regions in which liberalism is a young, promising movement, including Eastern Europe and East Asia. I will make efforts to foster links with liberal parties outside of ALDE.

ALDE

Our membership of ALDE is a crucial tool in allowing us to reach out across borders and cooperate with like-minded young liberals across Europe. However, although ALDE is and ought to be a broad church of liberal parties, there are members of ALDE that have demonstrably repudiated basic liberal values. It should not be beyond the pale for us to question whether certain parties still belong in ALDE.

Pragmatic Diplomacy

We should be proud of Britain's history of public diplomacy, which, over the 20th century, has largely been based on cross-party consensus. However, I am concerned that the increasingly ideological nature of both the Conservatives' and Labour's foreign policies threatens to undermine Britain's history of pragmatic diplomacy. Young Liberals must champion that pragmatic diplomacy.