

Ours is not the struggle of one day

My dear Member Organisations,

I run for co-spokesperson on **five key priorities** that reflect the many calls and discussions I had over the past months to listen to and understand your concerns and our mission for **solidarity, justice, and inclusion** you elected me upon two years ago:

- 1. The Inclusion Plan: racial justice from words into action.**
- 2. Politics of care: nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan.**
- 3. Politics of solidarity: building an international movement.**
- 4. A truly pan-European Federation: expanding capacity-sharing.**
- 5. Avenues for dialogue: revisiting internal structures.**

I am proud of the work we've done and I've pushed for since 2022. Even despite my difficult position this past period, I am proud to have organised our MO trainings and an amazingly successful Study Session with CDN. In coordinating the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) and Beyond Growth Platform (BGP), we have achieved much this past year, but most importantly, I have seen the importance of creating spaces for dialogue and community.

There's so much more to be done as we strive to become a Federation for all, one that centralises the voices and embraces the differences of youth from marginalised communities. An FYEG where we deeply realise that the personal is political.

The words of John Lewis remind us, racialised and ethnicised youth, LGBTQIA+ youth, disabled youth, youth of the Global South and of Southern and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, youth across marginalised identities and intersections – fellow disruptors, fighters, and changemakers, that change takes time.

'Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year... Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part. And if we believe in the change we seek, then it is easy to commit to doing all we can, because the responsibility is ours alone to build a better society and a more peaceful world.'

These priorities may be ambitious, but we must dream to change, because we care, because we love, because we give a damn. They will not all be achieved in these nine short months, many are an ever ongoing process, so we need an Executive Committee that puts solidarity, justice, and inclusion at the heart of the Federation and ensures their continuance. And I hope you put your trust in me to (co-)lead that push.

The vision summarised

1. The Inclusion Plan: racial justice from words into action

- Effectively implementing the Inclusion Plan.
- Prioritising a racialised perspective.
- Expanding spaces for racialised and ethnicised youth.
- Centralising decoloniality.

2. Politics of care: nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan

- Consulting, as much as possible within our capacities, the most affected communities in issues concerning them.
- Strengthening partnerships with civil society partners and networks.
- Centralising intersectionality.

3. Politics of solidarity: building an international movement

- Furthering political communications and education on global crises.
- Learning from and working closely with CDN.
- Expanding collaborations with non-European partners.

4. A truly pan-European Federation: expanding capacity-sharing

- Centralising Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans in our politics.
- Facilitating the involvement of underrepresented Member Organisations in our capacity-sharing initiatives.
- Expanding (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives.

5. Avenues for dialogue: revisiting internal structures

- Exploring avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration with MOs.
- Co-leading spaces for dialogue within the EC.
- Identifying areas of improvement in internal communications between FYEG bodies.

Until the General Assembly, I am readily available for a call or a chat if you have any questions or concerns! Send me a message via [Telegram](#), [Instagram](#), or [email](#) whenever necessary. I look forward to meeting all of you in person soon, and to continuing this mission for **solidarity, justice, and inclusion**. Where we never forget that the personal is political.

For you, for us, for FYEG,



Srishagon Abraham

1. The Inclusion Plan

Racial justice from words into action

- Effectively implementing the Inclusion Plan.**
- Prioritising a racialised perspective.**
- Expanding spaces for racialised and ethnicised youth.**
- Centralising decoloniality.**

As potentially the first non-European racialised and migrantised co-spokesperson, I continue to experience firsthand how exclusionary Europe and European politics are. It has been my highest priority since first being elected to disrupt and confront ourselves with our exclusionary realities – our Whiteness, our Westernness, our Eurocentrism – in order to create spaces and practices for racialised and ethnicised youth. Youth like us deserve to have our voices heard, building our own seat at the table if we have to.

Racialised and ethnicised youth must be able to look at this Federation and find a home. A space where we all actively do our part for inclusion.

Over the past year the RJTF did not just create a strong community and brave space for racialised and ethnicised youth to find support given the challenging times, but we worked hard on an Inclusion Plan to comprehensively address the steps necessary towards a Federation with racial justice at its heart.

As coordinator of the RJTF and someone deeply involved in the drafting process this past year, I am strongly familiar with the plan. Drawing from this familiarity and my own lived experiences, I will prioritise the effective implementation of the Plan this coming period.

Politically, drawing from my academic and personal expertise, I want to further develop our political education and action on decoloniality, continuing where we left off in our first decoloniality resolution.

2. Politics of care

Nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan.

- ❑ **Consulting, as much as possible within our capacities, the most affected communities in issues concerning them.**
- ❑ **Strengthening partnerships with civil society partners and networks.**
- ❑ **Centralising intersectionality.**

As we move towards a post-EU elections landscape with redefined capacities, we must, within the best of our capacities, centralise a politics of care. One that isn't just reactive, but proactive and inclusive of the communities most affected by the issues we work on.

This means, for example, including migrants when working on migration, racialised communities when working on racial justice issues, and Eastern Europe when working on Eastern European concerns. This starts from within our broad FYEG family: through the Member Organisations, CDN, the RJTF and BGP, and the Green Base.

We must further actively work towards discussions, planning, and decision-making with intersectionality at its core.

FYEG can further greatly benefit from the expertise of our civil society partners and their already-established networks. The RJTF discussed with the European Network Against Racism possible strategic areas of (long-term) collaboration, and the BGP proposes our involvement in and membership of the International Degrowth Network this coming term. Such partnerships must be explored and pursued further to connect us directly with affected communities in the politics we're doing.

3. Politics of solidarity

Building an international movement.

- Furthering political communications and education on global crises.**
- Learning from and working closely with CDN.**
- Expanding collaborations with non-European partners.**

With the adoption of the resolutions on Palestine, Ukraine, European imperialism, and degrowth, FYEG will have a strong, (re)invigorated mandate to tackle the global crises we face and European complicity in them.

We must therefore keep being vocal and proactive on Palestine and Ukraine, strengthening these efforts as much as we can in light of the ongoing genocides that wages on. We must stand steadfast with the people of Palestine and Ukraine and be loud defenders of international law.

Alongside this, we must realise that European politics impacts the world. FYEG can play a crucial role in educating a young demographic on the crises occurring across the world, and Europe's complicity in them. We need a strong and proactive approach towards political education on, for example, the genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh, the civil war in Sudan, the conflict in Congo and Western Sahara, and Europe's role in them.

We also must strengthen our international cooperation, learning from CDN as a key example. Drawing from the seminars CDN has organised with international partners like the Global Young Greens and Taiwanese Young Greens, and the guests they had of young greens from Africa and Latin America, we too must follow in these footsteps. Through collaborations with such partners, we can learn from and share learnings with them, bring their lived experiences and expertise into our Federation, and build a truly solidary international movement.

4. A truly pan-European Federation

Expanding capacity-sharing

- ❑ **Centralising Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans in our politics.**
- ❑ **Facilitating the involvement of underrepresented Member Organisations in our capacity-sharing initiatives.**
- ❑ **Expanding (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives.**

As co-spokesperson, it is crucial to me that *all* Member Organisations are equitably represented and their concerns heard, not just the most-established ones. Many of our Member Organisations, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans, have expressed a sense of being neglected or unheard. We must double our efforts to change this.

This includes our political focus, as outlined above, increasing efforts to raise awareness within this Federation and beyond of the issues faced by Member Organisations in underrepresented regions like Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, and Ukraine.

This also includes capacity- and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Our underrepresented Member Organisations are faced with limited capacities, and can benefit most from such support and sharing initiatives from FYEG. I had the opportunity of helping coordinate our first two MO Trainings, and I am familiar with the issues these trainings faced and my own failures to implement long-term support and follow-up. The Inclusion Plan further includes FYEG-MO and MO-MO knowledge-sharing and support facilitation. Such initiatives and improvements to our trainings must be pursued, with the aim of including underrepresented Member Organisations as much as possible.

Where possible, we should also direct capacities towards organising or setting up for future organisation of (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives, such as the online seminars CDN organises and the events of the Green Base, with a focus on organisational support as well.

5. Avenues of dialogue

Revisiting internal structures

- Exploring avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration with MOs.**
- Co-leading spaces for dialogue within the EC.**
- Identifying areas of improvement in internal communications between FYEG bodies.**

In the many calls and discussions I have had with Member Organisations, it is clear that many, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans, have expressed a sense of being neglected or unheard. Currently, our only major point of input for Member Organisations is once a year at the General Assembly. Consequently, past General Assemblies have been highly tense and mentally-draining. At the same time, we must be aware of the limited capacities of Member Organisations throughout the year for various reasons, and the constantly evolving and changing political priorities of our Member Organisations.

As such, we need to explore ways to effectively communicate to and engage with Member Organisations on political and organisational issues that may be of concern to them. We should explore avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration within our capacities – whether one-on-one or in facilitated spaces, and where necessary revisiting the regional calls. Connected to this, Member Organisations need to be able to provide input, have a say, and even criticise the Executive Committee where necessary to facilitate reflection of our work, and to do so they need to be effectively informed of our work.

Within the Executive Committee, the co-spokespersons play a crucial role in working together to foster a space for dialogue. If faced with a similar conflict situation over the coming term, based on the reflections and learnings from the past period individually and as an organisation, I hope to work closely with my fellow co-spokespersons to facilitate a space where we first establish and acknowledge our different positionalities and lived experiences before engaging in sensitive discussions.

The Executive Committee should also (continue to) ensure smooth communication structures between itself and the other bodies of the Federation. As co-spokesperson, I want to devote effort towards identifying areas of improvement in internal communications, not just with Member Organisations, but with the Office, Working Groups, and other FYEG bodies.