



# British Youth Council

## Candidate Statements and Honorary President nominations

CD12 - Council Document 12

Please keep this document safe, you will need it to participate in the British Youth Council's Annual Council Meeting 2020. If you need this document in another format contact [\*\*events@byc.org.uk\*\*](mailto:events@byc.org.uk).

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Please note that candidates are listed in alphabetical order by surname.

## 1. Election Process

In British Youth Council elections we use Single Transferable Vote (STV). This year we will be using ElectionBuddy for our policy votes and for our election process. Each voting delegate will put numbers next to candidates, with their favourite candidate as number one, their second favourite as number two, and so on. Voters can put numbers next to as many or as few candidates as they like. To get elected, candidates need to reach a set share of the vote, known as the quota, determined by the number of positions to be filled and the number of eligible votes.

Each voter gets just one vote, but the numbering provides instructions for the counters to allow the vote to transfer. Once all the votes are counted, any candidates who have more than the quota are elected. In order to properly represent the view of the electorate, rather than waste votes over the quota, these votes are re-distributed based on the voter's instructions. If no candidate gets elected then the worst performing candidate is eliminated and their votes redistributed. This process continues until all seats are filled.

Along with the candidates, in each election there will be an option to select 'Re Open Nominations (RON)'. 'RON' is a democratic mechanism to allow voters to choose not to elect any of the candidates in the election. If RON wins the election, then nominations will re-open and this will give more people the chance to stand for the position.

You should vote RON if you feel that none of the candidates are up to the job. However if you think that only one candidate is worth your vote, then you may choose to vote RON as your second choice. If there are two candidates that are worth your vote then you may choose to vote RON for the third choice, and so on. You do not have to vote for RON at all if you don't want to.

At the Annual Council meeting we will be electing:

- One Chair
- Two trustees (top two candidates)
- One UK Young Ambassador for the European Youth Forum
- One UK Young Ambassador for the Commonwealth Youth Council

## 2. Trustee and Chair Elections

Duties of the Trustee Board are defined by [Memorandum and Articles of Association, and by the Rule Book of the British Youth Council](#). The Board is responsible for strategic planning, accountability and measurement of performance of the British Youth Council as a whole. This requires Board members to collectively have a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience.

These areas include:

- Governance;
- Financial knowledge and expertise;
- Fundraising and income generation;
- Developing external partnerships;
- Strategic planning and leadership;
- Advocacy;
- Marketing and brand promotion;
- Knowledge of youth participation;
- Human resource management.

The British Youth Council is particularly seeking a diverse range of Board members (in terms of experience, skills and background) to continue delivering good governance and take forward our strategy.

It is important that candidates are able to adopt a UK-wide perspective on issues that will be addressed by the Board, and the ability to step beyond any member organisation that they may have come from. It is also important that Board members do not hold significant posts in Member Organisations or British Youth Council programmes, once appointed, both to ensure that there is no conflict of interest, and also to ensure that they are able to devote the time required to their role.

Nominations for the roles of Chair and Trustee were reviewed by a sub-group of the Board of Trustees, and the long-listed candidates were invited to interview. The short list that is being presented to the Annual Council Meeting consists of those candidates who met the minimum requirements, and the sub-group is happy to recommend that any of these candidates become members of the Board.

At the Annual Council Meeting, two new trustees and one Chair will be elected by delegates of full member organisations. Trustees will serve for a term of three years and the Chair will serve for a term of two years.

### 3. Role of a Trustee

The Board of Trustees are legally responsible for the charity – this is a significant responsibility and one that should not be taken lightly. They have responsibility for ensuring it is well run, is financially secure, and doing the work it is meant to be doing. All those elected to the Board will serve as Trustees, and so will share the Board's responsibilities.

General duties of a Board (Charity Commission):

- Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit;
- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law;
- Act in the charity's best interests;
- Ensure the charity is accountable;
- Manage the charity's resources responsibly;
- Act with reasonable care and skill.

As well as the legal duties and those detailed in the Charity Commission guidance, the British Youth Council defines the responsibilities of the Board in its rule book and these can be summarised as:

- to set the vision, values and objectives of the organisation;
- to develop the strategic direction of the organisation, sometimes using subcommittees to do this work;
- to act on behalf of the British Youth Council as a decision making body on some policy matters as set in Council Meetings;
- to appoint from its members and from member organisations, representatives as necessary;
- to represent the Council to other bodies, and allocate representation opportunities to the most appropriate committees;
- to be responsible for all financial and legal aspects of the organisation, including buildings, property and assets of the British Youth Council;
- to promote the British Youth Council to external organisations, and review and develop partnerships;
- to be responsible for the appraisal of their own work;

Trustees act collectively as part of the Board of Trustees. Together, the Board is responsible for all of the points above.

In addition to the role outlined above, the Chair has the following responsibilities:

- to chair meetings of the Board of Trustees and to lead their work;
- to act as the line manager of the Chief Executive;
- to seek external advice for the Board where necessary;
- to lead the review of the Board's performance;
- to lead the Board in its accountability to members and stakeholders for the performance of the charity.

A full role description can be found in the Rule Book.

## 4. Candidates for Chair

### Candidate 1: Joshua Garfield

Young people are heading for our most challenging moment in living memory. After a decade of struggle, we risk paying the biggest prices for the UK's darkest hour.

Making study choices with delayed results. Worrying for the health of our most vulnerable loved ones. Graduating into an economy with fewer opportunities than ever before.

And being asked to pay the price for the government's economic recovery programme. Young people will be left at the back of the queue if we do not channel our collective

energy into demanding a better future through the British Youth Council's member organisations.



I have avidly admired BYC throughout my career; the collective voice it gives young people is an invaluable resource that we must ensure puts our member organisations at decision-making tables across the UK. Having been a youth worker for six years in the charity and public sectors, I have an intimate understanding of how vulnerable young people can feel unheard by their representative bodies – something I will prioritise changing as chair. With experience as a trustee on the board of my local theatre and its finance committee, a governor at my local school, an elected local councillor, and vice-chair of Newham's £1.5 billion pension scheme, I can confidently bring expertise in governance and policy to herald BYC through a challenging time for the charity sector worldwide.

I am passionate about ensuring young people are well heard, represented, and served by BYC through the next chapter of its governance. As chair, I will ensure our representative member organisations throughout the nations and regions are at the decision-making tables that affect their lives. If elected chair, I will use my political knowledge and skills to guarantee BYC's future through its fundamental role to the success of young people across the UK

<b>Skills assessment (Joshua Garfield)</b>		
Governance	Knowledge	As an councillor, I've extensive knowledge of political administration. With first-hand experience of good governance in the charity sector, I know what's necessary for an organisation to meet its goals.
Strategy/ Planning	Awareness	I've worked in roles that require detailed planning to achieve strategic aims. Strategy building must be comprehensive and involve everybody, rather than being 'top-down.'
Leadership	Understanding	I understand how an organisation's ethos, shaped by its governance, changes team dynamics. I rely on a pacesetting and consensus-building leadership style, focussing on the importance of openness and inclusion.
Communications	Expertise	Communication is a crucial tool in agenda-setting. I've drafted press releases, ran communications for election campaigns, and appeared in print, radio and television promoting the organisations I've worked with.
Finance	Expertise	As Vice-Chair of Newham Pensions, I oversee the financial management of our £1.5 billion fund. On the finance committee of TRSE, I agree budgets for productions and monitor revenue.
Fundraising	Understanding	At TRSE, we are always fundraising for artistic projects. I have successfully fundraised for political campaigns and recognise the charity sector's need to diversify income streams in the current climate.
Digital	Knowledge	Digital media is no longer complimentary to traditional communications. It is a key player in any organisation's output, particularly one that serves young people. I'll make sure ours is top-notch.
Youth organisations	Expertise	I've been a youth worker for six years, once running an independent LGBTQ+ youth group. I've taught health education, including mental health and RSE, in the public and charity sector.
People (Recruitment, Retention, Diversity)	Understanding	I've sat on Newham recruitment panels and ensured the council adhered to equal opportunities. Appreciating the value of stakeholders and recruiting well is fundamental.
Policy	Knowledge	I have worked on the formation of policy, from the climate emergency to combatting racism in political institutions, as a councillor in Newham, and will bring this knowledge to BYC.

## Candidate 2: Osaro Otobo

My name is Osaro, I'm from East London, and I completed two degrees at the University of Hull. As a first-generation Black British woman growing up in a non-political household, I discovered later on the importance of equipping young people to make social and political change. I want to be your new Chair because I am determined to make sure young people know their value and can shape their own futures.



In a global pandemic and post-Brexit world, young people are concerned more than ever about a range of important issues including the climate crisis, education, mental health and unemployment. We must be heard. My priorities are:

1. Lobbying the UK government to create a plan to support young people through the pandemic and its long-term consequences.
2. Improving membership communication, engagement, retention and recruitment.
3. Ensuring BYC is financially sustainable through this pandemic and beyond.

I am proud to have been a leader of membership organisations at local, national and international level, through education and sport. I was elected Youth Sports Trust Young Ambassador of the London Borough of Redbridge. I was elected for 3 successive years as a trustee and then two-term President of Hull University Students' Union, where I was the first female Black President. I was a member of the England Women's basketball team and involved with our national and international governing bodies.

Over the last year, I created the #makediversitycount campaign to amend the Equality Act to make it a legal requirement for organisations to have a robust anti-discrimination policy, which gained national media coverage.

I believe the unique combination of my experiences and my passion will help BYC continue to become more relevant and inclusive. I would be honoured to be Chair for a charity that champions the voices of young people.



<b>Skills assessment (Osaro Otobo)</b>		
Governance	<b>Expertise</b>	As Trustee & President of Hull University Students' Union (HUSU) I was responsible for leading on governance (e.g. doing a governance review) for a £5m charity, that represents 15,000 students.
Strategy/ Planning	<b>Expertise</b>	As trustee of multiple boards, including HUSU, University of Hull and Ferens Education Trust, I've continuously developed my strategic/planning skills e.g. I created and implemented HUSU vision and strategy.
Leadership	<b>Expertise</b>	I have been elected into many leadership positions. As President I led a campaign on reforming our democratic governance and scrutiny after approximately 80 years of status quo.
Communications	<b>Knowledge</b>	As a Spotify student brand manager I led on delivering communications for a national campaign that reached 100's of thousands of students in universities across the country.
Finance	<b>Expertise</b>	As a trustee I was responsible for finances. At HUSU I made difficult decisions to ensure survival of the charity, including reforming services to make them more efficient.
Fundraising	<b>Knowledge</b>	I helped create a bespoke crowdfunding platform at the University of Hull in order to support the fundraising activity of 150+ student clubs and societies.
Digital	<b>Knowledge</b>	I created and ran the #makediversitycount social media campaign. All the digital content, coverage, communication and engagement is generated and coordinated by me.
Youth organisations	<b>Knowledge</b>	As Youth Sports Trust Young Ambassador, I was the youth voice for sport locally and worked with the membership to get more young people into healthy active living.
People (Recruitment, Retention, Diversity)	<b>Expertise</b>	I work as a consultant specialising in organisational diversity & inclusion in the higher education sector. Areas of work include inclusive recruitment, retention and development of staff and membership.
Policy	<b>Knowledge</b>	As a For our Future's Sake (FFS) activist, I worked with a group of young people locally and nationally to lobby the government to change policy on Brexit.

**Candidate 2: Sarah Staples**

We know this is a difficult time for young people and for the charity sector. The chair and trustees will need to navigate us through an ever-changing landscape, and my experience on our board and the wider sector will allow me to step up and lead.

It is not just enough to remain steady: we must be ambitious. We must ensure that as we grow we can be visionary in creating a world where young people are empowered to create real social and political change. As chair, I'll make sure your voices are heard during this crisis and beyond as we adapt to the "new normal".

A key focus for your next chair will be our charity's strategy. Having been involved with creating the last strategy and now in reviewing it, I will draw on my experience and work with our members to ensure that it reflects the diversity of our organisation.

I care deeply about BYC and the opportunities that we provide for young people. When I joined, I was at a difficult and troubled stage of my life. I felt angry about injustices both in my life and in my town - and I made real change for young people there. The BYC didn't just give me my voice, it helped me to learn that I already had one.

I could act like mine is an exceptional story, but it's not. Having attended events as a trustee over the past four years, I have seen young people go from not speaking in a small group at convention to moving a motion at ACM, this is the BYC impact. Our charity changed my life, and the lives of so many others. It is an honour to be put before you, the members, to ask for your support to lead it



<b>Skills assessment (Sarah Staples)</b>		
Governance	<b>Expertise</b>	As a board member for four years, including during the last governance review, I have worked to be accountable to members at Annual Council Meetings and events.
Strategy/ Planning	<b>Expertise</b>	Involved in the formation of the current BYC strategy. Currently part of reviewing the strategy for the next two years with staff, senior management and trustees.
Leadership	<b>Knowledge</b>	Chaired a student society, current chair of the Lewisham Co-operative Party Branch. As a leader, I work to bring people together and get the most out of every team member.
Communications	<b>Expertise</b>	Write briefings, letters and newsletters for a Shadow Minister. Help to manage social media accounts including creating video content. During the 2019 Election I wrote campaign materials like leaflets.
Finance	<b>Knowledge</b>	Have been an election agent, legally responsible for the finances of a local election campaign. Managing society committee budgets. Four years on the BYC board reviewing budgets and accounts.
Fundraising	<b>Knowledge</b>	Internship at a political fundraising organisation. Involved on the BYC board in making strategic decisions around fundraising and sustainability.
Digital	<b>Expertise</b>	Creating engaging digital content for a shadow minister and during an election campaign. Ensuring that content is accessible for all by using captions and alternative text.
Youth organisations	<b>Expertise</b>	Been involved in BYC since 2013 and elected by members to the board twice since 2016. Engaged with members at Youth Voice conventions, Equality4Us,ACMs and National Member's Meetings.
People (Recruitment, Retention, Diversity)	<b>Knowledge</b>	Current member of the Board's People Committee. Attend two BYC Equality4Us events. Currently work for the Shadow Minister for Disabled People. Was the Women and Non Binary Officer at University.
Policy	<b>Expertise</b>	Degree in politics and three years working for MPs, including Shadow Ministers, scrutinising government legislation including civil society policy. Working on a review of BYC's manifesto and policy processes.

## 6. Candidates for Trustee

### Candidate 1: James Da Costa

I am a strong believer in diversity, digital enablement and the power of young people to affect change through their voices. My background as a British-Indian with roots in Kenya, growing up in Sheffield and studying in the Midlands will complement the diverse profile of the BYC board. As a beneficiary of youth programmes in Sheffield, including the European Youth Parliament and Sheffield BIG Enterprise Challenge, I am passionate about creating these kinds of opportunities for others across all regions of the UK, and especially for minority communities.



As a trustee, I would bring experience as a management consultant, social entrepreneur and community organizer to the role. Having built a number of education mobile applications, I bring skills in digital, design thinking and content development to the board. For this work I have been recognized as a Diana Award winner and Forbes 30Under30. Becoming a trustee is a natural development opportunity in my own leadership journey, it's a chance for me to provide strategic guidance and apply knowledge from multiple operational roles.

Leading the UK's delegation to the Youth G7 in 2019 gave me an appreciation of key topics on the minds of young people across the UK and a working relationship with many youth organizations. In 2019, from hundreds of interviews with young people, these topics centred around mental health and environmental equity. In 2020, issues surrounding COVID-19 and the economy have been added to the list.

I would bring my full enthusiasm and experience to the role, as well as, new innovative ideas around corporate fundraising, training programmes, and the digital presence of BYC. I am truly committed to the mission and vision of the BYC.

### Skills Assessment

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	I gained a strong understanding of governance, internally and externally, as SU Mental Health Officer. I was Vice-President of the Economics Society, Warwick's second largest society with over 1000 members.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Expertise</b>	As the Co-Founder of Mandala Group, a 4 year old social enterprise, which has launched 4 mobile applications, I set the strategic direction of the social enterprise, including quarterly planning.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	I have run digital marketing campaigns and publish my own thought leadership, receiving over 50,000+ views, as a contributor to Forbes. I have given talks including at One Young World.
<b>Finance Expertise</b>	I distributed a £200,000 budget to run start-up competitions, including budget forecasting and tracking. As a management consultant I have a skillset in financial analysis and an understanding of accounting.
<b>Fundraising Expertise</b>	As part of One Young World, I fundraised for the opening ceremony in London. This included tailoring sponsorship packages, reaching out to corporates across the UK and pitching the event.
<b>Digital Expertise</b>	I won the Facebook Social Entrepreneurship Award and received digital mentoring from and Facebook credits to use on marketing campaigns. I have a strong understanding of digital mediums and strategies
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	Involved in youth organisations including World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community, One Young World and Founders of the Future. I engaged 15+ youth organisations in consultations for the Youth G7.
<b>People Knowledge</b>	As a Co-Founder of a social enterprise, I have recruited 3 employees and over 30 volunteers. I understand the importance of building diverse teams, understanding motivations and retaining talent.
<b>Policy Understanding</b>	As part of the Youth G7, I negotiated with other member countries of the G7 to develop policy recommendations on behalf of youth to take to G7 leaders.

**Candidate 2: Natalie Hobkirk**

Hello! I'm Natalie, and I have recently finished two terms as the President at St Mary's University Students' Union where I was the first female President in 9 years. During my time as President my burning passion for social justice, mobility and change, as well as the issues that face our generation has continued to grow. Whilst I was President I coordinated and led a range of campaigns such as; Black History Month Campaign and Exhibition, Ending Period Poverty, Mental Health and Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence on campus. I also hosted and compered a Hustings Event for the 2019 Government Election within the borough of Richmond. This event was for the young people and students of the borough.

Despite the pandemic and the multitude of other issues that our generation faces right now, I want to be a part of the strategic direction of BYC ensuring that the organisation is sustainable and adaptable to the continuing change we face. I applied for this role because I have seen first-hand the power of the voices of young people, and how important it is for us to be included in discussions and decisions that affect our future.

Through my experience in student politics and campaigning, I believe I can strengthen the Board and be a great fit for the role as BYC Trustee. I have a wealth of experience representing the views of young people on a local and national level, whilst keeping in mind the strategic aims of the organisation. I am extremely dedicated and self-driven and I enjoy being in a position of leadership and responsibility.

The work of BYC and its values and aims greatly align with my own, and therefore I can ensure that I will be committed to this role and the work of BYC.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Expertise</b>	As President I was a Trustee, Chair of the Board and member of the University's Board of Governors. I had oversight of the governance of the Union and University.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Expertise</b>	I led a democratic and governance review, as well as Strategy planning for the next 4 years within my role as President, so I have extensive experience in this area.
<b>Communications Knowledge</b>	As social secretary of the Dance club at my University, I was responsible for the oversight of our communications and the distribution of these on our social media sites.
<b>Finance Knowledge</b>	My previous experience in governance and from my current job in another Students' Union, I have had detailed insight and understanding of budgets on a large scale.
<b>Fundraising Knowledge</b>	Whilst working within the charity sector for the last 3 years I have awareness and understanding of the need to fundraise and its importance in the current climate.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	Whilst growing my own social media platform for work purposes, I have a good knowledge base of digital communications from experience in running social media.
<b>Youth organisations Understanding</b>	Whilst being involved within my local Youth Council when I was back in school, I have an understanding of different youth organisations with the aim of growing my knowledge of this.
<b>People Expertise</b>	I have been heavily involved in different University committees on these topics and have acquired extensive knowledge on monitoring and improving equality, diversity and retention, as well as recruitment processes.
<b>Policy Expertise</b>	Understanding policy was integral to my role as President. I have worked on writing different policies, namely the University's Mental Health Strategy and the Sexual Violence and Harassment Policy.

**Candidate 3:** Lona Hudson

I am a 16-year-old female. To many, these factors are regarded as reasons for my opinions to be devalued and belittled. Yet, to the BYC and its member organisations these are seen as things to be embraced and represented within our society. For this reason, I am applying to be a Trustee for the BYC to act on behalf of young people who continue to be undermined by decision-makers, in order to encourage and amplify their voices, and to ensure that they are valued and respected.



In terms of experience, I was a Youth Ambassador for Caerphilly Miners Centre for five years. Within this role, I applied and developed my creative skills through collaboratively designing a welcoming space for young people. Additionally, I utilised my organisational skills to create a weekly homework club and to devise and publicise fundraising events, where I developed my knowledge and understanding of budget management.

Under the role of Trustee I would use my diplomacy skills developed throughout the duration of my time volunteering at an art club, to show sensitivity and respect to others' opinions, beliefs, ideas and feelings, in order to engage and build strong relationships to spread the charity's message and ethos in an effective manner.

I understand that my experience is limited, however, I am here openly to learn, develop, and grow so that I can adapt effectively to the role and act on the ideals of being inclusive, transparent and responsive to the needs of young people. I would utilise my ambition and motivation to make certain that the BYC reaches its goals and executes its mission, in order for its message of empowering and encouraging the engagement of young citizens to express their views, values and hopes for the future, to reach as many people as possible.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Understanding</b>	Through being a Language Ambassador, Youth Ambassador and whilst completing the DofE, good governance characteristics were taught and developed to ensure all goals were met and ethics were upheld.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	I was involved in planning a World Book day quiz and a French themed fundraiser as a Language Ambassador. In addition to, creating and conducting impactful lessons for other years.
<b>Communications Understanding</b>	Whilst participating in a science project I presented an exhibition to the Welsh Show - Heno, and conducted an interactive experiment in The Tate Modern in both Welsh and English.
<b>Finance Knowledge</b>	As Youth Ambassador for Caerphilly Miners I was often given limited budgets to put towards creating fundraising events such as Christmas/Summer fairs, craft evenings and language clubs.
<b>Fundraising Knowledge</b>	I have been involved in the planning and organising of many fundraisers as a Youth Ambassador and with school, providing me with knowledge of the background of event planning.
<b>Digital Awareness</b>	I understand the essential role of digital technology in the running of BYC and for improving its mission impact, and I am keen to improve my abilities within this area.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	I've grown up actively involved with Youth Organisations such as Girlguiding and Urdd Gobaith Cymru and have recently completed my Bronze award with DofE.
<b>People Awareness</b>	Going through the application process for Atlantic College increased my awareness of recruitment stages. I'm also extremely passionate about improving true inclusion and diversity for a more equal society.
<b>Policy Awareness</b>	I am eager to study human rights or international relations in the future and through reading and research I have gained an understanding of the creating and implementation of policies.

**Candidate 4:** Jack O'Neil

Now more than ever, the British Youth Council (BYC) is integral: as British society rebuilds in a (hopefully) post-COVID world, we need to ensure that young people are not only on the agenda, but are part of the agenda-setting as well.

Growing up in a small and isolated village in Devon, I have battled with disenfranchisement and ageism, and it wasn't until my university years that I fully felt empowered to change the world around me. That is just one of the reasons that I hold organisations such as the BYC close to my heart, and I now believe that I have the skills and experience to contribute to such an organisation.



I believe that trusteeship is about assurance and enhancement: is the organisation in a sustainable position? Is the organisation meeting its charitable objectives? But more than that, what strategic ambitions can be explored? Are there further opportunities to elevate the organisation's publicity, or positive impact for members? To use a cringey metaphor, if a membership organisation is steered and powered by members, then trustees are there with binoculars and a checklist – the enablers.

For the past two years, I have been a Trustee of a charity focused at improving the lives of young people (being a Chair for one of these years). Throughout this time, I have gained the skills to understand governance, strategic development monitoring, financial management, and mitigating risks (although I didn't foresee a pandemic on the risk register).

There is a dangerous possibility that the next generation will be worse-off than those before, but it doesn't have to be that way. Individuals such as yourselves will be the reason that young, upcoming generations will change the world for the better – and I would be honoured to be involved in this contribution as a BYC Trustee.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Expertise</b>	I was Chair of a Board of Trustees leading on agenda-setting, governance routes and changes to governance structures as well as a governor of a University.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Expertise</b>	I led on the midterm review of an organisational strategy for a charity in addition to co-leading on a thematic University-wide strategy into student wellbeing.
<b>Communications Understanding</b>	I ran two election campaigns, physical & digital, and led on numerous campaign communications in Office. Co-lead on student society comms prior to this.
<b>Finance Knowledge</b>	Previously chaired a Finance, Staffing and Risk Board sub-committee, providing strategic oversight and assurance on financial audit.
<b>Fundraising Understanding</b>	Led fundraising efforts for an international trip as student society lead in addition to involvement in exploring external income generation for a charitable organisation.
<b>Digital Understanding</b>	Produced numerous digital materials (digital billboards, social media, website content) as the political lead for a Students' Union.
<b>Youth organisations Knowledge</b>	I led a Students' Union, both legally and politically, and have previously volunteered with a charity in my home-county (Devon) on empowering and supporting young people.
<b>People Knowledge</b>	Last year I was involved in consultation on a national body's diversity policy. I have also been involved in recruitment panels and scrutinised gender pay gap reports as a governor.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	As Students' Union President I developed high-quality policy reports on major issues facing students, I am now working on policy within Higher Education.

**Candidate 5: Cormac Savage**

Hi! I'm Cormac! My youth involvement started at 6 as part of my local scout troop. Then, as a Youth Parliament member aged 15, my passion for youth voice grew further. BYC, for me, began a journey through Youth Voice that had me in rooms with politicians and Prime Ministers, and four different parliaments. This passion for youth voice, my 'get up and go' attitude, drive and determination makes me, in my opinion, an ideal candidate for trusteeship.



I am a confident communicator - having won two Paul Boskett Awards for speaking from the front and back benches of the House of Commons. While I may only be aged 17, I believe my record shows I'm unafraid to be the youngest person in the room - I founded the Secondary Students' Union of Northern Ireland (SSUNI), and aside from being its first President, am the only young person on its board, which features a former media CEO, two leading education Professors and the head of one of Northern Ireland's largest teaching unions.

I am full of passion and ideas for how we can expand the incredible work BYC does: building on our international partnerships to bring together young people internationally, getting involved in reconciliation projects in Northern Ireland (funded by new PeacePlus grants) and doing our best to ensure that BYC reaches out to every young person in the UK - regardless of where they live or their background. BYC has made me the young person I am today, I believe that I am indebted to it as a charity and, for me, to serve at a trustee would not simply be a great honour, but also a means of ensuring every young person in the UK is gifted with the same opportunities through BYC I have had.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	I have experience, sitting on the governing body of SSUNI, the board. I have read extensively about governance and am completing a course on good governance in late September 2020.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	As SSUNI President and board member, I am responsible for future-proofing, planning and strategy. I wrote a 3 year development strategy for the organisation to help us stay on track.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	With the Communications Officer, I manage the Student Union's communications. This includes emails, newsletters, press releases and social media. I work extensively with all forms of press across the UK.
<b>Finance Understanding</b>	I manage SSUNI's budget and oversee spending with the other board members. I have shared responsibility for grant applications and am keen to develop my understanding of this area further
<b>Fundraising Knowledge</b>	I have raised money with many different charities, £3000 alone, and as part of a team, totalling over £30,000. I have experience with grants and funding an organisation through SSUNI.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	I manage SSUNI's digital presence from effective social media to our website and digital contact with our members. As Head Boy, I connect our school community digitally using many platforms.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	Having been involved with Scouts, I was then elected to UKYP. At 17, I founded and began managing Secondary Students' Union NI, a youth organisation for young people in education.
<b>People Understanding</b>	I recruited a diverse Executive for SSUNI along with a board of experts to advise us, ensuring diversity across both bodies. I have full understanding of the importance of diversity.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	I oversee Education Policy in SSUNI and have worked with NI Assembly Education Committee members on education policy. I have experience writing policy documents and consulting with young people on policy.



**Candidate 6:** Freya Trevor-Harris

It is a truth universally acknowledged that young people are “the leaders of tomorrow” – but why must we leave things until tomorrow? So much could be achieved, for the good of young people and all of society, by the inclusion and promotion of young people’s voices today. I have been active in youth voice and volunteering since the age of 15, when I represented my school’s Amnesty International society at national conferences, and joined a Military Families Youth Forum. I’ve spent two years as Senior Communications Officer and Youth Voice lead at the #iwill campaign – 1000+ organisations working together to champion youth social action. I’m lucky to work closely with highly motivated young Ambassadors and organisations partnering with young people to lead change. I deeply value the insight these relationships have provided and the networks I have built across the UK.



I have a detailed understanding of where young people wish to see change, how our ambitions can be made real, and the challenges that remain in the path to genuine youth participation. I would also bring a host of relevant experiences to BYC board. I have led campaigns, run youth engagement projects, chaired strategic meetings, worked with the media, and met with party leaders and government ministers. I am a clear-sighted and eloquent advocate for the rights of young people. For an organisation to best serve the participation and empowerment of young people, it requires a structure based on justice, inclusion, and compassion for the realities of young people’s lives.

As trustee I would channel my skills towards serving BYC with integrity through what is likely to be a challenging period. I would take every opportunity to hear from young people, to expand my outlook, and in so doing, meaningfully represent BYC members.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Understanding</b>	Have supported the writing of progress reports and strategy documents and attended meetings with #iwill trustee board. Have organised Steering Groups of leaders and stakeholders across sectors.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	Have played a key role in setting and delivering the campaigns and communications strategy of the #iwill campaign and feeding into the overall strategy.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	Five years’ experience in communications in a voluntary and professional capacity. As Senior Communications Officer, I commission and edit blogs, secure media coverage, write newsletters and manage social media platforms.
<b>Finance Awareness</b>	I have worked within a project budget whilst managing external contractors, and have made budget decisions when managing travel and accommodation for large events.
<b>Fundraising Understanding</b>	Understanding of the priorities of the funders in the youth social action space, and awareness of the funding challenges facing the sector. Ran successful fundraising events as a student.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	In my current role I manage our social media platforms and support the maintenance of our website to improve user experience and engagement and attract new audiences.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	I volunteered for two years as a youth worker with children of the forces. I’ve worked with stakeholders across the UK-wide youth sector and closely with youth partners on communications.
<b>People Knowledge</b>	I designed and delivered a recruitment campaign and selection process to attract a diverse group of young people to be Ambassadors. I support 300 Ambassadors to stay engaged and contribute.
<b>Policy Understanding</b>	Have supported and communicated health and education policy to support youth social action, as well as youth investment policy. Have supported relationships with government ministers and party leaders.

**Candidate 7: Sila Ugurlu**

From Havering, I'm a 16-year-old very much at the beginning of my career in youth representation, giving me the ability to represent and understand hundreds of budding young people under the British Youth Council as I'm living it. My ethos flourishes with kindness and humanity, believing all individuals should be nourished and encouraged by society to become the best versions of themselves, whilst being faced with compassion. Therefore, I'm constantly submerged in community action and welfare projects largely drifting towards healthcare, wellbeing and politics.



From 13 I was involved in youth politics. As a member of the Havering Youth Council, I have gone from originally developing independently, to recently breaking through traditional institutions, such as the metropolitan police, and budging through tangible change. Ultimately, it would be my dream to be able to advocate for a political system that is fair and in which all people can thrive. My activism comes from a unique position, as I have been stuck in a cycle of inequality. With English as my alternate language, coming from a low-income family with a father needing my constant medical care, I was responsible for keeping our family afloat as the family advocate. This exposure and battle allows me to genuinely have a strong relationship with the world.

Understanding BYC back-to-front and with this ability to care responsibly, I have achieved ground-breaking advances as MYP. Being one of the youngest people to draft a bill, the Youth Violence Commission; facilitating BBC Debates for young people to have a voice; organising protests during the knife-crime epidemic. I live youth voice.

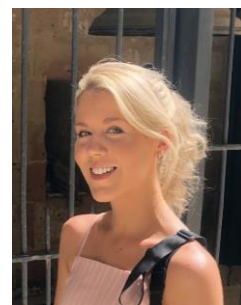
Injustices are strong and no two campaigners' fights are the same. An ideal trustee would take this into careful consideration when making even the slightest decisions. I strongly believe that with kindness and humanity, change will be made.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Expertise</b>	As the President Elect of the London Alumni Forum, I lead a group of over 100 former MYPs and youth councillors, facilitating their campaigns and presenting them with useful opportunities.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Expertise</b>	I pride myself in my planning, and have devised strategy to tackle educational mental health inequality, by creating a universal charter of best practice for schools to follow.
<b>Communications Knowledge</b>	With the Alumni Forum, I have provided mentoring and a networking support system for young people involved in politics.
<b>Finance Knowledge</b>	Whilst leading the Mental Health Charter, I have supported schools in managing their budgets to tackle mental health inequality.
<b>Fundraising Understanding</b>	Despite inequalities in society, I didn't allow my low-income background to stop me from fundraising to attend an independent sixth form; something that was unheard of in the school's history.
<b>Digital Understanding</b>	I have given several inductions to MYPs who are interested in starting their own professional social media accounts, for their youth representation work.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	I am a member of the BARTs YES Forum, was part of two cohorts of MYPs, and one of the longest serving members of my local youth council.
<b>People Knowledge</b>	I received funding to train teachers, realising mental health awareness as a workforce gap. With BARTs, I supported work to diversify and improve quality of paediatric staff through patient perspective.
<b>Policy Knowledge</b>	I was instrumental with drafting the Youth Violence Commission, and directly involved with changing of the policy on starting a public health approach to knife crime.

**Candidate 8: Rachel Wibberley**

I recently graduated from King's College London and I currently volunteer as a Management Team member and UK Youth Ambassador in the National Council of Women (NCW) an NGO promoting gender equality. Since joining BYC in 2014 and experiencing the impact of its work first-hand, the aim to make a positive difference and empower others has shaped my personal and professional endeavours. I am applying for the role of Trustee because I am committed to supporting the development of BYC's life-changing social impact strategy.



My previous experience acting as an international youth ambassador to the UN, researching and delivering speeches and drafting policy documents, alongside my love and understanding of BYC shows that I would be a strong, well-informed advocate for the charity. Working in a team in the NCW, as a Procedures Group representative in the UK Youth Parliament, and as a campaigns intern in the Civil Service has given me a firm understanding of how to work as a critical friend to achieve the optimum outcome. These roles provided experience in policy, strategy, campaigning, governance, fundraising and research and I am eager to implement and develop these skills by taking responsibility for the governance, values and objectives of BYC.

I hope to strengthen BYC's stakeholder engagement strategy by networking and reaching out to member organisations to gain information on their current work. I want to serve young people as Trustee to support them to challenge themselves and the world around them and to connect with others in an inclusive environment where they feel their voice is truly valued, particularly those from vulnerable and marginalised groups. I am approachable, inclusive and open-minded. I'm keen to enhance my knowledge and skills within all aspects of charity governance and would be honoured to join such an effective, inclusive and diverse Board.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Governance Knowledge</b>	I am on the governance team for NCW, involving establishing the strategy, maintaining partnerships, drafting policies, and ensuring fairness, transparency and effective communication with our members.
<b>Strategy/ Planning Knowledge</b>	As PG, I developed a regional strategy to ensure maximum youth representation within annual consultations. In a team I created a national campaign strategy, the timeline and corresponding resources.
<b>Communications Expertise</b>	As a Communications officer in the Civil Service I led campaigns including the 2019 National Inclusion Week campaign. I was responsible for daily blog posts and departmental social media accounts.
<b>Finance Understanding</b>	I managed a budget for the communications strategy at NCW. I helped restructure the charity's finance after their office sale, helping me to understand the budgeting procedure and financial controls.
<b>Fundraising Expertise</b>	As a social enterprise MD I was responsible for fundraising. In my local Youth Forum, I supported local charities to source funding through bids and events. I have also fundraised for BYC.
<b>Digital Knowledge</b>	As campaigns intern I managed online content and worked with others on content for social media. I was previously responsible for social media for a small charity and university society.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	As Derbyshire Youth Council chair I worked with youth groups across the county. I was a member of UKYP and PG. I manage the youth caucus of a national NGO.
<b>People Knowledge</b>	I have helped with recruitment of staff in a charity. I conducted research on organisational diversity and managed a national inclusion campaign, developing my knowledge of diversity and inclusion strategies.
<b>Policy Expertise</b>	I have presented resolutions to government, and worked with the UK Mission to the UN to shape policy on gender equality, particularly in relation to youth economic empowerment.

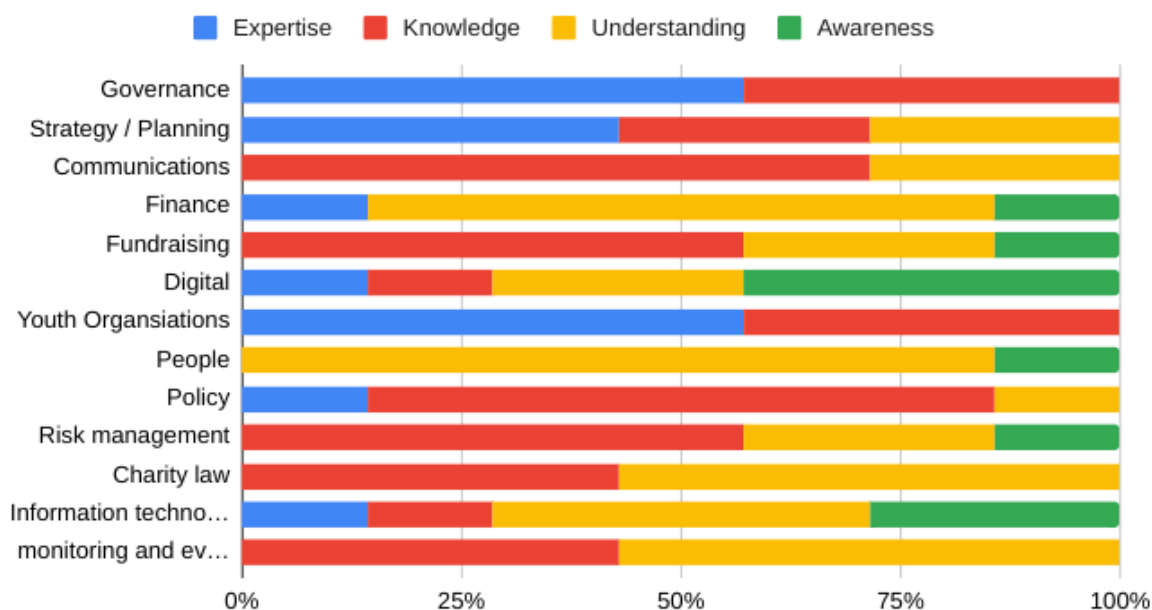
## 7. Current Trustees

Below is a list of the current Trustees and the date that their terms started and ends.

- Those members whose name has an asterisk (\*) are due to retire this autumn, either as their original term has come to an end or they have chosen to step down.
- (E) means that the Trustee was elected;
- (A) means that the Trustee was appointed. Under the revised governance arrangements introduced in 2017 the intention is to have a mix of appointed and elected trustees, although the Officers (Chair and Treasurer) and majority of the trustees will be elected to ensure that members of the British Youth Council have the majority stake in who leads their charity.

Name	Role	Term started	Term ends	Board meetings attended				
				Oct	Jan	Mar	May	Jul
Aimee Castle	Trustee (A)	October 18	October 21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson*	Trustee (A) Chair (E)	October 17 October 18	October 18 October 20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tom Clark	Treasurer (E)	October 19	October 21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Larissa Kennedy*	Trustee (E)	October 17	October 20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zara Mehr Khan	Trustee (E)	October 19	October 22		✓	✓	✓	✓
Kira Milana Lewis	Trustee (E)	January 19	October 21	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rebecca Moore	Trustee (E)	October 19	October 22		✓	✓	✓	✓
Kyle Parks	Trustee (A)	October 18	October 21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chisomo Phiri*	Trustee (E)	January 19	April 20	✓		✓	-	-
Frankie Smith*	Trustee (A)	October 17	October 20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sarah Staples	Trustee (E)	September 16	October 21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joe Stockley*	Trustee (E)	October 17	October 20	✓	✓	✓		✓
T Jay Turner	Trustee (E)	October 18	October 21	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Skills audit of remaining trustees:



## 8. Remaining Trustees



**Aimee Castle**

I am a creative dynamic individual who has a passion for developing corporate partnerships that are built on shared purpose and vision. I have vast experience of delivering large scale, strategic and profitable partnerships at Girlguiding, Missing People and The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity. I believe young people should be able to shape their own future, whatever their background. And that it is the diversity of thought and opinion that will generate a better, brighter and stronger world.



**Tom Clark**

Tom joined the BYC Board as Treasurer in September 2019. Currently studying Social Science at Edinburgh Napier University, he is also Deputy Chair of the Alec Dickson Trust and Trustee at Edinburgh Napier Students' Association. Tom is passionate about giving young people a voice regardless of skills, strengths, experience or background, and enjoys working with BYC as it forges new opportunities for people. Tom is sports fan, and particularly enjoys playing and watching football and cricket.



**Zara Khan**

Zara was elected to the board in 2019. She is from the West Midlands and works for a Local Authority where she is currently completing a Project Management Apprenticeship. Zara was previously Chair of the Youth of Walsall, and led on the 'Real Knives, Real Lives'. She was also a Senior Child Sexual Exploitation Champion for Street Teams. In 2020, Zara was announced as a Finalist for the BAME Apprenticeship Awards in the Charity, Voluntary and Public Services category.



**Kira Lewis**

Kira, from Somerset, is currently studying BA War Studies at King's College London. They were elected as a Trustee after serving in the UK Youth Parliament's

Procedures Group, and twice as a Member of Youth Parliament. Alongside their British Youth Council role, they are also a Trustee of a large theatre and arts company in Devon, and was previously a Governor of one of the UK's largest FE Colleges. They are currently working alongside their studies on a campaign to increase the number of young people on charity trustee boards across the UK.



**Rebecca Moore**

Becca, originally from Newcastle, was elected to the board in 2019, however, her youth voice journey started in 2013 when she joined North Tyneside Youth Council. She served four years as a Member and then Steering Group representative of UKYP. She was elected to the NHS Youth Forum twice where she campaigned for better awareness of young people's rights in healthcare, then vice-chaired the Youth Select Committee inquiry into body. Becca was also a delegate to the Commonwealth Youth Forum. Alongside studying History at UCL, she also works as a Special Support Assistant supporting young people with additional educational needs at a high school in North Tyneside.



**Kyle Parks**

Originally from Northern Ireland he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after graduating from Queen's University Belfast. He previously served as Honorary Secretary of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and on the Steering Committee of the Open Government Network NI. He is a former UK Young Ambassador with the British Youth Council. Kyle is an alum of the Washington Ireland Program for Leadership and Service and is interested in leadership, education and social mobility.



**Sarah Staples**

Sarah started her youth voice journey in her hometown of Plymouth where she joined her local youth cabinet at 16. Serving two terms with UKYP as a Deputy and then MYP she campaigned for votes at 16, a living wage and curriculum for life amongst other key issues. Sarah studied Politics with Law at the University of Plymouth, where she focused her studies on civil society and women in electoral politics. An active campaigner, In 2017, Sarah began working for her local MP and in 2019 made the move to London where she works for an MP.



**T Jay Turner**

I joined the Oldham Youth Council at the age of 14 and have been involved in local, regional and national youth voice organisations. I was elected as a member of UKYP in 2015 and have held positions on Youthforia's steering group. I was the youth representative for Voluntary Action Oldham - proactively conveying the interests of young people in the charity's decision making process – and finance lead for the Oldham Youth Council's 'Kerrching' funding stream.

## 9. Honorary Presidents Election

Each year three MPs, one from each of the largest three parties in the House of Commons, are elected to this position. They champion the British Youth Council's work in Parliament and work with us to ensure that youth voice is at the top of the agenda for decision makers and across the Government. Each of the Honorary Presidents also acts as a champion for youth voice within their own political party.

In the past, Honorary Presidents have asked the Government questions on the British Youth Council's behalf, have helped us with the hosting of events and have supported us in a variety of other ways.

In the event that 'RON' is elected for any of the Honorary President positions, the decision of who shall fill the vacancy passes to the Board of Trustees. When required to decide upon an Honorary President, the Trustees shall take into account the views expressed by the membership, and candidates who featured in the original election shall be excluded from consideration. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

### Honorary presidents 2019/20

1. Sara Britcliffe MP (Conservative) – nominated by BYC Board
2. Anna Turley MP (Labour) – Nominated by Girlguiding and The Scout Association  
*Following the General Election, where Anna was not returned to her seat:*  
Nadia Whittome MP (Labour) – Nominated by the BYC Board
3. Angela Crawley MP (SNP) – nominated by Girlguiding and The Scout Association

### Conservative Party Candidates

#### Sara Britcliffe MP

*Nominated by Kyle Parks (BYC Board) and Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson (BYC Board)*



Member for Hyndburn December 2019 – present

Select Committee membership:

Women and Equalities Committee 2 March 2020 - Present

Other posts:

Vice-Chair (Youth), Conservative Party Jul 2005 – May 2010

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: @[SarBritcliffeMP](#)

## Labour Party Candidates

### **Nadia Whittome MP**

*Nominated by Larissa Kennedy (BYC Board) and Kira Lewis (BYC Board)*



Member for Nottingham East December 2019 – present

Select Committee membership:  
Environmental Audit Committee March 2020 - present

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: @[NadiaWhittomeMP](#)

## Scottish National Party Candidates

### **David Linden MP**

*Nominated by Sarah Staples (BYC Board) and Frankie Smith (BYC Board)*



Member for Glasgow East June 2017 - present

Shadow SNP Spokesperson (Housing, Communities and Local Government) January 2020 – present  
SNP Whip June 2017 – January 2020

Select Committee membership:  
Procedure Committee September 2017 – November 2019  
Standing Orders November 2017 – November 2019

Voting record can be found [here](#); Twitter: @[DavidLinden](#)



## 10. UK Young Ambassador – European Youth Forum

The UK Young Ambassadors enable young people from across the UK to have a voice and influence in international decision-making and to campaign for change on local, national and international levels. The UK Young Ambassador programme is open to any young person (18-25) from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The programme is divided into three main strands:

- Two UK Young Ambassadors representing the British Youth Council and our members in the Commonwealth Youth Forum;
- Two UK Young Ambassadors representing the British Youth Council and our members in the European Youth Forum;
- Four UK Young Ambassadors (one from each of the nations in the UK) leading our work on the EU Youth Dialogue.

The UK Young Ambassadors for the European Youth Forum and the Commonwealth Youth Forum are elected by our member organisations, while the UK Young Ambassadors for the EU Youth Dialogue are selected.

At the Annual Council Meeting we will be electing one female or non-binary UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum. Our intention is to have a gender-balanced delegation, which is why we have only opened this call to young people who identify as female or non-binary. The term of office for the new UK Young Ambassador will be 3 years.

### Role of a UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum

- Inform and influence European policy making through attending the European Youth Forum Council of Members Meetings (COMEM) as well as representing the British Youth Council at sub-regional meetings;
- Get involved in research and consultation with young people across the UK to gather their views, including workshops, focus groups and online research, whenever appropriate;
- Design and deliver advocacy actions, responding to UK young people's needs and concerns arising from the European Youth Forum;
- Share information from the European Youth Forum with the Member Organisations of the British Youth Council and with young people across the UK;
- Ensure the most current and pressing issues for young people in the UK are translated in European youth policy making;
- Liaise with the wider team of UK Young Ambassadors to align work and priorities and assist the rest of the team on relevant campaigns and advocacy on local, national and European levels;
- Raise awareness of European campaigns, policies and actions through reports, blogs, websites and social networks;
- Represent UK young people at European events and to UK decision makers;
- Provide policy feedback to the British Youth Council, member organisations and youth and networks;
- Be an active part of a European network, share information, ideas and actions.

The newly elected UK Young Ambassador will be working alongside the existing UK Young Ambassador to the European Youth Forum Tom Matthews. Tom is from North Devon. He studies Geography, Politics and Sociology at Exeter College where he is a Student Governor. He is the Secretary General of Exeter College Model United Nations and used to be the Member of Youth Parliament for Torridge, North Devon and West Devon.



**Candidate 1: Sylvia Cullen**

Youth organisations have changed my life. From BYC related opportunities to creative projects through Opera North and the WY Play-house, I have been fortunate with the opportunities that have come my way as a result of Youth Organisations. Last year, I worked in a primary school in Chapel town and saw the way in which Youth Organisations not only change lives, but save them.



From anti-gang projects to sport groups that helped children to channel themselves in a positive way, Youth Organisations are undoubtedly one of the greatest tools we have to help young people achieve to their greatest potential. The work of the EU Youth Forum seems to me a great chance to 'give back' in a sense, for the way in which Youth services have benefitted me, by working on an international scale in favour of Youth Services and strengthening Youth Participation wherever possible.

Personally, I am driven by a comment made by an official who said that I was 'unlikely to achieve much' because my Dad was in prison. This injustice gave me the drive to work as hard as I can to prove that personal circumstances are not a barrier to success- it's what you do that counts. I believe that my situation has set me up well for this role. I have learnt to be pragmatic, resourceful and never wait for somebody else to 'do it for me' because I was propelled into a situation which forced me to stand on my own two feet. I hope that this skill set would make me an asset to the European Youth Forum.

I believe that we are better off together than we are apart and this opportunity seems to me an ideal way to work with others to ensure the best future for our young people

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Knowledge</b>	I worked in a deprived and ethnically diverse primary school and observed the frequent lack of aspiration due to poor social representation.
<b>Leadership Expertise</b>	Ex-Member of the UKYP; Debate lead; Sport leader for the Bambisinani-Partnership in South Africa; Leeds 'Lives Not Knives' summit organiser; Musical theatre teacher; Chair of student council; Learning support assistant
<b>Communication Understanding</b>	Use of social media during all campaigning work; During lockdown, teaching singing over zoom; Working with young people with disabilities and therefore having to adapt my means of communication
<b>Stakeholders Knowledge</b>	I worked on a project with the DCMS committee through the UKYP and with the WY Police service during the knife crime campaign- internal work within organisations.
<b>EU/European administration Understanding</b>	I studied the European Union within my A level politics course and have gone on to study politics at University.
<b>EU/European issues Understanding</b>	I surveyed for my local labour party in the community on the topic of BREXIT and so have an understanding of the topics young people are worried about ie. ERASMUS/travelling.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	I worked with the Leeds City youth council, the Leeds care leavers board and the ST4R (stand together for refugees) group. I also sang for the opera-north youth choir.
<b>Campaigning Knowledge</b>	I ran a successful campaign for the UK Youth Parliament; I ran a successful campaign within my school to be elected a student manager; I campaign for the labour party.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	Work on the knife-crime campaign during UKYP; Selected for an internship at the ARISE foundation on the advocacy team; DCMS committee presentation; Old Bailey votes at 16 case, April 2019

**Candidate 2: Samira-Caterina Monteleone**

My name is Samira-Caterina and I am 20 years old and currently at the university of Essex studying politics and international relations with a specific interest in counter terrorism and political economy. I am Italian and being born and growing up in the UK I was surrounded by both British and European culture. I have a deep love and respect for both cultures and history and want to help shape the road for the new generation to be able to experience the same love and respect for both despite the political context.



I'm interested in research and have experience in policy formulation and raising awareness of campaigns through social media. I am a Team orientated worker as well as working well on my own. I have numerical and analytical skills that can be transferable from academia to the help represent young people in the UK to the European Youth Forum. I'm knowledgeable on the culture in Europe and with the countries in Europe which I believe will be helpful when working with the European youth in a team.

I value the power in campaigning and the voice of young people and that no matter what age colour, race, gender or sexuality you are, change is not too little or impossible with determination in which I have to ensure the equality of representation and opportunity for young people. I believe digital advocacy is an effective way to include all young people in the discussions, I would press for better inclusivity of young people in the forum through the digital format. I see great potential of the European youth forum and believe that the UK has a lot to offer to help create a better environment for opportunity and inclusivity for the young people of Europe.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Knowledge</b>	I represent my class (350) on student boards and department boards and work with the department to ensure that the students receive quality teaching and an open and safe environment.
<b>Leadership Expertise</b>	Captain of the university's netball team I created online training session during lockdown. As the Covid officer I have been working with the university to ensure the safety of the teams return.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	As PG for London I had to communicate information to MYPs, to staff and coordinate events. Using social media to communicate and create awareness of campaigns.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	Created a partnership with my youth council and council allowing us 20 minutes each meeting to ask questions to council members and propose policy
<b>EU/European administration Awareness</b>	In my first year of university I took a module on 'the European union: and polices and received a first in my exam and coursework.
<b>EU/European issues Awareness</b>	Having friends and family that live and study across Europe I have had discussions about issues and changes that relate to young people in Europe.
<b>Youth organisations Knowledge</b>	Being a part of Brent youth council and `British youth council I have knowledge of what the BYC stand for and how youth organisations and consultations run best.
<b>Campaigning Understanding</b>	When a member of youth parliament I campaigned for knife crime to be put onto the Make your Mark ballot paper using social media.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	As a member of the youth advisory forum I have been a part of formulating policy around youth violence and advocating for violence reduction units in England

**Candidate 3:** Anastasia Perynsinakis

Hi, I'm Ani! I hope I can describe what representation means to me as a young person living in the UK and explain why I'd give my all to this role. As an immigrant and young carer of a brother with autism, I know what it's like not to feel heard. I'm used to fighting for my own space throughout Europe, using my dual EU citizenship and knowledge of multiple EU languages to provide a platform for those in my communities. However, I've always felt I should be doing more. I've learnt how important it is to actively make space for others, stepping back to learn from different perspectives. Struggling alongside Northern Irish women and members of the LGBTQ+ community to successfully change our human rights laws last year completely blew me away as to what is possible when young people come together. I can't put into words what that moment felt like. In starting my own company to improve social care of vulnerable people, lobbying my university to improve its racism reporting, representing youth voices on Brexit to Hillary Clinton, and pushing global companies to let more women into the work place, I've thrown myself into being a voice for the voiceless at home in the UK.



In the rest of Europe, I'm fighting corporations and working with governments to provide resources for refugees and disenfranchised young people. I make sure that while caring about young people, I also care about what matters to them. In work, I'm building on my Environmental Leadership award to help engineer clean cars in our generation's fight for a greener planet. Through EU policy and advocacy, I am helping young people recover financially and with their mental health from Covid-19. Whatever the issue, whoever the young person, I'm here to listen and learn.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	Represent women / minority groups to large corporations as STEM Ambassador. Student representative lobbying for racial, sexual, gender equity. Represent refugees as strategic advisor to a Humanitarian Aid NGO.
<b>Leadership Expertise</b>	CEO of social care company managing a large team of professionals. Engineer at Jaguar Land Rover selected for the Leadership Excellence Programme. President of Consulting Society, Awarded University Environmental Leader.
<b>Communication Understanding</b>	My company relies heavily on communications to deliver key messages to customers/ stakeholders. Led recruitment and outreach campaigns for women's sports teams and my carbon-action projects to orchestrate strong communications.
<b>Stakeholders Expertise</b>	As CEO my job is mostly developing formal partnerships, stakeholder engagement. As Environmental Leader, I partnered with youth organisations. I study Client and Stakeholder Management through the Boston Consulting Group.
<b>EU/European administration Knowledge</b>	As Model EU Delegate, I studied European History of Integration, European institutions/Administration, and EU rules of procedure. As government healthcare advisor in Greece, I advise on European Central Bank spending.
<b>EU/European issues Knowledge</b>	As an EU dual-national citizen who speaks 3 European languages, I have set up discussion tables facilitating cultural exchange and have participated in live-in exchange programmes throughout Europe.
<b>Youth organisations Understanding</b>	NUS member and NI Youth Forum advocate. Received help from West Sussex Youth Cabinet/ Ambitious About Autism. Wish to partner with Youth for Refugees to help my human rights campaigns.
<b>Campaigning Knowledge</b>	Campaigned with Northern Irish women/ members of the LGBTQ+ community to change NI human rights laws (successfully). The African Caribbean Society invited me to campaign against racism reporting systems.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Knowledge</b>	Studying Public Policy Economics through Oxford University, writing the Greek Government's new social care policy, consulting my university's sustainability policy and formal disability and MENA advocate to governments/ global corporations.

**Candidate 4:** Phoenix Shivler

I'm a 22 year old Philosophy, Politics and Economics student from the North East, now living in my adopted home of Essex. I ran for the position of UK Young Ambassador for Europe because I care deeply about improving youth participation in politics and international affairs. Far too often we are left out of the conversation and our ideas go unheard, despite the fact that decisions made today will affect our generation the most in the years to come.



I have a proven track record in campaigning and youth engagement, having previously worked as an Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust, a Young Campaigner for Stonewall, and on the Youth Advisory Board for Amnesty UK. I currently work as a student leader at Essex Students' Union as LGBQ+ Officer, as well as a Student Forum member of the Young Universities for the Future of Europe alliance (YUFE), developing my knowledge of EU policies and organisation.

If elected, I will work tirelessly to ensure as many different voices are heard as often as possible and that young people really get the chance to discuss the topics of most interest and concern to them. I will network and campaign with other young activists across Europe to put pressure on governments and corporations to take our concerns seriously. I will always work to uplift youth voices. Whether we are part of the EU or not, it is vital that cooperation continues between us both – there are so many issues that affect all young people regardless of location or politics.

It would be a great honour to represent the youth of this country on the international stage and give a voice to the next generation of incredible leaders and problem solvers we already have bursting with ideas to create more a sustainable world.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Knowledge</b>	As a Student Parliament representative, it was my duty to gather feedback from students and represent their views to other parliament members and also the university and Students' Union.
<b>Leadership Knowledge</b>	As LGBQ+ Officer, I frequently create and plan events, manage an ever-changing work schedule, and collaborate with numerous different people to ensure students are supported during their studies.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	As LGBQ+ Officer, I'm in charge of regularly creating and distributing communications between other officers, the Students' Union, the university, my community and its related society.
<b>Stakeholders Knowledge</b>	Whilst serving on the Youth Advisory Board for Amnesty UK, I actively worked with stakeholders of the charity to improve upon their youth engagement strategy for human rights education.
<b>EU/European administration Expertise</b>	I am studying Politics at university, specialising in EU policies and institutions. I am also a Student Forum member for a European university alliance in collaboration with the European Commission.
<b>EU/European issues Expertise</b>	Sitting on the Student Forum for a European university alliance, I regularly have to engage with young people in Essex about their views on our future relationship with the EU.
<b>Youth organisations Understanding</b>	I am a current member of The Wildlife Trusts and was on the Youth Advisory Board for Amnesty UK, so I have experience of multiple types of youth organisations.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	I have extensive campaigning experience, including: leading my schools' Holocaust Memorial Day assembly, and working as a Young Campaigner for Stonewall on the importance of banning LGBTQ+ conversion therapy.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	My Student Parliament position involved advocating for LGBTQ+ safe spaces on campus resulting in challenging university policy and successfully working with staff to provide gender neutral bathrooms.

## 11. UK Young Ambassador – Commonwealth Youth Council

At the Annual Council Meeting we will be electing one female or non-binary UK Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth Youth Council. Our intention is to have a gender-balanced delegation, which is why we have only opened this call to young people who identify as female or non-binary. The term of office for the new UK Young Ambassador will be three years.

### Role of a UK Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth Youth Council

- Represent BYC and UK young people at Commonwealth forums and events
- Carry out UK policy research with BYC and through our memberships and networks
- Be accountable to BYC members and young people in the UK, through regular communications and reporting
- Inform and influence Commonwealth decision-making on BYC campaigns and issues of interest and concern to young people in the UK
- Advocate with and for young people on Commonwealth-wide issues, including on international development and the post-2015
- Help promote and engage young people in Commonwealth campaigns, projects and activities
- Support more young people to get involved in UKYA, including as researchers, advocates, campaigners, and bloggers
- Promote your work, the work of the Commonwealth Youth Council and the work of UKYA
- Be an active member of the UK Young Ambassadors team
- Participate in BYC events
- Participate in BYC and UKYA meetings
- Represent the interests of young people in the UK, and not any other interests, including that of a political party.

The newly elected UK Young Ambassador will be working alongside the existing UK Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth Youth Council Namir Chowdhury. Namir has worked on a multitude of social issues, including racial discrimination and mental health provisions. He has created and facilitated workshops addressing mental health in institutions across the UK in an effort to normalise conversations around the topic. His work culminated in speaking at the House of Commons, where he called for better mental health services to be available in the form of school counsellors. He has operated in numerous roles with the British Youth Council, including as the UK's Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth, through which he attended CYF 2018. Subsequently, he focussed on raising awareness of the Commonwealth among young people within the UK by leading educational sessions with schools and youth organisations.



**Candidate 1: Elif Emma**

I am a passionate campaigner from the North East, with previous experience working with the British Youth Council and the Commonwealth. As a second generation Turkish immigrant, I understand the challenges of being a minority in monocultural spaces. In my experience, international opportunities have always been reserved for the privileged. If I were to occupy this role, I would represent disadvantaged young people within the Commonwealth and empower their voices in a beautiful, diverse international community.



Growing up in South Tyneside, I was witness to the impacts of poverty in my school and in my community. My frustration fuelled my desire to campaign in a local, youth led group that aimed to raise awareness about local poverty conditions. We presented our manifesto to parliament and were heard in a space where we had felt unacknowledged. Since then, I have furthered my advocacy by working with organisations such as Barnardo's, Barclay's Lifeskills and Sustain to tackle the employment and health aspects of poverty.

In 2018, I successfully secured a two year scholarship to research how discourse impacts lived experiences of poverty. I presented my research findings at the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka. Learning more about experiences in Commonwealth countries, such as Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, was extremely formative to developing my understanding of Commonwealth issues.

I am aware of other issues that desperately need to be addressed in the Commonwealth. In my contribution to bringing about change for people in poverty, it is impossible to ignore the intersectional issues such as racism, LGBTQ+ rights and gender discrimination that heavily intersect with poverty. I am eager to address these issues within the Commonwealth, while representing the values of the British Youth Council by uplifting young people's voices.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	I have experience representing young people; in my local youth parliament, in national boards (such as Barclay's Lifeskills) and international work within the Commonwealth and the EU.
<b>Leadership Knowledge</b>	In my research scholarship about poverty, I invited audiences outside of academia into the conversation about systemic issues in the UK through the medium of my podcast- Deprivation Discourse.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	In further realising the dynamics behind poverty, communicating with representatives of key institutions & engaging with personal experiences has enhanced my understanding of structural barriers to equality.
<b>Stakeholders Knowledge</b>	As a Member of UKYP, I delivered in representing young people by actively consulting and gathering insights of my community, advocating for their needs to local and national administrators.
<b>Commonwealth administration Understanding</b>	I have first-hand experience of the inclusive and democratic operations of the Commonwealth by attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Westminster Youth Programme and CHOGM.
<b>Commonwealth issues Expertise</b>	I researched issues of sexual health, LGBTQ+ rights, poverty, racism by engaging with young people in the UK and the Commonwealth through my developed networks such as the LGBT+ forum.
<b>Youth organisations Expertise</b>	As a Member of UKYP, the goals of my youth parliament were incredibly important to me. Since leaving my MYP position, I have worked with national and international youth organisations.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	My frustration at the deprivation in my local area turned me to campaigning. I have since campaigned locally, nationally and internationally to tackle the issue of systemic, widespread poverty.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Understanding</b>	Within the Commonwealth, I have worked on developing policy at CHOGM with member countries in collaboration. I have also worked within the EU to develop policy for care leavers.

**Candidate 2: Alice Morley**

Hello! I'm Alice and I have an unwavering dedication to make the Commonwealth accessible and relevant to all young people in the UK. I'm 21, studying Political Science and International Relations at University, where I've learnt how crucial young people are to National Development and International Cooperation. This year, I did part of my year abroad in China where I set up a local student group to discuss topical issues. Only then did I truly appreciate the rights and opportunities young people enjoy in the UK and Commonwealth. Growing up in a rural town in Cornwall and living in China, I understand why a lot of young people feel as if they can't make a difference, because they don't know all the opportunities available in the UK /Commonwealth. If opportunities are inaccessible then we can't reach or be aware of our full potentials.



UK youth are so diverse, innovative and creative. But at present, too few of us are engaged and too many ignored or overlooked. We can change that. Using surveys, workshops and educational campaigns I will gather opinions on how to solve local and national issues. The power of Youth Voice is unparalleled, demonstrated by the A-level results U-turn, Black Lives Matter and Extinct Rebellion protests. We need to be able to contribute to policy on our major issues such as Climate Change, Poverty, Knife Crime, Unemployment and Racism.

I will work hard to give everyone the opportunity to carve our futures, because it's crucial our passion is directed towards positive solutions and tangible changes. By creating pathways more young people will be directly involved in policy and impact roles, which will empower and broaden horizons. Then we'll be able to answer "what do you want to do when you're older?" with "I've started doing great things now".

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Knowledge</b>	As an NUS Delegate, I represented all students at the University of Birmingham on many issues at a national conference. I currently represent and support all Women and Non-binary students.
<b>Leadership Expertise</b>	Part of my job for Elevate Education was leading a team of 7. I was also President of the Politics society and during summer created an English curriculum for Refugees.
<b>Communication Expertise</b>	I speak French fluently and a high level of Chinese. I have taught internationally. For two years I have been a public speaker/presenter for Elevate Education and Debatemate debating mentor.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	Last Summer I worked for NCS, mentoring my team of young people to become more aware and engaged in their community, which was also part of my DebateMate work.
<b>Commonwealth administration Understanding</b>	The Commonwealth features heavily in my University studies and I have been fortunate enough to volunteer for and interview both international NGOs and intergovernmental organisations in Uganda and New Zealand.
<b>Commonwealth issues Knowledge</b>	My University studies, paired with political experiences and interning abroad focussing on youth issues in commonwealth countries has given me great insight on issues and how to solve them.
<b>Youth organisations Awareness</b>	I have a good awareness of different youth organisations and was a sales ambassador for NCS inspiring young people to be engaged in politics and local campaigns.
<b>Campaigning Knowledge</b>	As Women's Officer, I create campaigns around campus to make a 'safe space' for networking. I am also lobbying for obligatory 'Not on' training. Coordinated fellow student Brexit protest attendance.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Expertise</b>	Spearheaded policy change at Elevate Education to be more inclusive and supportive for female presenters. Along with University studies, at UNICEF researched political policy to draft letters to party leaders.



**Candidate 3: Jordhi Nullatamby**

Growing up in UK as a British-Mauritian, the very fabric of my identity is cross-cultural. My heritage has been influenced by the Commonwealth and navigating this has always encouraged me to think from a global perspective. Alongside my background in championing youth voice as a former Member of UK Youth Parliament, this is why I am passionate about becoming your next UKYA to the Commonwealth.



As your UKYA to the Commonwealth, youth consultation would be at the heart of all my work. I am invested in not only leading, but actively learning from young people across the UK and the Commonwealth. Practically, I would do this by hosting (virtual) open meetings and collaborating closely with BYC members, from those in local youth councils to the new working group 'involved'.

I am also passionate about raising international awareness on the inequalities affecting UK youth. Over 4 million children in the UK are living in poverty and generational disadvantages, which have existed for decades, mean that young people have unequal access to housing, education and finance. This is furthered by discrimination on the basis of gender, race, class, geographic location, disability. Such inequalities are exacerbated in times like these, with the Covid-19 pandemic. It is therefore now, more important than ever, for leaders to enable and empower all young people with equal access to opportunities.

That is why I want to advocate for policies that focus on achieving transformational equality in all areas of life for young people as your UKYA. It is ultimately my priority to ensure that young people in the UK have their voices and concerns heard at an international level.

**Skills Assessment**

<b>Representation Expertise</b>	Joining my youth council at 13 and being elected to UKYP at 17 means that I have a wealth of experience in representing young people both locally and nationally.
<b>Leadership Expertise</b>	As a former MYP, Deputy Head Girl and President of the Law Society, I have developed my ability to oversee a role effectively and to lead with vision.
<b>Communication Knowledge</b>	I am currently the Campaigns Officer for the Cambridge BME Students' Union, which involves engaging with students through our daily social media communications.
<b>Stakeholders Understanding</b>	Through my work and experiences as an MYP, especially through the 'Make Your Mark' consultations, I learnt the importance of prioritising youth voice and youth services.
<b>Commonwealth administration Understanding</b>	In June 2019, I was a UK Youth Delegate at a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference, where I met with leaders from across the Commonwealth to discuss international policy issues.
<b>Commonwealth issues Understanding</b>	Over 60% of the Commonwealth are young people. I am excited to build my knowledge as a former UK Youth Delegate and engage with the issues which affect us 60%.
<b>Youth organisations Knowledge</b>	Being a part of my local youth council and UK Youth Parliament provided me with great insight into how youth organisations operate and support young people.
<b>Campaigning Expertise</b>	As a MYP, I collaborated with my peers to campaign on local and national issues. I use the campaign planning skills I developed in my current role as Campaigns Officer.
<b>Policy and Advocacy Knowledge</b>	I have experience in engaging with international policy as a former UK Youth Delegate. As a Law student, I regularly participate in mock trials which have strengthened my advocacy skills.