

# **Young Greens - Óige Ghlas Constitution**

*September 2020 (As Amended)*

# Committee & Officers

*2019 - 2020*

**Chairperson**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Branch Coordinator**

**International Liaison**

**Membership & Events**

**Communication**

**Policy Coordinator**

**Equality**

**Irish Language**

**Ordinary Members**

## **Section I: Aims and Objectives**

1. A national association with youth orientated environmental, political and social aims is set up bearing the name of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas, as of 1 March 2002, and shall function as the youth branch of the Green Party/ an Comhaontas Glas in the Republic of Ireland.
  - a. Membership of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas shall not confer Membership of the Green Party/an Comhaontas Ghlas on any person.
2. The Association shall support and assist the activities of the Green Party/an Comhaontas Glas and its candidates in Local, General, European and other elections/referendums at their discretion.
3. The Association is without commercial goals. Any funds raised are to be utilised for the purpose of maintaining the Association or furthering its aims set out in articles 1 & 2 above.
4. Membership is open to students of any age engaged in second or third level education as well as all residents of Ireland between the ages of 16 and 30.

## **Section II: Committee**

1. The Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee (“the Committee”).
2. The Committee shall be made up of at least 9 Members.
3. The National Convention shall elect the following Members of the Committee by PRSTV on an annual mandate and shall be overseen by the outgoing Secretary providing he/she is not seeking re-election, in which case an independent observer will be employed:
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Branch Coordinator
  - e. International Liaison Officer
  - f. Membership & Events Officer
  - g. Communications Officer (To a Maximum of Two)
  - h. Policy Coordinator
  - i. Equality Officer

- j. Oifigeach na Gaeilge (or in the English language, Irish Language Officer)
  - k. A member selected by Mná Glasa Óga to represent the group
  - l. 6 regional representatives from Connacht, Dublin, Munster, Northern Ireland, Rest of Leinster and Ulster (the counties of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan). Representatives from Connacht, Dublin, Munster, Rest of Leinster and Ulster to be elected at the National Convention. The representative from Northern Ireland is to be selected by Young Greens in Northern Ireland.
  - m. Any additional Ordinary Members the National Convention deems appropriate by vote.
4. Only Members of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas registered with a Member Group shall be eligible to run for election to the Committee.
  5. Candidates seeking election to the committee must be proposed by a member of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas and have their nomination seconded by a member of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas. If the candidate is a member of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas, they may either propose or second themselves.
    - a. Any Candidate seeking the position of Chairperson of the Young Greens must have previously served on the executive of the Young Greens, or the executive of a Young Greens member group.
  6. Attendance of Committee Members at committee meetings is obligatory; non-attendance must be notified in advance by apology. A member may attend a meeting in person or by alternative arrangements such as a conference call.
    - a. Any Member of the National Committee absent from two meetings of the NEC without furnishing a satisfactory explanation in advance shall be deemed, unless the Committee resolves otherwise, to have vacated their position.
    - b. A Member of Committee who has missed one meeting without satisfactory explanation shall be provided with a warning that missing a second meeting without satisfactory explanation may lead to expulsion from the committee under the provisions of this article.
  7. The Committee will meet at least six times a year.
  8. The Committee shall have full powers to manage and run the organisation, subject to the specific powers attributed to the National Convention.
    - a. The Committee may entrust the Chairperson, any of the Committee Members or an employee with the daily management of the Association. In addition, it may also give specific

and determined powers to one or various individuals, who will make use of these powers under its responsibility.

9. The Committee will take decisions by a majority vote of the Members present, the required quorum being two-thirds with absent Members being permitted to nominate a Committee member to vote on their behalf.
  - a. This must be approved by simple majority vote of the Committee members in attendance.
10. All the legal acts performed by the Association, as plaintiff or defendant, shall be followed by the Committee, represented by its chairperson.
11. A Member of the Young Greens Committee shall be elected by the Committee to be the Young Greens representative on the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas National Committee.
  - a. The representative elected to the Green Party National Committee must be a Member of the Green Party.
  - b. The election for the Representative must occur in advance of the Green Party Annual Convention.
12. Observers are welcome at Committee meetings and will contact the Secretary in advance to confirm attendance.
13. A meeting of the Committee may become closed; such an outcome will be notified to any relevant parties in advance.

### **Section III: Members**

1. Organisations associated to Young Greens - Óige Ghlas are to be referred to as "Member Groups" and may be set up anywhere within Ireland.
  - a. Any Members under the age of 18 must provide written parental permission to the Committee to attend any events which require travel involving overnight stays and/or where activities not normally deemed appropriate for minors are part of the itinerary.
2. To become a Member Group of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas, an organisation must apply to the Committee and furnish it with all information deemed by the Committee to be relevant. This may include the number of Members, type of activities, and a budget.
3. The Committee will facilitate the entry of each new Member organisation into Young Greens - Óige Ghlas so long as their activities and objectives are not contrary to those of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas. Any such organisation established outside the borders of Ireland may also apply for Membership, subject to ratification by the Committee.

4. The Committee may suspend a Member Group if the Member Group concerned has:
    - i. failed to respect the Constitution of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas;
    - ii. in the opinion of the Committee the Member Group has brought the Association into disrepute through unseemly behaviour or otherwise; or
    - iii. if the Member Group concerned has become inactive.
  - b. The decision to permanently suspend a Member Group under article III.4.i or III.4.ii can be made at National Convention by a majority of two-thirds of the Members present, after the Member Group has been given the possibility to express and defend itself.
  - c. The decision to suspend a Member Group for inactivity can be made by the Committee if they deem it necessary.
  - d. No voting rights shall accrue to Member Groups that are under suspension.
5. In order for a Member Group to avail of its privilege to vote at Green Party Policy Council or National Convention the following process must be observed:
    - i. the Member Group shall notify the Policy Coordinator of the Young Greens that it wishes to avail of the privilege;
    - ii. the Member Group shall also notify the Green Party head office; and
    - iii. the Green Party head office will then confirm with the Policy Co-ordinator of the Young Greens to clarify that the Member Group is affiliated with the Young Greens.
  - b. This process must be completed on an annual basis.

#### **Section IV: General Assembly**

1. Unless otherwise stated herein, Members and Member Groups of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas as represented at the National Convention shall have full powers of administration of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas. Only the National Convention may:
  - a. approve annual budgets and accounts;
  - b. elect and dismiss Members of the Committee;
  - c. subject to the provisions of this Constitution amend the statutes; and
  - d. wind up the Association.
2. The National Convention shall meet in ordinary session under the Chairperson at least once a year.

- a. The meeting place of the Convention shall be rotated between groups annually.
  - b. The Secretary will provide reasonable notice of the meeting, including the time, location and agenda to all Member Groups in advance.
  - c. The time, location and agenda are to be agreed upon by the Committee.
  - d. Motions for the National Convention will be accepted by the Secretary, prior to notification of the agenda.
  - e. The National Convention may meet at an extraordinary meeting on request of the Committee or at the request of 50% of Member Groups, with a minimum of 7 days notice.
3. A quorum of 30% of Member Groups, present or represented, is required for any National Convention meeting.

### **Section V: Constitutional Change and Dissolution**

1. Any proposal to amend the Constitution shall be made only by the National Convention and can be passed by 50% of Members present. Any Constitutional amendments shall be effective immediately as of their ratification by National Convention, unless explicitly stated in the text of such amendment.

### **Section VI: Budget and Accounts**

1. The Committee shall present the accounts of the previous financial year and budget for the coming year to the National Convention, which will approve or reject them as it sees fit. The Members of the National Convention shall approve or reject the accounts of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas by simple majority vote during the first National Convention meeting convened after the end of each financial year by simple majority vote; they will do so after the accounts have been presented by the Treasurer.
  - a. An auditor may be appointed.
  - b. The Association's financial year end falls on 31st July each year.
2. Receipts for all purchases must be kept for a minimum of seven years.
3. The Committee are deemed the beneficial owners of the Association in so far as they are the ultimate controlling parties of the Association's assets.
4. Any funds raised over the course of the Committee's term of office must be immediately lodged in the Young Green Bank Account.

## **Section VII: General Provisions**

1. Any provision left not provided for in the present statutes shall be dealt with on an ad-hoc basis by the Committee in accordance with the law.
2. A document of standing orders for National Convention will be drafted by the Committee. Amendments can be proposed by any group in advance of the National Convention and must be passed by a simple majority of voting delegates at National Convention.

## **Section VIII: Committee Roles & Responsibilities**

1. Chairperson
  - a. To act as the chief public representative of the Young Greens;
  - b. To chair meetings of the Committee and National Convention;
  - c. To sit on any Green Party/an Comhaontas Glas Youth Committees that may be convened, and to liaise with the Green Party/an Comhaontas Glas;
  - d. To organise the Young Greens participation at the Green Party National Committee; and
  - e. To assist affiliated groups in submitting motions to Young Greens or Green Party convention.
2. Secretary
  - a. To take the minutes of all meetings conducted by the Young Greens;
  - b. To assist with administration of the regional and national groups; and
  - c. To facilitate the functioning of the Committee.
3. Treasurer
  - a. To manage the budget and financial accounts of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas; and
  - b. To manage fundraising for the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas.
4. Policy Coordinator
  - a. To facilitate and manage discussions on policy;
  - b. To advise Members on current party policy; and
  - c. To develop groups for future policy development.
  - d. To act as the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas voting representative at Green Party Policy Council.



## 5. Communications Officer

A maximum of two people may hold this role at any time.

- a. To create an awareness of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas on a local, national and international level;
- b. To manage the social media presence of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas;
- c. To manage and maintain the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas website.
- d. To co-ordinate any Young Greens - Óige Ghlas publications that may be pursued;
- e. To formulate press releases as directed by the Committee;
- f. To organise training for Members in campaign organisation and strategy;
- g. To liaise with local groups and other campaigning organisations to identify campaign issues - To plan campaigns approved by the Committee; and
- h. To execute campaigns approved by the NEC and assist Member organisations in running campaigns.

## 6. Branch Coordinator

- a. To assist new Member organisations in becoming operational;
- b. To share best practice between branches;
- c. To assist in the continued development of branches; and
- d. To maintain communication between branches and the national committee.

## 7. International Liaison Officer

- a. To create links between the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas and like-minded youth organisations on an international level; and
- b. To manage the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas membership of the Federation of European Young Greens (FYEG).

## 8. Membership & Events Officer

- a. To plan recruitment campaigns and membership growth;
- b. To target new areas for membership growth; and
- c. To facilitate the organisation of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas events.

## 9. Equality Officer

- a. To promote diversity in the activities and policies of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas through the inclusion of people from minority communities and marginalised backgrounds as identified by the Committee, including but not limited to the equality grounds listed in section 3(2) of the Equal Status Act 2000, as amended,
- b. To encourage widening participation by developing platforms for under-represented groups to have a voice in Young Greens - Óige Ghlas,
- c. To advise Members on best practice in equality-related activities, and
- d. To act as the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas liaison with relevant groups within the Green Party (e.g. Queer Greens, Rural Young Greens and Mná Glasa).

10. Oifigeach na Gaeilge (*Irish Language Officer*)

- a. To promote the use of the Irish language among the membership of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas and foster the development of a community of Irish language speakers within Young Greens - Óige Ghlas,
- b. To assist members of the Committee to fulfill their roles and responsibilities having regard to the specific needs of Irish language speakers, and
- c. To make representations, in conjunction with the Policy Coordinator, in relation to Irish language policy on behalf of the membership of Young Greens - Óige Ghlas.

11. In the event of a vacancy arising on the Committee, including an instance when the position cannot be filled at a National Convention; the Committee shall notify the membership of the Young Greens - Óige Ghlas of this vacancy, and applications sought for a replacement. If more than one application is received, the Committee shall vote on the replacement by way of single transferable vote. In the event of all positions on the Committee becoming vacant at the same time, an Extraordinary National Convention shall be held, following the same format as the National Convention.

12. A motion of no confidence in the Committee as a whole or in any Member or Members thereof may be tabled in advance of any National Convention.

- a. If this motion is supported by at least two-thirds of delegates in attendance, the Committee or such Member or Members in respect of whom the motion was passed shall resign immediately and the Constitutional provisions of Article VIII.9 shall come into effect in respect of each vacant position.
- b. No more than one motion of no confidence may be tabled against any Member of the Committee in the course of a year, including motions tabled against the Committee as a whole.