

PT:

I've been a Lib Dem since 2015 and therefore am basically ancient in YL. However, I only really got involved with Young Liberals in 2021. I'm a Carer, and a first generation student (now graduate!) from a working class family. I've had to juggle many things from a young age but it's this very adversity that's played such a huge role in me becoming involved in politics. I don't want to be on the outside complaining, if I can, I want to try and change things for the better. Yet simultaneously, I'm very aware of the institutional issues we have in Britain having come up against them myself. Therefore, these experiences underpin my approach to politics as a whole. It's why I'm a Liberal Democrat.

#### Member Recruitment:

As chair, I want to use our national success to generate more members within local constituencies who are able to mobilise when needed! Young Liberals have been integral in many campaigns and are a resource we should be nurturing and growing in order to win seats, both local and parliamentary. We need to encourage more participation and then be able to retain that participation for prolonged success. I also hope to be able to empower individuals within their own branches to be able to grow their own members by implementing easily accessible training packs, and sessions that encourage confidence and skill building. This in turn, will create stronger local YL members who can pass the same skills along to newer members. A trickle down approach essentially.

#### Branch Support

I would like to create more cross over between local party and YL members so that we are able to learn from each other and explore our strengths as well as our weaknesses. I aim to host tailored talks and events to bring members together so we can become more intertwined. We can learn from the generation before us just as much as we can empower and teach them about the changing political landscape. As someone who got involved with my local party first and only joined YL 6 years after the fact, I have a very strong relationship with them. This is an asset I really would like to help encourage across the region. An important aspect I want to also ensure is equipping local parties with READY TO USE guidance which can be used so newer members don't feel without support. Ideas and blueprints for what is needed for a local YL branch to be available online that can be accessed when needed with vital information, campaign materials, and contact details.

#### Promoting Diversity

And on a personal note, I will work to promote diversity at all levels for new members and old. Aim to create an environment that is inclusive, open and willing to take on different perspectives in order to grow into a better organisation for the South East as a whole. We need to foster a welcoming environment if we want to keep growing and understand that first impressions count. I have myself experienced aspects of an unwelcoming environment within YL and though this is not often, it cannot continue as it does real damage. Change starts by looking inwards and taking stock of where we are, to see what we have done well and what needs work. That is the first step I will take if I am voted in as South East Chair.

I do not want you to vote for me purely because I am a woman or because I am a brown Sikh candidate. Yes, Young Liberals desperately need ethnic diversity, but your vote should be on the basis of merit, which I do believe I have. I hope that you consider me as the woman for the job and if elected, I would be honoured to represent and work for the Young Liberals in the South East and oversee what will hopefully be, our continued success.