

YF Exec Meeting

Wed 9 December, 7pm (Zoom Meeting ID: 856 3266 9083; Passcode: 895770;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85632669083?pwd=L3owQy8zRG1iNmcrbWN4RXpUW0s5dz09>)

Present: Morenike Adeleke, Leon Alleyne-McLaughlin, Milo Barnett, Laura Cunliffe-Hall, Cecilia Eve, Amber Khan, Owen Michael, Jack Parker, James Potts, Emma Stevenson, Mark Whittaker, Hollie Wickens, Andy Harrop, Tina Bhartwas, Henry Mendoza, Victoria Parrett, Amarvir Singh-Bal, Mark Storm, Josh Tipple, Jonny Winbow, Chris Wongsosaputro

1. Introductions & Apologies

Mark W welcomed everyone to the last exec meeting of 2020, hoping 2021 would be a better year.

Apologies from Tobi Dada.

2. Co-option of Socials Officer: Outcome

Mark W reminded everyone of the exec elections tie that meant the exec needed to co-opt a non-cis man, and explained that the exec had decided to co-opt a Socials Officer. After a blind review of applications, Victoria Parrett was the successful candidate.

3. Introduction of new Exec with Andy Harrop, followed by Q&A

General Secretary of the Fabian Society Andy Harrop joined the meeting to meet the 20/21 exec. He introduced himself to the rest of the meeting and spoke of how successful a year the Young Fabians had just had, becoming more significant and expanding more than ever before. He explained that the Society's staff team are available to help YF and reiterated their support for Antics and our publications.

Going on to the Fabian Society's New Year Conference, Andy said that this year they want to give YF more slots than in previous years, especially on the second day. This year's conference aims to be more member-led to get delegates interacting with each other, and the Society wants YF to be part of that.

He spoke about some upcoming publications from the Fabian Society, and wanted to have a discussion about YF and the Fabian Society working more closely together.

Cecilia asked for some further details about the New Year Conference and how YF would be able to hold events, and Andy recommended Mark W get in touch with Katie Curtis from the staff team to coordinate.

Andy Harrop left the meeting.

4. Vice Chair's Update

Cecilia needed to leave the meeting early, so the Vice Chair's update was moved forward.

Cecilia said she and Nicki had been compiling the pitches they'd received for their pamphlet on the pandemic's impact on women; some contributors have already started writing their pieces.

She has been emailing Honorary President Howard Dawber about a US election event, which she wants to be led by the Fabian Society International Policy Group and the YF International Network.

Her debate the previous night with the Chair of the Bow Group went well. Mark W congratulated Cecilia and Amber on their work for the British and South Asian Youth Summit's Discussion on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, and Cecilia said she was writing up an article on the event for the press.

Cecilia Eve left the meeting.

5. Network and Advocacy Group Officers' Updates

Jack said that all Network and Advocacy Groups now have set dates for their AGMs, with details and Zoom registration links on the website and Facebook.

The LGBTQIA+ Group had their AGM yesterday, which was well attended and elected a large exec. AGMs will be ongoing until the end of January. Mark W asked everyone present to encourage people they knew to stand for positions within Networks and Advocacy Groups, especially people from under-represented groups.

Jack reminded everyone that candidates can either self-nominate on the day or, preferably, email him in advance - nobody had done this yet.

Mark S gave the Technology Network's update. He has been speaking to a few people about exec positions and hopes to have an exec focused on differing policy areas rather than admin. He has been having discussions with Fabian Society members about setting up a Technology Policy Group, as a policy area not given as much attention on the left, and wanted advice from YF members on how other networks have worked with Fabian Policy Groups.

Henry explained that both BAME Group co-chairs have seen work commitments increase recently so he didn't have much to report. He said the group had had a successful year and hoped that work would continue with the new exec.

Amarvir from the Economy and Finance Network updated the exec on their recent publications: their November monthly macroeconomic update and a blog piece by Matthew Oulton critiquing Sunak's Eat Out to Help Out scheme. The Network was part of two events: Arts and Culture Network's Culture Shock event, which was led by Victoria and the Economy and Finance Vice, Ollie Charlton, and included Shadow Secretary for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Jo Stevens, and the Scottish Young Fabians' 'Can Scotland Afford Independence?' discussion. Amarvir was joined by Albie, Chris Wongsosoputro, Jackie Baillie and Kevin Richards, with audience

members including Ian Murray MP and other senior Scottish Labour members. This event was also uploaded as a podcast that has done extremely well.

In the pipeline, the network has a 'Have Labour Left Behind the Heartlands' event coming up with MPs from the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the West Midlands to speak. Chris Wongsosaputro has submitted an initial draft for a housing pamphlet, '*Getting to Net Zero Housing Stock and helping Young People to reduce carbon emission*', and network chair Marion has led a conversation with the Senior Section of the Economy and Finance Network regarding a mentoring program that may come into fruition.

Victoria spoke about how well the Culture Shock event had gone, and thanked Ollie and Amarvir for their help with it. She hoped to see some new people join the network next year and asked for people to speak to their friends about standing.

Jonny from the LGBTQIA+ Group said their event on LGBT Councillors had gone really well, and was very happy with the speakers they'd had.

6. National and Regional Officers' Updates

Owen said he would start preparing for the National and Regional Groups to have their AGMs soon, which should take place in February.

Tina spoke about the East of England's event to take place tomorrow, and another on women's experiences in local government upcoming. The East of England especially want to foster links with the Co-operative Party in the coming year, as Tina is also Eastern Region Rep on the Co-operative Party's National Youth Committee and believes they have similar interests to the Fabians.

Josh from the West of England said they now had a gender-balanced working group of 4. They're planning an event in January with the Labour candidate for the Mayoral election, and want to send out a survey to members on what they want from the group.

Mark W mentioned the West Midlands' upcoming event with Liam Byrne MP, and James said he'd share both events with the Devolution and Local Government Network's members.

7. Re-adoption of Code of Conduct

Mark W explained that according to our constitution, existing policies must be reviewed annually. There were no suggested changes to the Code of Conduct and it was unanimously re-adopted.

8. Re-adoption of other [policies](#):

a. Safe Space

No changes were suggested and the policy was unanimously approved.

b. Safeguarding

Leon proposed a few changes with the aim of making the policy easier to understand. He proposed changing some terms and introducing time scales for when allegations are raised. He also

proposed two new sections regarding special measures for YF members under investigation.

Victoria noted that as Socials Officer she would especially need to be aware of the Safeguarding Policy and its duties, and asked about enforcement and training.

Mark W said that the newly elected exec members had had training on the previous iteration of the policy, and this would happen again for new Network and Group officers, which Victoria could also attend.

Leon emphasised that the *obligations* within the policy were for YF officers rather than all members, and he hopes to find an external trainer to give all officers more rigorous training.

All exec members voted in favour of the Safeguarding Policy with Leon's proposed changes.

Chris Wongsaputro left the meeting.

c. Platforming

No changes were suggested and the policy was unanimously approved.

d. Ethical Sponsorship

No changes were suggested and the policy was unanimously approved.

9. Update on Young European Socialists membership status

Hollie has spoken to Carmelo from YES's Control Commission - YF's application is currently being considered. One issue may be that YF is not a member of PES, but this is apparently not an automatic exclusion. YES must also seek the views of other UK member organisations, which is SDLP Youth, Young Labour and Labour Students. It is not anticipated that SDLP Youth will object to YF becoming full members, and Young Labour do not currently engage with YES - while Labour Students no longer exists. Hollie explained that it is likely to be a lengthy process and YES move quite slowly, and it is a matter of YF waiting for the next steps.

Cecilia Eve rejoined the meeting.

10. Decision: YF representation on:

Mark W stated that he wants to share out the ex-officio roles given to YF.

a. Young European Socialists Bureau observer (proposed: Vice Chair)

It was unanimously agreed that Cecilia as Vice Chair should be the YES Bureau observer.

b. Fabian Society Programme & Impact Subcommittee (proposed: Comms Officer)

It was proposed that Laura Cunliffe-Hall attend on behalf of YF, which was unanimously approved. Other exec members can also attend if Laura is happy for them to.

c. Fabian Society Finance & General Purposes Subcommittee (proposed: Treasurer)

YF's Treasurer has also been our representative on this committee in the past, and it was unanimously agreed that James should attend these meetings.

James mentioned that we had underspent our allowance from the Fabian Society last year, and hopes to renegotiate that this year.

- d. Fabian Society Race Equality Task Force, 2x reps (proposed: BAME Advocacy Group Chair after AGM 10 Dec, and one of Antics Editor, Member Development & Engagement Officer or Safeguarding Officer)

YF is allowed to send two representatives, and Mark W suggested the BAME Advocacy Group Chair and a BAME member of the exec should attend.

Leon mentioned that he had already been attending the task force as a member of last year's YF exec and was happy to continue doing so.

It was unanimously agreed that Leon and the newly elected BAME Advocacy Group Chair would be YF's two representatives.

- 11. Discussion: Setting up a YF Programme & Impact Forum, for deeper discussions on our publications and briefings for policymakers, as well as our comms reach

Mark W suggested that YF create a Programme & Impact Forum, as the Fabian Society has one, to discuss pamphlet updates in more detail outside exec meetings.

Cecilia asked whether the intention of these meetings would be to give updates on pamphlet progress or more discussions about launch, publishing and influence.

Mark W said it would be good to talk about both, especially as in the past there hasn't been as much long-term planning as there could have been. Mark W said he'd put a date in the diary for the first YF Programme & Impact Forum and send out an invitation soon.

- 12. Discussion: [Calendar](#) for the next three months:

Emma spoke about the upcoming Disability Group blog takeover: a few pieces were confirmed, with a few more likely to come in. She suggested we maybe need to have a bigger think about a strategy for blog takeovers, perhaps starting outreach work sooner.

- a. Fabian Society New Year Conference (online)

Mark W said he would chase Fabian staff for more coordination, and mentioned that it was difficult working remotely and not being able to doorstep staff.

- b. Potential hosting of Young European Socialists Forum (March 2021, online)

Cecilia said it was not looking good, and the Forum may not be taking place at all.

Jonny Winbow left the meeting.

- 13. Chair's Update

Mark W spoke about some projects he is getting underway, such as Friends of the Young Fabians. He spoke about the YF Academy, which Tobi will lead on, and asked for ideas from the exec about what the Academy could teach.

He also said Kate Green MP and Seema Malhotra are keen on the Recovery for Young People theme.

He created a new page on the website for the Honorary Presidents and has been doing some outreach work. He spoke about the event on the US elections he had organised and would be hosting next week.

14. Secretary's Update

Hollie spoke about how her main focus has been supporting other exec members in their work, and the YF History Project which she will discuss in more detail later.

15. Treasurer's Update

James hopes to have access to the bank account soon but that has limited what he has been able to do so far.

Regarding Friends of the Young Fabians (FoYF), he met with Chair, Outreach and Comms Officers discussing this. James will draft a plan to relaunch FoYF for January's Exec meeting but aim to simplify the current structure and push to more members and alumni.

He is looking into a potential online raffle to raise funds virtually and will look at in person events like pub quizzes when allowed.

New logos have been made for the new advocacy groups and regional groups.

James has also been in contact with the LGA Labour Group about some possible funding for pamphlets.

16. Antics Update

Amber said she'd spoken to Tobi recently about potentially doing trailers for the magazine, and looking into more ways outside the written medium that people could contribute.

17. Women's Officer Update

Nicki said she hadn't had as much capacity as she'd have liked in the past month, but that has now improved. She said she is hoping to attend as many AGMs as possible to build relationships with Networks and Groups and learn how best she can help them improve their representation.

She attended the festive Fabian Women's Network AGM, and said Sara Hyde from FWN had been initially enthusiastic about the Gendered Impact of the Pandemic pamphlet.

Nicki said she is now starting to plan for International Women's Day.

18. Other Officers' Updates

Milo said he had been mostly supporting other exec members, as most of his plans for the year ahead involve in-person events. He also said he's exploring the possibility of merchandise.

Leon has been looking into creating a more formal reporting mechanism for safeguarding concerns. Cecilia asked how this would work, and Leon

suggested a separate safeguarding inbox to be monitored by the exec officers outlined in the safeguarding policy. Laura has been very busy with social media, especially now that we have access to the Instagram account again. She has been helping publicise events, and said we needed to make sure we were maximising everything we put out. Her next aim is to jazz up the weekly newsletter a bit.

Emma had already given an update on the blog work earlier in the meeting, and spoke about some further upcoming blog takeovers. She planned to chat to Owen about some more regional groups doing takeovers, and spoke about plans to do some pieces around Covid Heroes. Owen had attended a meeting with Young Labour's Socialist Societies representative, and was looking into whether Young Labour regional groups could work with YF Regional and National groups.

19. Pamphlet Updates

- a. The Gendered Impact of the Pandemic: Rebuilding the World for Womxn - Vice Chair & Women's Officer
Cecilia gave a full update earlier in the meeting
- b. 60th History Project - Secretary
Hollie gave a brief update, and said she had held a meeting with members who had pitched pieces. She asked the exec for people willing to interview former alumni for short pieces for the pamphlet
- c. Metro Mayors - Devolution and Local Government Network
James said the report was now finished, with a foreword from Kate Hollern MP and he is hoping to also get one from Liam Byrne MP. The pamphlet is now going through the sign-off process.
- d. Holyrood Elections - Young Scottish Fabians
Albie was not present to give an update.
- e. Alternative Healthcare Manifesto - Health Network
Milo had updated the footnotes and said they needed to look at the framework for the pamphlet, considering much of it had been planned pre-Covid.
- f. Labour in the Culture War - Arts & Culture
Victoria said they were still trying to work through, aiming for a January or February release. The sector has been greatly impacted by Covid, so the pamphlet needs some restructuring to be relevant. They have a lot of content, they just need to try and make it more cohesive.
Hollie offered to contact Jo Stevens MP's office to see if she could write a foreword for the pamphlet.
Nicki offered to get in touch with FWN about getting more female contributors, which Victoria had said they needed more of.
- g. Access to Politics
Mark W said he had asked Adam Allnutt to get in touch with Becky Montacute, to see if she would still be able to pull something

together, or whether we should try and repurpose the articles that have already been written and submitted.

h. Housing - Networks Coordinator

Jack said the authors were working to a deadline of early January to submit drafts.

20.AOB

Hollie asked if exec members could regularly check their YF emails, as the main channel of communication.

Mark W wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Cecilia said the FWN AGM had used breakout rooms really well, and wondered if it was something we could try.