

ROSE BUXTON FOR SLF

Liberalism has an image crisis. We cannot ignore the fact that we have work to do to regain public trust and respect. In the UK, the mistakes of the coalition are still one of people's first impressions, while globally, liberals have taken a backseat in favour of reactionary right-wing populism.

The work of SLF has been amazing in advocating radical centre-left ideas and policy. The fight for fairness, social justice, the welfare state, the NHS, freedom from both poverty and conformity, and an open, empathetic, welcoming country has never been more important.

However, if we are to win it, we need outreach, and we need engagement.

ME

My name is Rose and I'm running because I want to see more young voices, and more female voices, in our policy discussions. I joined the Lib Dems for the same reason that many others do: reading through their ideas and wondering why it was going unnoticed how good they were. Since then, I have been an active campaigner in my hometown, canvassed through sleet and storms, taken over running comms and social media for my university Lib Dem society, spent six months as part of a Lib Dem MP's staff answering constituents' questions about our beliefs and policies, and nearly been trampled by a former MP at a Stop Brexit march.

I believe that progressive, evidence-based, compassionate liberalism is the only way out of our current political mess. I can bring fresh perspective and ideas to this this fight, and I want to use my skills to help.

MY PRIORITIES

- Centre young voices. Young people are facing a more and more uncertain future, while being overlooked by the political conversation. I want to see more focus placed on the issues that we are facing- a crisis in affordable housing, an uncertain job market, the threat of climate change, mental health support, and I want to work with universities, societies, and young members to achieve this.
- Increased engagement with members. We need to make it easier for the membership and supporters to have their say, and for new members to get involved. To do this, we need groups and forums for discussion and engagement- the Facebook group format has been effective for other organisations and party offshoots.
- Active, efficient use of social media. I want our voice to be front and centre, and for us to be responsive to current events. To do this, we need to utilise social media to its fullest effect, to produce engaging content and ensure that we come to be relied upon as a source of informative and credible comment.