

Youth Action Group 22-23



Lucy, Leigh
Chair

I'm currently studying politics and international relations at university. I am the chair of the votes at 16 campaign and hold great passion in ensuring the youth of today are politically educated and no longer disenfranchised from our system. I hope to engage with MPs and the media to push the campaign forward and enable the youth voice in politics to grow by securing votes for those under 16 - something that has already taken effect in the devolved regions of Scotland and Wales.



Adele, Cheltenham
Deputy Chair

Young people have been ushered to acclimatise to political shifts in which we had little say. This country has disenfranchised whole populations for the benefit of the "good ones"; stronger, smarter, worthier, freer, more. A cherry-picked few, however articulate, cannot represent us all. 16-year-olds aren't just adults in training. We exist fully in our adolescence, in these awkward two years, functioning in circumstance just like any other person a few years ahead. We too should have the liberty to change a few things. I hope to redefine this campaign with foresight. Votes at 16 is a milestone; our protests will be fruitless unless we're able to denounce the threats to our democracy - voter suppression and misinformation - in the same breath.



Alice, London
Media Spokesperson

Since working on a number of campaigns with a range of young people from a diverse mix of backgrounds, I was inspired by the power and conviction of their voices. Seeing the work they poured into their campaigns and the dismissal that they nonetheless often faced, it enraged me that despite all our efforts, young people as a whole continue to not only be undermined and underestimated but denied full political rights. However, it wasn't just in the politically engaged world of campaigning that I saw this. All around me, people my age are exposed to the latest political news and considering their views on how the world should be. This awareness will only continue to grow as the capacity of technology to rapidly spread information remains ever increasing. This motivated me to join the movement for Votes at 16.



Ella, Essex

I wanted to join Votes at 16 because I am passionate about politics and I believe that I should have a say in who makes decisions that affect me. I care about this issue because it seems to me that my voice and the voices of others my age are shut out just because we can't vote. I care because politicians are deciding my future and I want a say in who these people are.



Ana-Sophia, London

I am a firm believer that young people have an invaluable insight to give in politics and are the key to enhancing our democratic system. My motivation to become an advocate for equal voting rights for sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds across the UK stemmed mostly from my study of Politics at A-Level and my work as a volunteer in my local community and at an inclusion charity, where I work alongside other young people to bring about positive change.



Ellie, Essex

I've been a part of my local youth council for two years now and then later a member of the UK Youth Parliament and have gained lots of experience of campaigning with both organisations. One of the main reasons I'm very passionate about Votes at 16 is because I want to improve the political engagement of young people and voter participation as a result. Young people deserve to have a say on decisions which will affect every aspect of their future. I look forward to working with lots of other young people!



Piya, London

I'm currently within my last year of A-Levels studying: Politics, Media, Business and ICT. I feel very privileged to work with the British Youth Council, building a platform to represent and voice the opinions of young people. Through my studies, I have been able to recognise the importance and power that politics continues to hold. Advocating for political participation, as part of the empowerment process, is something I have come to feel very strongly about.



Ollie, Cheshire

I joined votes at 16 because I believe in message. People our age can give consent, start work and many other things but can't vote. I want to work to change that.



Ella, Wiltshire

I'm really pleased to be on the Votes for 16 Youth Action Group. I value equality which means no one voice should be silenced - and this includes young people. Youth Activism is a growing movement and is bringing about change across the World. World problems affect young people and we need to be part of the solution.



Ben, Wigan

In my election manifesto I made Votes at 16 my main focus. I feel it is important young people get a say on decisions that affect them as they are under represented by MP's yet affected so heavily by their decisions. Young People now in most of the developed world can vote in at least one form of election . As I said in my Manifesto; if Young People can go to war why can't they vote?

I am 16, pronouns they/them. I am a member of the youth action group and the MYP for Preston in the NW. I love being an advocate for youth voice and I'm so grateful to be a part of the action group for Votes at 16 because this is a campaign I have believed in for a very long time and potentially being one of the people who get to make this happen is a great feeling overall. I value youth action because we are the next generation and in 10 years we are going to be the people who live in the world we can change right now to fit our needs for the future. We are the future of the world and our voices are the ones that matter the most! :)



Codie, Preston



James, Kent

I'm an A-level student studying English, Maths, History and Politics. I joined the Votes at 16 YAG because young people should have the opportunity to participate in our democracy and to shape the future we belong in. The pressing issues in society such as the NHS backlog and the cost of living crisis significantly impacts young people, yet youth voice is often neglected. I am passionate about empowering young people and I hope to drive concrete change in my role, such that the views of young people are valued and represented.



Andrew, N Ireland

Andrew Hamilton is the Member of the UK Youth Parliament for North Down. The 18-year-old has a particular interest in disability rights and has lobbied politicians and also co-authored a UN report on this issue. As well as campaigning on disability matters, he is also passionate about ensuring young people are engaged in politics and that they have a voice, particularly in matters that affect them.



Woser, London

British-American Tibetan. Under 20 Team GB fencer. Aspiring politician. Elected onto the London Youth Assembly; driven towards achieving a future where all young people are politically literate, engaged, and listened to. Arsenal and Kings of Leon fan. I'm supporting the Votes at 16 campaign because I recognise young people's fervent desire to have a meaningful say in the decisions that will impact their futures. Just as the UK became the first to lower their voting age from 21 to 18 in 1969, I believe the time has come for us to take the pioneering step once more and include 16-year-olds.



Blessing, Leeds

I'm currently 18 studying politics law and sociology. I'm passionate about politics and youth voice. For too long young people have been told to remain silence when adults are making decisions regarding OUR future. Advocating for vote at 16 is more than just casting your vote. Is about being educated, having a say and having an impact.



Aavani, London

I have always felt strongly about giving people the ability to have control over who governs them. In later years I have witnessed many of the youth involving themselves in different political issues – pushing for change and actively participating in paving the path forward for progress to come into fruition. However, no matter how much the youth prove themselves capable, they are still forbidden from voting, something that is a key part of our democracy. I, like many on the team, want to be apart of the change necessary to give 16 year olds the chance to vote, and do my part in pushing for systemic change.

Other YAG Members 22-23

Madalaine, N Ireland

Maddy, Wales

Fayiza, Lincolnshire

Archie, Yorkshire

Mairead, London