



National Conference

Ar Aghaidh Le Cheile

Unity Begins with You



15th – 17th April 2021

#yfg21

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Welcome from the President

On behalf of the Young Fine Gael National Executive, I am delighted to welcome you to the 31st Young Fine Gael National Conference. This year's Conference will be the first YFG National Conference in the organisation's 44-year history to be held online, and I also hope that it will be the last.

The pandemic has forced all of us in YFG to adapt quickly and dynamically to remain relevant and on this front, I believe we have succeeded. Our policies and campaigns have focussed on advocating for sensible, practical solutions to issues relevant to young people. We have sought to modernise Young Fine Gael through the relaunch of our website, the expansion of our social media presence to new platforms and a larger audience and the launch of the YFG Women's Network, placing a renewed focus on the importance of greater female participation in politics.

For the first time in its history, YFG was forced to run the entirety of its recruitment campaign online as Ireland went into lockdown. Despite the challenges we faced, our branches across the country can take pride in the fact that together, we delivered YFG's first year-on-year increase in membership since 2016. Ní heart go cur le chéile.

It is in the spirit of collective unity of purpose that the YFG Steering Committee settled on the theme for this year's National Conference: Ar aghaidh le chéile. Unity begins with you. I see this idea not only as a theme for this National Conference but as a guiding principle and a rallying call for the future of our great organisation.

At the very first meeting of the National Executive in November 2019, every member of the team agreed that in anything we did or said, we would do it collectively and with unity of purpose. Along the way, it is true that at times we had our fair share of disagreements, but openly discussing, debating, and settling on a common position was always our guiding philosophy.

Likewise, this National Conference is a timely opportunity to engage in some of the most important discussions and debates in YFG's history and agree a common vision of how we approach these issues over the coming term and further into the future.

Ireland's young people have suffered an enormous degree of hurt as a result of the pandemic: the loss of our loved ones, our jobs, our relationships, our friendships and our education.

Throughout the weekend, we will hear from some of the most prominent changemakers on the island of Ireland and in Europe and share our ideas of how we can rebuild a future of opportunity for our young people. Tackling climate change,

shaping the digital future, charting the future of the island of Ireland, getting young people back to work, improving access to education and looking after our mental health are just some of the key debates that will feature over the weekend.

I hope that the 31st National Conference will allow YFG to emerge invigorated, with a vision for the future of what Ireland should look like once the pandemic is over and a unity of purpose to become the leaders of the future in making it happen.

As my term as President of Young Fine Gael concludes, I want to wish the incoming National Executive every success in the term ahead. Regardless of who is elected on 24 April, I know that the organisation is in safe and capable hands and I hope that by the time your term ends, you will have the opportunity to return YFG to some sense of the normality we knew pre-pandemic, all the while a larger, stronger, and more effective organisation.

To all our members, I hope that you enjoy this year's online National Conference and that by the time the next National Conference comes around, I will be able to see all of you again in person with a pint in hand and COVID-19 far behind us.

When I was elected as President of YFG in November 2019, it would have been impossible to fathom that as an Executive, we would, after a short few months, be required to oversee the reorientation of Young Fine Gael to working and campaigning exclusively online.

I am incredibly thankful for the perseverance and dedication that both the members of the National Executive and all our members showed to keep the flame of the organisation's policy and campaigning agenda burning bright. I am also deeply honoured that you were willing to put your faith in me as your President at the National Conference in Tullow in 2019. I hope I did not let you down.

Is mise le meas,

Daire Lawler

President of Young Fine Gael (2019-2021)

National Executive Report

General Election 2020

The term of the 2019-2021 Young Fine Gael National Executive began with the onset of a General Election held in February 2020. As part of the General Election campaign, Young Fine Gael President, Daire Lawler, travelled around the country along with the National Youth Officer for the whole duration of the Leaders' Tour. Each day, a team of canvassers from around the country joined the Leaders' Tour to ensure that there was a constant YFG presence on the campaign trail. Additionally, members around the country held debate watch parties and the YFG Communications Committee worked to campaign for YFG and Fine Gael priorities during the General Election.

Youth Manifesto

With the 2020 General Election having been called a mere two months into our term, significant work was done on preparing our Youth Manifesto over the Christmas period. We launched the Manifesto, entitled Empower Your Future, in the Rebel County at the Oriel House in Ballincollig on Friday, 31 January 2020. Members of the National Executive held a meeting at the launch with An Taoiseach, and Party Leader, Leo Varadkar, and Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Deputy Leader, Simon Coveney, to take them through some of our priorities in any future Programme for Government. Our five main priorities which we campaigned on during the GE were: (1) the introduction of ride sharing services in Ireland, (2) minimum wage equality for youth workers, (3) Bike to College scheme, (4) reducing the age of digital consent, and (5) reducing building height restrictions to allow for taller buildings.

Mental Health Matters

In May of 2020, the National Executive ran a campaign focusing on mental health with the aim of ring fencing

the 10% of the health budget for mental health services to coincide with the introduction of Sláintecare. This was advocated to protect our mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic which would massively impact young people's mental health. The campaign also welcomed the launch of "Sharing the Vision", the updated policy for Mental Health from the Minister of State for Mental Health.

International Women's Day Campaign

International Women's Day was celebrated in Dáil Éireann in March 2020 with a panel discussion on women's participation in politics, hosted by Director of Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion, Emily Larkin and attended by Emer Higgins TD, Senator Emer Currie and Cllr. Vicki Casserly. The event coincided with a campaign highlighting the 5 C's of barriers to women's participation in politics. Following this event, the National Executive prioritised the establishment of the YFG Women's Network, an organ of the party that has since gone from strength to strength.

Programme for Government

Upon the announcement that Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, and the Green Party had agreed to enter into negotiations to form a coalition government, the Taoiseach appointed the YFG President to the Fine Gael Policy Reference Group for the Programme for Government (PfG). As part of the process of the negotiations, the Taoiseach held a virtual meeting with President and Vice President of YFG and MEP Maria Walsh on an extensive submission that YFG made to the PfG negotiations. Prior to the negotiations, YFG held a special National Assembly in April 2020 where members voted by 63.6% against the motion that FG should not enter into a coalition with Fianna Fail, and this membership view was represented by YFG's Executive Council members during the PfG process.



Pre-Budget Submission

On 31 August, we launched our Pre Budget-Submission (PBS), entitled *Striving for Progress*, written and developed by the Director of Policy and Policy and Campaigns Committee. This year, the policy submission was also accompanied by a two-week online campaign leading up to our meeting with the Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe and Budget Day itself. As part of this campaign, we focused each day on one of our 17 key recommendations, and our Director of Communications implemented a slick social media strategy, which included interviews on national media outlets. The PBS was one of the most extensive in recent years, with 99 policy proposals in seven key areas: (1) the environment and climate, (2) education, (3) employment, finance and tax, (4) government reform, (5) housing, health and mental health, (6) transport, and (7) agriculture and rural affairs. As part of our campaign, we met with Ministers Paschal Donohoe, Heather Humphreys, Simon Harris, Josepha Madigan, Martin Heydon, Damien English and TD's Richard Bruton and Jennifer Carroll MacNeill, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party. In addition to the PBS campaign, we incorporated the policies into our successful National Recruitment Campaign on the areas of: (1) eliminating VAT on condoms and menstrual cups, and (2) equalising the youth minimum wage. Although we were delighted to see some

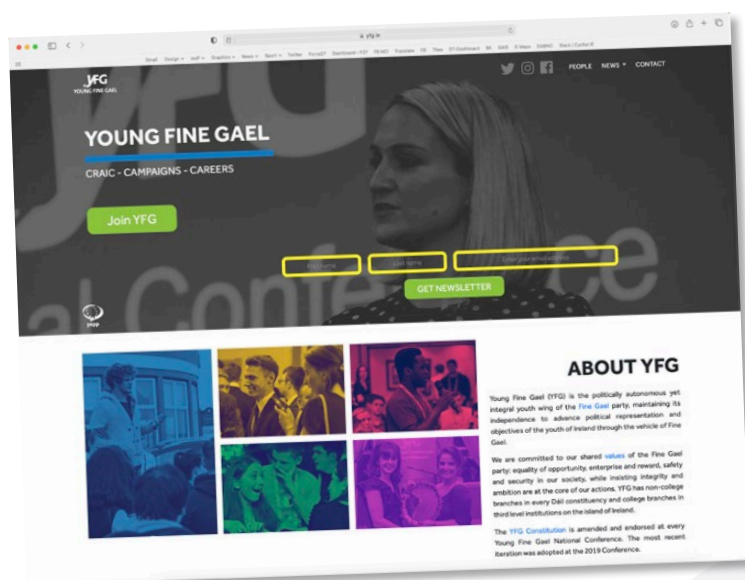
measures, such as the announcement of the SUSI review, included in the Budget, we were disappointed that neither of our two very simple and pragmatic National Recruitment campaign proposals featured in the Budget.

National Transport Campaign

The National Transport Campaign was launched in July 2020 after months of hard-work on behalf of the Policy & Campaigns Subcommittee. In November we launched a formal document entitled *Action Plan for Irish Public Transport – A National Public Transport Campaign*. The document focused on and proposed 56 ways to improve public transport across Ireland through rail services, bus services and taxi services. It provided a range of ideas for the consideration of the government on how to tackle the key issue of public transport across the four provinces. Among the things that were proposed was the introduction of ride-sharing initiatives, more frequent bus services in urban and rural areas and an improved rail network offering more affordable rail fares. The Policy & Campaigns Subcommittee presented the published document to Minister Hildegard Naughton in December 2020. The in-depth document was well received and helped ensure YFG had clear policy ideas on our national public transport infrastructure.

Website

The Young Fine Gael website has been a manifesto pledge for many an Executive candidate for many years. In September 2020, we finally saw the unveiling of our brand-new website (www.yfg.ie) which is far more user friendly and professional in comparison to previous versions. Local and national events can be advertised well in advance; there is plenty of space for our numerous policy documents; and local and national press releases can also be advertised on this new interactive space. Let's all make sure that we keep it active and populated throughout this incoming Executive's term.



Recruitment Campaign

The continuing prevalence of COVID-19 resulted in a challenging and unprecedented recruitment campaign for the Organisation. The buzzing atmosphere of campus recruitment fairs was replaced by quirky online graphics and glossy URLs during the first ever Online College Recruitment campaign, which was launched in September. The rollout of Young Fine Gael's Pre-Budget Submission from late August created a lot of online and media traction for the organisation in the lead up to the Recruitment campaign. A campaign strategy was designed by the incredible Communications Committee and implemented around two of our sixteen key policy proposals:

1. To Abolish VAT on condoms and menstrual cups
2. To Abolish sub-rates of the National Minimum Wage

A number of syndicated statements were created by the Director of Communications and distributed to local branches and members. Interactive graphics and press

releases also formed part of our efforts to gain as much media attention as possible throughout the Freshers Week timeframe across many of our third-level institutions. Given that these two key priorities have yet to receive any meaningful attention at Government level, it is strongly advised that they continue to form part of future Recruitment campaigns as youth issues. Feel free to also use the thousands of YFG branded "I would do anything for love - but I won't do VAT" condoms, which have been kept a secret until now! The Recruitment Campaign also centred around the rollout of an engaging and professional "Join YFG" Video - as well as some tongue-in-cheek graphics, which were designed to increase our presence online.

Climate Action Policy Paper

As one of the key issues being raised by young people, the Director of Policy made the development of policy on climate action one of his key priorities. To this end, he established a Climate and Environment Taskforce in the autumn with a view to developing YFG's policy proposal on the issue. A subset of the Policy and Campaigns Committee, the Taskforce was filled with members who have expertise and special interests in the area, along with some representatives of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee. This Taskforce, consisting of Garry O'Sullivan, Vera O'Riordan, Conor Mulloy, Billy Maguire, Niall Curley, and Jack Fallon, launched their paper, entitled Realisable Sustainability, on 19 January 2021 with a two-week social media campaign. The Paper was broken up into the areas of climate and the environment, with specific policy proposals on each. As part of the promotion of the paper, it was launched at the 2021 Policy Think In described below.

Policy Think In

We held our Think In via Zoom on 30 January 2021 for almost four hours. It was hoped that the Think In could have been held in person at some point, however the pandemic intruded on those plans. There were three parts to the day: (1) the launch of our Climate Action Policy Paper, which was a discussion and Q&A with Richard Bruton TD, chaired by Vice President and Director of Policy Garry O'Sullivan; (2) a discussion and Q&A on the present and future of education in Ireland with Minister Josepha Madigan, chaired by Director of Recruitment Jen Chadwick; and (3) policy breakout rooms on (a) Leaving Cert 2021 and (b) third level funding. On this latter aspect, members voted by 80% to support a Hybrid System for LC 2021 and by 42% on option 2 of the Cassells Report on Third Level Funding (increased state funding with continuing student fees). The Hybrid System for LC 2021 was later adopted by the Minister for Education.



Dublin Day

Dublin Day was held on Halloween on the 31st of October 2020. The event was held online, and the day was broken up into 5 segments. The DRC wanted to introduce new and fun events to the membership, and we believe that we succeeded in doing so with Dublin Day. Another focus of the DRC this term was to have a broader range of engagement with membership and to empower others to be comfortable in leadership roles. We achieved this by having each segment of the Day being chaired by a different member of the Dublin Regional Council. The aim of this Dublin Day (as well as the approach to Dublin as a whole) was to combine serious policy-driven conversation with fun, relaxed lighthearted events, which can be seen with the segments as follows: an international event, surprise events, a session on Coping with COVID in Education, Among Us gameplay and finally, spooky hour with Shane Richardson. The international event featured a topical debate relating to the 2020 US elections between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. We invited representatives from both the Democratic and Republican parties to debate in favor of their respective candidates. The surprise event was the Dublin Bake Off where we pre-recorded a video of various committee members of the DRC competing against one another in the Bake Off. As part of our session on Coping with COVID in Education, we invited Minister Josepha Madigan, and Deputies Emer Higgins TD and Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD to speak about how the government aims to address problems young people

are facing regarding education. Spooky Hour with Shane Richardson featured a pumpkin carving competition as part of Halloween. All in all, the day was a success, with attendance being very high. The DRC will continue to strive to bring forth new and interesting events for Dublin.

Wild West Weekend

The first annual Wild West Weekend took place on Saturday 3rd April between 4pm and 6pm. The first portion of the event was the North West Hustings chaired by Minister Hildegard Naughton. All candidates running at the upcoming YFG National Conference had the opportunity to present their ideas to North West members and answer any questions. Following the conclusion of the Hustings, the second portion of the event began with the airing of a short video showcasing the jiving and lip-syncing talents of various members of the North West Regional Council. When the Wild West Weekend takes place in person in the future, the dance floor will certainly be full of great jivers! Members then took part in a very challenging escape room that required those on the call to work together to get out of the first room. After just over an hour, the event was brought to an end as the escape room could have continued for hours! Overall, the event was a great success and we look forward to the next Wild West Weekend which will hopefully give members the chance to meet in person for a fun filled weekend!

National Executive Attendance Report

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National Executive

2020-2021



Daire Lawler, President

(Trinity YFG and Dublin West YFG)

Daire is a TCD graduate of Economics and Mathematics and looks fondly on his time working for Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.



Garry O'Sullivan, Vice President and Director of Policy

(UCC YFG and Cork North West YFG)

Garry's YFG highlights include progressing policy documents on youth minimum wage to a national level while maintaining his lustrous locks.



Daniel Lynch, National Secretary

(Cork North West YFG)

Texas Longhorns and Hamilton fan Daniel is serving his second term on the National Executive.



Dylan Hutchinson, Director of Campaigns

(Trinity YFG and Dún Laoghaire YFG)

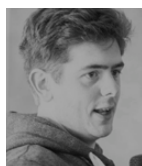
Wicklow man Dylan studies History at Trinity College Dublin and has served at various levels in the organisation.



Emily Larkin, Director of Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion

(DCU YFG and Dublin Mid-West YFG)

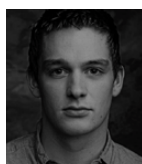
Emily is a final year student studying primary school teaching and living in Lucan.



Darragh O'Brien, Director of Membership and Organisational Development

(UL YFG and Tipperary YFG)

Darragh is a proud Tipp farmer interested in rugby, hurling and musical theatre.



Ian Fahey, Director of Communications and Social Media

(Dublin Bay North YFG)

Ian has worked extensively in politics and was central to previous successful YFG campaigns.



Jen Chadwick, Director of Recruitment

(UCC YFG and Cork South Central YFG)

Jen has been surfing since the age of six, and is currently studying for the FE1 exams.



Obi Ekoba, Dublin Regional Organiser

(Dublin South Central YFG)

A Law graduate of TCD, Obi stood for local elections in 2019 in his hometown of Drimnagh.



Shane Price, Leinster Regional Organiser

(Meath YFG)

Shane holds an MA in Politics from UCD and his interests include tech, EU Politics and issues facing rural Ireland.



Briain McVeigh, Munster Regional Organiser

(UCC YFG)

Aran sweater aficionado Briain has previously worked in politics and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Medicine at UCC.



Susan Bannigan, North West Regional Organiser

(Cavan/Monaghan YFG)

Susan is a secondary school teacher of English and History, active in YFG since her days at NUI Maynooth. A big fan of jiving!



**UPDATE HATE
CRIME
LEGISLATION
TO ENSURE
THE LGBT
COMMUNITIES
RIGHTS ARE
PROTECTED**



**ENSURE THAT
THE
PROHIBITION
OF THE GAY
THERAPY BILL
IS PASSED**



**REFORM THE
SEXUAL
EDUCATION
CURRICULUM
INCLUSIVE OF
THE LGBT+
COMMUNITY**



**LGBTQI+
PRIDE
MONTH**

JUNE 2020



Policy and Campaigns Committee

By Garry O'Sullivan (Director of Policy)

The policy of YFG over this term has largely thrived despite the pandemic (but I would say this). Many of this year's policy work areas are detailed at other parts of the Clár; the Youth Manifesto, the Programme for Government submission, the Pre Budget-Submission, the Climate Policy, and the Policy Think In. Here, I will give a small overview of what we hoped to achieve, how we fared, and where I think we fell short and that the next Executive could pick up on.

After the draining General Election, there was a twofold approach that I wanted us to take our policy. First, set out what I thought was an achievable policy agenda. This would be based on having detailed policy and campaign ready proposals in important issues squarely faced by young people. This translated into three main proposed work streams: (1) an extensive PBS that was ready by the end of summer, (2) a climate policy document, and (3) an education policy document. Second, actually getting member involvement in as much policy as possible given the many talented members we have.

On the first, I think we got 75% of the way there. Our PBS, drafted by the end of July and ready by mid-August, was incredibly detailed with 99 proposals, and we had a snappy and pragmatic climate and environment policy drafted by Christmas and ready by the New Year. Unfortunately, however, time came against us in developing a fully-fledged education policy, which I think was a pity. YFG has such a unique voice to articulate on this front, in challenging the snobby consensus about a college degree being a rite of passage, and offering sustainable solutions for third level funding. We did, however, a lot of work on apprenticeships (a long successful YFG campaign area) in our PBS, along with specific education breakout rooms at our Think In, but I really hope that the next Executive takes this work a step further. It is worth mentioning, however, that—thanks principally to the perseverance of Conor Mulloy—a Housing policy document was also developed by the Housing Policy Subcommittee, and it is hoped that this document will be launched at the beginning of the next Executive's terms with their consent.

On the second, I think some real progress has been made: the Policy and Campaigns Committee had a large and diverse membership, and we set up specific policy taskforces in the area of climate and housing. However, often when views and submissions were sought via email or on the National



Forum, responses never arrived. Yet often there was a plethora of passionate critical views about a particular policy ex post. It is understandable that we all live busy lives, and that it is not always possible to engage meaningfully on policy submissions, but it is easy to make sweeping comments in the brevity of grand rhetorical flourishes. Meaningful policy discussion is grubby and hard work. It is difficult to accurately represent members views if they don't engage. Granted, we could have, perhaps, engaged more with alternative channels, but my mother's refrain comes to mind: blood can't be drawn from an unwilling stone. Yet, YFG members certainly aren't staid stones, so that active voice needs to be channelled constructively.

I hope members at least felt that we never stopped trying to take us back to our roots as a serious policy organisation. I have every faith that the incoming Executive will carry on this mantle. Thank you to all the members of the Policy and Campaigns Committee, the Climate and Environment Taskforce, and the Housing Taskforce for all your enthusiastic work behind the scenes.

***Note: All policy documents published in the lifetime of this Executive (post November 2019 – April 2021) can be downloaded from the YFG website www.yfg.ie/policy-documents.**





Agricultural, Rural & Environmental Affairs Committee

Fine Gael has a proud history of achieving the support of farmers since our foundation in 1922 with a history stretching back to Michael Davitt & the Irish Land League. This agricultural support cannot be taken for granted. The Agricultural and Rural, had environmental affairs added to its portfolio in the last term. The committee chaired, by UCD Agricultural Science student, Shane Dolphin, consisted of ten enthusiastic young farmers, rural dwellers and environmentalists, who made it their goal to be the strongest voice possible on the topic of sustainable and profitable agricultural production for young farmers.

In September, the Committee presented their pre-budget submission to Minister of State, Martin Haydon TD, and discussed their proposals. The newly appointed MEP for the Midlands North-West, Colm Markey, who is a former President of Macra na Feirme, sits on the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee in the European Parliament and is the shadow rapporteur for agricultural methane production in Europe, met with the Committee on several occasions, where a wide range of issues were discussed, including: agri greenhouse gas emissions, the future of CAP, water quality, biodiversity and the Mercosur Trade deal. This sub-committee was active in their opposition against the Mercosur Trade deal and got recognition for this in the Irish agricultural press. The sub-committee Chairperson, Shane Dolphin, had a meeting with the former Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed TD, on behalf of the committee, where they discussed farm succession and inheritance, agricultural diversity & innovation, the Nitrates and Water Frameworks Directive and forestry felling licences.

This rejuvenated and enthusiastic sub-committee got support and recognition from senior members of the Parliamentary party, for their role in making Fine Gael actively engage in discussing the issues facing agriculture in 2021. The work of this committee will help secure the support of young farmers for Fine Gael in future elections. The highlight of this committee's term was when they hosted



the first "Hogan Agricultural Webinar", with this year's topic being "Agriculture and the Environment - Rather than Being the Problem, Let's Be the Solution". This webinar, held over two consecutive days attracted an audience of over 150 men and women. To the delight of the committee only half of the attendees were YFG and Fine Gael members, the remainder consisted of agricultural science students,

members of Macra na Feirme, the IFA, environmentalists and interested rural dwellers, who wanted to shape our agri-environmental policy. The two-pronged event first hosted, Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary party, Richard Bruton TD (Former Minister for the Environment), Michael Creed TD (Former Minister for Agriculture) and former IFA President, Joe Healy as our panellists. The panellists for the second event were: Colm Markey MEP, Biodiversity Young Farmer of the Year - Joe Melody and Dr. Helen Sheridan (UCD Lecturer for Agricultural and Environmental Policy). The mix of politicians, farmers and academics allowed for a well-informed and balanced debate on agricultural and environmental sustainability. The information and points discussed in these meetings is being used to draft a YFG Agricultural Policy document, which will be launched

by the committee, in the coming weeks, at an event which will include Minister Martin Haydon, MEP Colm Markey and editor of the Irish Farmers Journal - Justin McCarthy. It is envisaged, by the Committee's Chairperson, Shane Dolphin, that agriculture will hold a strong voice in YFG with a proactive and progressive sub-committee that represents young farmer's interests and iterates that there is a home in Fine Gael for the agricultural community and it is our party that will represent their best interests.

Sustainability, both environmentally and financially, is the ultimate goal, as we strive to grow our agricultural production, while reducing our carbon emissions so we are farming, not harming.





Coiste na Gaeilge

Bhí ochtar ceaptha mar chomhaltaí a Choiste na Gaeilge ag an Ardchoiste: Luke Corkery, Jen Chadwick, Kenneth Conlon, Ellen Brophy, Joshua Ellul, Claire McHale, James Conachy agus Fergal Flood. Ghlac Luke Corkery le cathaoirleacht an Choiste. Bheartaigh an Choiste díriú ar Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn lastaigh den eagraíocht. Chuir siad plean gnímh a chur le chéile chun feiceáil na Gaeilge a mhéidiú ar na meáin shóisialta, sna feachtais agus ag na himeachtaí éagsúla. Tá súil againn go n-oibreoidh an chéad Coiste Gaeilge eile leis an gcéad Ardchoiste eile chun an plean seo a chur i bhfeidhm. D'oibrigh an Choiste ar feachtais éagsúla, mar shampla feachtas tras-phártaí chun pacaistiú dátheangach a thabhairt isteach ar thargaí tomhaltóra in Éirinn, cosúil le Ceanada agus leis an bhFionnlann. Ina theannta sin, d'oibrigh an Choiste ar rún don chomhdháil seo, ag iarraidh ar cheannaire Fhine Gael urlabhair le freagracht don Ghaeilge, don Ghaeltacht agus do phobail an Gaeilge labhairthe, a cheapadh, toisc nach bhfuil aon ceann dena haireachtaí againn a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge.

There were eight members appointed to Coiste na Gaeilge: Luke Corkery, Jen Chadwick, Kenneth Conlon, Ellen Brophy, Joshua Ellul, Claire McHale, James Conachy and Fergal Flood. Luke Corkery was selected as chairperson of the committee. The Coiste decided to focus on promoting the Irish language within the organisation. They put together an action plan to increase the visibility of Irish on social media, in campaigns and at various events. We hope the next Coiste will work with the next National Executive to implement their plans. The Coiste worked on various campaigns, for example a cross-party campaign to introduce bilingual packaging on consumer products in Ireland, similar to Canada and Finland. As well as that, the Coiste worked on a motion for this Conference, calling on the Leader of Fine Gael to appoint a spokesperson for the Irish language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish-speaking community, because we do not hold any ministries associated with the Irish language.



Youth political wings call for implementation of national bilingual packaging policy

Labour Youth, Ógra Shinn Féin, Social Democrats' College & University Branches, Young Fine Gael, and Young Greens/Óige Ghlas along with Conradh na Gaeilge are calling on Minister for the Gaeltacht Catherine Martin and Minister of State for the Gaeltacht Jack Chambers to put in place a bilingual packaging policy by the end of 2024. This policy would ensure that throughout the State, all text on a product, its container or wrapping, or on a document or object supplied with it, including the directions for use and the warranty certificates, will be drafted in Irish. The Irish inscription may be accompanied with a translation or translations, but no inscription in another language may be given greater prominence than that in Irish. By setting Irish as the default language with an option for a translation to accompany, this allows for monolingual packaging within the Gaeltacht areas and bilingual packaging nationwide.

We regard this proposal as a pragmatic way to increase literacy rates and speaking opportunities for the Irish language without any increase in spending by the state. This policy, adopted by the state, would give greater visibility and accessibility to the Irish language for learners and native speakers and allow citizens greater flexibility to go about their lives in either Irish or English. We contend this policy to be in large part one of public education which will see gains for (but not limited to) teachers, students, those required to have knowledge of Irish for their employment such as in the civil service, and the 1m+ people actively learning Irish on Duolingo, a language learning app, every week. It will also provide new opportunities of employment for Irish speakers in translation and marketing.

We contend this policy would incur no new costs to the average business that they wouldn't already incur over a short-run period i.e., in packaging, printing, and marketing costs. In the event of marginal costs, the Business Support Scheme 2021 grant is available, through Foras na Gaeilge, to small and medium-sized commercial enterprises to promote Irish in their businesses through signage, packaging, websites, and printed marketing material. In the medium and long run this policy will serve businesses interests by creating bilingual workers that are going to be flexible in the ways demanded by the 21st century. International enterprises

International Committee Report

YFG's International Committee 2020-2021, by Paula Campbell (YFG International Secretary)

Whilst YFG's International Committee has not met in a room over the course of our term, we did not let that stop us. We used the new-found acceptance of video calls to connect YFG members with our friends from the continent, meet with our MEPs, as well as conduct some invaluable research ahead of issuing our second iteration of YFG's Future of Europe policy.

YFG's Future of Europe Policy

The committee agreed early on that we would revisit YFG's Future of Europe policy - Building a Stronger Union - in light of the new challenges posed to Europe by the Covid19 pandemic. As part of our research we met with former MEP Brian Hayes, to discuss defence and finance policy, and with YEPP President Lidia Pereira MEP, to discuss economics and foreign affairs.

After a lot of work from the committee we agreed to expand upon the 2019 document while not deviating from the structured asks of before as we still believe that the key asks are for a more competitive, assertive and secure European Union. This new iteration seeks to not only take into account and offer solutions to the COVID-19 crisis, but also better respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by the rise of China and the 2020 U.S. General Election.

We met with Frances Fitzgerald MEP and Maria Walsh MEP to present our ideas and take on their feedback as well as hear updates from them on their work in the European Parliament.

We officially launched the policy with Minister Simon Coveney TD, Lidia Pereira MEP and Maria Walsh MEP in February. Minister Coveney spoke at length about our ideas for Ireland's foreign policy as well as how the EU can take a more active role in geopolitical affairs. This comes at a particularly important time for Ireland as we hold a seat on



the UN Security Council. YFG members had the opportunity to ask the Minister and the MEPs questions during a Q&A session at the end of the presentation.

Taiwan

We were pleased to meet with the Taiwan Representative to Ireland Pierre Tzu-pao Yang in October 2020 to discuss the challenges of rising authoritarianism and the threats it



poses to liberal democracies like Taiwan. After our meeting we released a statement calling on the Irish Government to follow the European Union and a number of our fellow Member States by formally establishing a representative office in Taipei.

Connecting with the Continent

YFG participated in several online YEPP Council meetings and NKSU meetings over the term. We were also pleased to support YEPP's Vaccines work campaign and their With Belarus campaign. We are looking forward to attending the next YEPP Council in April 2021 where we will be presenting a resolution on the EU's China policy in light of their persecution of Uyghurs.

In January we held an online event for members with JU Germany, focusing on the CDU leadership contest as Germany entered its super election year. We were given a run down of the candidates, the influence of the CSU on the race, what to look for in the upcoming federal state level elections and general election by Konstanze Fuchs (JU NRW) and Alexander Jackson (JU Hessen).

With a desire to continue following European elections, we held an event for members on the Dutch elections in February with CDJA, our Dutch sister party, and KDU Sweden, our Swedish sister party. As luck would have it, KDU approached CDJA at the same time as YFG with a similar interest in discussing the Dutch election. With help from Niels Honkoop

(CDJA Gouda) and Carl Olehäll (KDU Smögen) we ran the three party event with CDA candidate Huibert van Rossum leading the discussion on the cause of the snap election and the CDA campaign. The event finished up with discussions by members in breakout rooms and multiple pledges to offer a couch when it is once again safe to go city-hopping across Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Northern Ireland Dimension

Last but by no means least we were very happy to support and assist with YFG's Northern Ireland event: Future Opportunities for Northern Ireland in March 2021. Jude Perry moderated the event where our special guests were Fergus O'Dowd TD, Emma DeSouza, Neale Richmond TD, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, and Matthew O'Toole MLA. The event was really well attended and sparked some interesting conversations but left everyone with a renewed sense of determination to fully utilise the institutions of the Republic, Northern Ireland and the UK as envisaged under the Good Friday Agreement, promoting peace and cooperation on our islands.

The 2020 -2021 Young Fine Gael International Committee was made up of Paula Campbell, Eoin Scarlett, Áine Cooke, Sarah Canavan, Mourad Mejdi, Luke Byrne, Art O'Mahony, Jude Perry, Drummond McGinn, Conor McArdle, Ali Khan, Jamie McCourt and Jake Kieran. Our two National Executive liaisons were Shane Price and Obi Ekoba.

Women's Network Report

YFG Women's Network Overview

The Women's Network committee had an exciting and eventful year with an array of events, campaigns and training sessions organised over the term. A committee of eleven members was set-up in May 2020 by Emily Larkin and Susan Bannigan to ensure the continuation of the Women's Network and to establish a long-term committee in addressing the lack of women in leadership roles within YFG.

The Women's Network committee held seven events across the term. We launched this term with a panel discussion including former Tánaiste and current MEP, Frances Fitzgerald, Deputy Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill and Cllr Thomasina Connell, and current Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee.

This was followed by two webinars helping members with career advice on working as a local councillor, the role of the Fine Gael Executive Council and political roles in Brussels with EPP.

During the summer, we ran a campaign calling on the Minister for Education to make consent mandatory in all sexual education classes at secondary school level.

In collaboration with the Fine Gael Women's Network we organised a coffee morning fundraiser that saw over €1000 raised for Women's Aid with Minister for Justice Helen McEntee in attendance. We also did a short networking session that allowed members from both networks to connect.

We participated in a joint campaign with other youth wings to call on Minister Gorman to end period poverty in Direct Provision in Spring.

We provided a training session on running in the upcoming YFG national executive elections from previous and current members of the national exec offering advice and support to

new candidates. We then hosted a private coffee morning between all the female candidates and committee members to offer support to them in their candidacies.

Our final panel discussion was on the role of social media in politics, men supporting women's participation in politics and how to increase your confidence in order to run for election. Our guest speakers included Maria Walsh MEP, Deputy Neale Richmond and Cllr Yemi Adenuga.

The Women's Network launched the structure document that ensures the continuation of the network and the committee and will provide guidance to future committees on the running of the network.

Committee 2020/21

Chairperson: Lucy Roche

Vice Chairperson: Sinéad Bolger

Secretary: Rosemary Cushion

Treasurer: Laura Forkin

PRO: Niamh Bakker

Policy Officer: Sarah Canavan

Events Officer: Emily McTigue

Membership Officer: Chloe Kennedy

Election Officer: Vivienne Phelan

National Executive Liaisons: Emily Larkin and Susan Bannigan





Nominations for National Executive



President-Elect, Art O'Mahony

Art is 22 years old and hails from Castleisland, County Kerry. A law graduate, he is about to complete his Master's in University College Cork before joining Johnson and Johnson as a Government Affairs Policy Analyst. He is running for President of Young Fine Gael because he wants to revive our incredible organisation and bring back branches. He has the energy and experience to finance and resource our grassroots, strengthen our relationship with Fine Gael and advance policies and campaigns that really matter to young people.

Aside from politics, Art teaches the guitar and is entrenched in his local music scene. His favourite band is Fleetwood Mac and he misses impromptu sessions in his local pub more than anything. He can usually be found swimming west of Dingle or anchoring a boat during the summer, and he hopes that this doesn't read too like a dating advert in the Farmer's Journal.

Vice President



Shane Dolphin

Shane is a 21-year-old final year Agricultural Science student in UCD, hailing from Gurtymadden in East Galway. His hobbies include: traditional Irish music, studying Irish political history, fishing and hikes in the Burren. Shane is a keen musician and storyteller and an All-Ireland champion at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Not forgetting to mention, being a dolphin, he loves a good swim! (Perhaps not in Dingle!) His political idols are Patrick Hogan and Nora Owen ... surprise, surprise!

Shane joined YFG in 2014 at the Ploughing a few weeks before his 15th birthday. He founded his constituency branch in 2018, was Director of Elections in Galway East (2019 & 2020) and loves nothing better than having over a hundred farmers on Zoom! Shane is keen to grow the organisation with stronger structures, effective administration and clearer communications. He believes our campaigns should reflect the needs of young people in Ireland, while remaining true to our core values and principles. Shane is a hard worker who aches nothing of milking a few hundred cows in the morning, college in the afternoon, writing newspaper articles and Zoom calls in the evening, while caping the night off, leisurely sifting through the 1921 Treaty debates.



Shane Price

My name is Shane Price, I'm 24 and from Co. Meath. I currently work in Financial Services and joined YFG in 2014 in UCD and haven't looked back since!

I currently sit as the Leinster Regional Organiser and Co Exec Liaison to the International Committee on the National Executive.

I've also held positions on the UCD, Meath, LRC and International Committee. I'm passionate about Tech, EU Politics and Transport (We'll get a railway to Navan, Cavan and Donegal yet!).

I want to become your Vice President so that each of you can make your voice heard, use my experience to build relationships with the Senior Party and help bring the craic back, but also because I can call myself VEEP after one of my favourite shows!

National Panel



Liam Byrne

My name is Liam Byrne, and I am a history graduate from Trinity College Dublin and I'm currently a Master of Common Law student in UCD. I have been involved in YFG for nearly five years and have made the best memories and the greatest of friends. I have held several different positions in YFG including as chair of Trinity YFG, chair of Cork South-West YFG, vice-chair on the Dublin Regional Council as well as in UCD YFG. I also serve on the policy and campaigns committee.

Outside of YFG I love to read, chill out, and spend time with friends. On warm summer evenings I love a good game of croquet usually. I began to get competitive with the sport and in Summer 2018 I was the proud winner of the Newell Candlestick tournament at the Irish Open. I also really enjoy travelling and it is one of my life goals to see all seven wonders of the world.



Sarah Canavan

Hello, My name is Sarah Canavan, and I'm a 24-year-old Kerry woman, but I'm usually found in Galway City. I've been a member of YFG since 2018, and I'm currently the chair of Kerry YFG, Policy Officer of the Women's Network and what I like to call the jack of all trades, aka COM of the NUIG YFG committee.

Outside of Young Fine Gael, you'll either find me teaching seven-year-olds how to tie knots, organising events for the Irish Girl Guides or balancing the European Youth Forum's books.

Some might find it surprising that I'm a huge boxing fan, and every year, on my birthday, the 16th of August, I mourn the loss of Michael Conlan's Gold Olympic Medal. Overall, I'm best known for my annual over the top Eurovision party; this years theme is 'What's Another Year' and everyone is invited.



Dara Clooney

Dara James Clooney is a final year UCC Law & Irish student, where he Chairs the Alfred O'Rahilly branch. A Laois man by birth, a Cork man by God's grace, Dara joined YFG aged 18, posting his application from the old Abbeyleix Post-Office on his way to double maths in Heywood Community School. His poor mother's head has been wrecked ever since.

When Dara isn't fulfilling his role as UCC's Blueshirt-in-residence or untangling the finer details of equitable estoppel, he can be found pursuing his private penchant for Kingsley Amis, blowing his bagpipes, consuming the coffee of Cork's independent roasteries and spending time with his family and girlfriend. Dara is a Macra member and plays traditional music with his local Comhaltas branch, Spink CCÉ.

His favourite meal is steak and chips, desired pints are Smithwicks or Guinness, and preferred bands include Oasis and ACDC. His chosen sitcoms include Father Ted and Fawlty Towers. To Dara, our greatest leader was WT Cosgrave. He'd go for a pint with Kevin O'Higgins and David Cameron, and orders butter, cheese and stuffing on his spicy chicken fillet roll.

Dara is delighted to be running for Panel and looks forward to a fantastic, if different, Conference.



Kenneth Henry

I joined YFG when I was 18 and was coming to the end of my last year of leaving cert applied. I was elected to the position of treasurer for Sligo you and I now hold the position of chair.

Once I completed the Leaving Certificate, I set my sights on a Post-Leaving Certificate course and then started studying Law at Maynooth University. Having Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and ADHD college hasn't been easy to say the least, but I'm getting through it.

I enjoy cycling when I'm not too lazy and when it's not raining, living in Sligo this happens quite a bit. This time of year is also fairly busy on the farm with lambing in full swing, when it's finished we should have about 160 lambs.

For the summer I hopefully will be able to get a digger license and get a summer job on a site preferably a major infrastructure project. Although a career in construction isn't my highest preference. It is somewhere I would like to work part time, outside of the legal or political world.



Dylan Hutchinson

My name is Dylan Hutchinson, originally hailing from the Garden County of Wicklow. I now study and reside in Dublin. I am the current incumbent candidate and Director of Campaigns on the National Executive.

I am a student of History at Trinity College Dublin and I have been a member of Young Fine Gael since 2016. I have previously served as Chairperson of the Wicklow YFG branch, First Year Rep on the Trinity YFG Committee and as Vice-Chair of the Leinster Regional Council. I was also recently selected as Chairperson of my local Fine Gael branch in Carysfort-Priory, Blackrock.

My passions? Pints, parties and politics. A very balanced diet!



Ryan Laffan

My name is Ryan Laffan from Waterford, and I currently work in Salesforce in Dublin as part of as I had an interest in Politics and since then my possession for Politics has significantly grown. I have actively participated in many election campaigns over the years and always find canvassing to be a thoroughly enjoyable and fun experience. Not to mention the counting of votes!

I continued my interest when I went to the University of Limerick and was an active participant in the University branch and continued to support my local Fine Gael branch in my home constituency. During that time, I have held several Branch Positions, including Chair of Waterford YFG and many years on the Committee of UL YFG. I am currently Youth Officer for my local Fine Gael Senior Branch, encouraging youth participation in politics and sporting the development of our local YFG branch.

This has given me lots of experience working at all levels of both YFG and the Senior Party. I was proud to be awarded the Garrett Fitzgerald Member of the year award in 2018.

Outside of Politics I enjoy keeping fit, (when the gyms are open!).



Ailbhe McNamara

My name is Ailbhe McNamara and I'm chair of the Roscommon-Galway (Joan Burke) branch. I'm in my 3rd year of studying International Relations and German in DCU and I'm currently working on college placement in a German insurance company.

Outside YFG my hobbies include being Biscuit Manager for DCU Book Soc, powerlifting and ignoring the Duolingo Owl. I once accidentally learned off the periodic table and represented Roscommon in the All-Ireland Community Games long jump competition when no one else turned up at the county final. When not on YFG zooms, I can be found ranting about Dublin NIMBYs, plotting how to bring more trains to the North West and volunteering with Jigsaw on their youth advisory panel.

I strongly believe that cider is the best possible pint and am willing to lose votes to defend Orchard Thieves.

Regional Organiser

Dublin

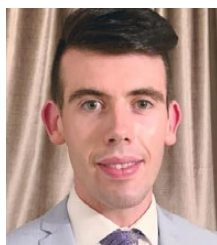


James Byrne

A proud student of DCU and a proud member of YFG. I am 20 years of age and in my 2nd year of University. YFG is a passion for me, that's why I have held numerous roles within my branch and am the current PRO for Dublin Bay North. Whilst in college, I am responsible for developing and guiding one of DCU's most successful societies; Investment Soc. My platform for this role and election is simple: 3 points to effectively improve and aid the work the outgoing executive has completed.

1. Increased Engagement with Constituency Branches
2. New and innovative approaches to events
3. More Dublin Based Campaigns

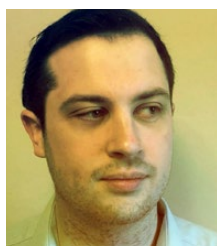
I am passionate about improving the overall YFG experience for YOU, the member. If elected I promise to deliver a comprehensive, engaging and exciting YFG for all our Dublin members.



Gary O'Donovan

My name is Gary O'Donovan and I am 20 years old. I am a second-year student at Dublin City University reading Law and History. I have been a member of Young Fine Gael since 2016. Upon joining, I have had the pleasure of serving as Treasurer and OCM on my college branch DCU YFG, Secretary of the YFG Dublin Regional Council and as a Member of the National Policy and Campaigns Committee. I am an avid rugby fan, horse riding enthusiast and will never refuse a pint of Guinness and a good chat about politics. I can also be found in my spare time travelling around Europe and particularly soaking up the best of the mid-summer in Sweden.

Leinster



Criostoir Hasty

Hi, As ye may know I hail from North Westmeath. I currently work in Financial Services, having studied Law and Accountancy during my time in UL. It was during my time in UL that I first joined YFG.

During the term of the last executive I have served on the Membership and Engagement subcommittee and the Leinster Regional Council, While I have previously been on the UL YFG committee and helped out on the Limerick YFG committee during my time in college (hush hush).

Outside of YFG and work you can normally catch me either running (Having recently completed 100 Miles for the Mater Hospital in the Month of February) or more commonly with a pint of Guinness in my hand either enjoying it myself or serving it to someone. I also have a keen interest in GAA, Soccer, Rugby and most recently added to the list F1 which myself and Biddy (My dog which Rory Holohan gave a shoutout to in the forum) can often be caught watching on a Sunday evening.



Steven Murphy

I am a 23-year-old primary school teacher from Screen, Co. Wexford. I have been a member of Young Fine Gael for 8 years now, having joined at the time of Helen McEntee's by-election campaign in 2013. In that time, I have held various positions in the Wexford Branch, including Chairperson when we won the inaugural Branch of the Year award. I have been the secretary of the LRC, secretary of YFG's mental health subcommittee, The Amber Flag Committee, and I currently sit on the membership subcommittee.

Outside of Young Fine Gael, I was the Students' Union President of my college, Marino Institute of Education in 2018 – 19. I have had my own show, 'Youthscene' on South East Radio in Wexford for four years before leaving last March. I play soccer with my local team Elm Mount FC and am a huge Liverpool fan.

I am running for LRO as I want to give back to YFG and grow the region. I have seen five LROs interact with the region in my time in YFG. I have observed them and learned from them all and believe that now I have the right mindset and plans to help the region flourish.

Munster



Derval Cleary

My name is Derval Cleary and I am 24 years old. I was born and raised in the Treaty City. Currently I work full time as a hotel receptionist. I graduated from the University of Limerick with a BA in Politics and Psychology in 2018 and in 2021 I graduated from UCC with an MSc in Government and Politics. I joined YFG in September 2017 and have held several committee positions since. I was PRO of the UL and Limerick branches and during this time I was part of the team that hosted a traffic light party that raised €750 for Jigsaw. I was chair of Limerick YFG before I took up my current role of Vice-Chair and Inclusion Officer. During my time in UCC I served on the Committee as the Inclusion Officer and as Secretary on the Munster Regional Council. Most recently I have served on the National Executives Membership and Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement subcommittees. My political interests include tourism policy, Limerick's directly elected mayor vote, mental health reform and the development of accessible voting to increase voter participation. In my spare time, I can be found playing with my dog Poppy or watching something Marvel related.



Audrey O'Leary

My name is Audrey O'Leary. I am 21 years old, born in 1999, I almost made the millennium baby list!! I am a third year student at Trinity college, Dublin, studying Law and German. I am a proud West Cork woman looking to follow in the footsteps of the many fine Fine Gael representatives who have preceded me. I have grown up in household steeped in Fine Gael party politics so on my first day at Trinity when I was given the opportunity to join the Young Fine Gael branch I jumped at the chance and immersed myself in all aspects of the organisation. Since then I have held the positions of OCM, PRO and chair of the Trinity branch and I am currently vice chair of my local constituency branch Cork South West. I like to think of myself as an all-rounder. I have many skills and attributes that will be invaluable to the position of Munster Regional Organiser if I am elected. I spend my summers on the beaches of West Cork working as a beach lifeguard for Cork County Council. This role carries a lot of responsibility and organization. My strong leadership and good communication skills will bring the fun to Munster.

North-West



Aidan Donnelly

Aidan is 20 years old, from Abbey County Galway. He is the current PRO of Galway East – The Patrick Hogan branch, and serves on YFG's Agriculture, Rural and Environmental Affairs sub-committee. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental management in GMIT and Mountbellew Agricultural college and is a Dairy farmer. He is actively involved in both his local Macra na Feirme branch as well as the Galway county executive.

Local community issues are important to Aidan, he is a member of his local Irish Farmers Association branch and loves volunteering his time with his local Community Development Association. His biggest achievement locally is helping set up the local community alert scheme.

Aidan is a golfer, musician and sports fan. He has been golfing for eight years, playing the bass guitar for six years. His favourite sport is Formula 1 with his favourite sports teams being Chelsea FC, Connacht Rugby and the Indianapolis Colts. Aidan's favourite band is Utah based "The Aces".

Aidan plans to revolutionise the North West region over his term, which will see a greater emphasis on social media presence as well as getting branches involved more with their community.



Eoghan Gallagher

My name is Eoghan Gallagher, I am from Claregalway, Co Galway, and I am a third-year student of Maths and Education in NUIG.

I love sport and all things Irish traditional music, and play the banjo, mandolin, and guitar.

I have held several roles both in Young Fine Gael and Fine Gael and am currently the chair of the NUIG branch of YFG, the chair of a senior party branch, and the youth officer on the Galway West-South Mayo constituency officer board.

Outside of Young Fine Gael, I am an Irish youth delegate working in the Council of Europe, I am the founder of an education program in NUIG which is to become a module, and I am very active in several community organisations.

I have been an active member of Young Fine Gael for several years and have learnt so much and made some great friends during that time. I have really enjoyed all the events, campaigns, debates and particularly canvassing the length and breadth of Galway for local, European, and general election candidates.



Antoinette Peyton

Antoinette Peyton is ainm dom. Táim ag déanamh staidéir ar dlí, socheolaíocht agus polaitíocht in OÉ, Gaillimh. I currently serve as Treasurer for Mayo YFG and OCM for NUIG YFG. I am running for North West Regional Organiser because I want to make YFG appealing and exciting to existing and new members.

I aim to help further the growth of all branches within the North-West, while also actively taking a look into the foundation of new branches, including establishing branches in our Institute of Technologies, and building links between college and constituency branches.

Táim daingean diongbháilte chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn!.

If elected I will organise more social events for all members to use their Gaeilge. I intend to run frequent events such as coffee mornings and Pop-Up Gaeltachts.

We must have strong communication and engagement at both the local branch level and regional level therefore if elected I will work alongside the NWRC to run more events and campaigns for our membership on local and national issues that young people are passionate about, while also working with branches to help in facilitating their social events, after all, politics is about people.

Steering Committee



Eileen Lynch - Chair

Eileen was born in Cork, Ireland in 1990. She graduated with a Degree in Law and Irish from University College Cork (UCC) in 2012 and obtained a Higher Diploma in Employment Law from the King's Inns, Dublin in 2015. She is currently working as a lawyer in Cork having previously worked as a legal executive in city law firms in Belfast and Dublin, an intern in the Office of the Attorney General and as Parliamentary Assistant in the areas of Health and Agriculture in the Irish Senate. She has been involved in Young Fine Gael and Fine Gael for many years, having served on the Executive of Young Fine Gael as Southern Regional Organiser from 2011-2013, International Secretary from 2015-2017, as well as branch chairperson and secretary of her local branch. In May 2019, Eileen was elected as a member of the Cork County Council in the Macroom Municipal Area. She is also a former member of the Executive Council of Fine Gael from 2014-2018. She previously served as Financial Auditor and Vice President of Youth of the European People's Party and is currently their Secretary General.



Philip O'Callaghan (Secretary)

Philip is currently Special Adviser to the Tánaiste and Party Leader, Leo Varadkar TD. Philip has been working with the Tánaiste since 2014. He is the former Chair of the Castleknock Fine Gael Branch and the Dublin West YFG Branch. He is now the current Secretary of the Dublin West Constituency. An Alum of the Washington Ireland Program Philip enjoys all things political! This is Philip's third time as a member of the YFG National Conference Steering Committee, he did such a good job last time they made him secretary again this year!



Daire Lawler

Daire Lawler currently serves as the President of Young Fine Gael and is a member of the Fine Gael Executive Council. Daire also works as a Policy Analyst at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) working on the IIEA's economics research programme. Prior to becoming President of YFG, he worked in the office of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer in Washington, D.C., in State Street Corporation, and is an alumnus of the Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership Class of 2019. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, running, listening to music, and singing (often while being told to shut up).



Garry O'Sullivan

Garry is a recovering Vice President of YFG, and has spent the last number of hair torn months studying and sitting the FE-1's. Although generally unimpressed, there are rumours he does have some feelings. He used to like going to the pub, but well... you know yourself. Also liked to run, but due to his increasing age, a knee injury has also prevented some slight happiness. At the moment, he's working as Michael Creed's Parliamentary Assistant, and hoping for the return of Daft Punk.



Colin Clarke

Colin, originally from Carrigaline, Cork, works as a Policy and Research Officer with Fine Gael. Colin is currently working on Fine Gael's new approach to creating policy called the Fine Gael Policy Laboratory, an innovative and exciting new approach to problem solving and stakeholder/membership engagement. Colin is a current elected member of the Governing Authority of the University of Limerick and is a former Students' Union President of UL. He is also a member of the Universities' Governance Committee and is a Board Director of a number of companies including UL Sport, UL Alumni Designated Activity Company and Unijobs. In his spare time, Colin enjoys long walks on the beach, Pina Coladas and getting caught in the rain.



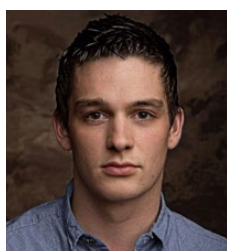
Evie Sammon

Evie Sammon is a member of Kildare County Council representing the Naas Municipal District for Fine Gael. Evie has been a member of YFG since 2013 in University of Limerick and Kildare. Evie has a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Relations and is pursuing a Master of Science in Human Resource Management. She is also a board member of the Kildare Wicklow Educational Training Board and County Kildare Leader Partnership. Evie has previously worked for Minister Martin Heydon TD, Frances Fitzgerald MEP, Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.



Andy McGill

My name is Andrew McGill, I am 25 years old and live in Rathfarnham, County Dublin. I work as a Secretarial Assistant with Senator Emer Currie, one of Fine Gaels representatives for the Dublin West constituency. I was delighted to have been a part of this year's Steering Committee for the YFG National Conference. It will be the first of its kind and will hopefully serve as a benchmark for future YFG conferences and events, incorporating members from every corner of our island and beyond.



Ian Fahey

Ian Fahey (Dublin Bay North) is a former Special Advisor to the Attorney General of Ireland. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Ireland-US Alumni Association and is a former President of the UCD Law Society. Ian is the outgoing Director of Communications for Young Fine Gael.



Emily Larkin

Emily is a 21 year old from Dublin. She is currently a 3rd year student studying primary school teaching in DCU and the outgoing Director of Engagement, Inclusion and Diversity of YFG and the executive liaison to the Women's Network. She is heavily involved in her home branch of Dublin Mid West and joined YFG back in 2018. She is passionate about health and disability issues as founder and director of Invisible Disability Ireland.



Ian Hutchinson

Ian Hutchinson is 26 years old and from the Northside of Cork City. He studied in UCC where he obtained a BA in Economics & Politics and was elected as both Arts Rep and Education Officer of UCC Students' Union. Ian has been active in YFG for a number of years and has served as Chair of UCC and Cork North Central YFG and Munster Regional Organiser of YFG. He is currently working as Parliamentary Assistant for Colm Burke, TD for Cork North Central and Fine Gael Health Spokesperson.



John Dollard

John has been a member of Fine Gael for over 6 years and has sat on committees at both youth and senior party levels. He is a graduate of DCU and has worked in politics since 2018.

He lives in Meath and currently works for Senator Regina Doherty.



Jenny McCarthy

A graduate of DCU, Laois woman Jenny has worked as Parliamentary Assistant to Richard Bruton TD since 2017.



Marian O'Donnell

Marian is originally from Tipperary and currently exiled to Dublin. A former president of YFG and staff member in Leinster House, she currently works in public affairs and has a special interest in the areas of planning and infrastructure policy.



Sinead Ronan

Sinead Ronan is 31 years old and from Cork. She studied in Government and Public Policy in UCC and also a Post Graduate in Political Communications and Public Policy in DIT. Sinead has been active in YFG for a number of years and has served as Secretary of UCC and Cork South Central YFG and YFG Munster Regional Council. She is currently PRO of the Cork South Central Constituency Executive. She is currently working as Parliamentary Assistant for Simon Coveney, TD for Cork South Central and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence



Aoife Ngo

Aoife hails from the Royal County and is a proud member of Meath YFG. A Trinity graduate, Aoife has previously worked in communications and Leinster House before taking up the role as Project Officer for Young Fine Gael. Big fan of The Thick of It, Labradors and buttered toasts.



Ar Aghaidh Le Cheile
Unity Begins with You

YFG
National Conference
15th – 17th April, 2021

Conference Itinerary

#yfgnc21

Thursday, 15 April

Time	Event
20:00-21:30	<p>Welcome and Adoption of Standing Orders Cllr Eileen Lynch, Chair of YFG National Conference Steering Committee</p> <p>Pre-Conference Seminar: "Through the Looking Screen: The unpredictability of social media", Moderated by Stefanie Preissner, Writer, Actress and Influencer</p> <p>Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice Richard Bruton TD, Chair of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party Adam Harris, Founder and CEO, AsIAm.ie Adam Hallissey, Co-Founder, The Progressive Brief; News Editor, Newsline.ie</p>

Friday, 16 April

Time	Event
19:00 - 19:30	<p>Official Opening of YFG National Conference 2021 Garry O'Sullivan, Vice President and Director of Policy, Young Fine Gael Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Deputy Leader of Fine Gael</p>
19:45 - 21:30	<p>The Great Debate Chaired by Colin Clarke and David Higgins, Great Debate Winners, YFG National Conference 2019</p> <p>Judges: Emer Higgins TD, Dublin Mid-West Senator John McGahon, Louth Maria Walsh MEP, Midlands North-West</p>
22:00 - 23:00	<p>Mystery Entertainment Act</p>



Conference Itinerary

#yfgnc21

Saturday, 17 April

Time	Event
9:00 - 9:30	Virtual Registration Desk Open
9:30 - 11:00	Motions and Resolutions Garry O'Sullivan, Vice President and Director of Policy, Young Fine Gael
11:00 - 12:15	Constitutional Amendments Fiona O'Connor, Chair of the Fine Gael Executive Council
12:15 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 14:00	Candidate Hustings Colm Markey MEP, Midlands North-West
14:00 - 14:15	Break
14:15 - 15:15	Afternoon Seminar "Lessons for a Post-COVID Ireland" Moderated by Senator Regina Doherty, Leader of Seanad Éireann Marie Donnelly, Chairperson of the Climate Change Advisory Council Claire Hanna MP, SDLP MP for Belfast South Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Ian Power, CEO of Community Creations and SpunOut.ie
15:15 - 16:15	Breakout Session "Lessons for a Post-COVID Ireland" Breakout Rooms with Fine Gael TDs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alan Farrell TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Climate Action• Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science• Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, Deputy Chair of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Equality• Neale Richmond TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on European Affairs
16:15 - 16:20	Break



Ar Aghaidh Le Cheile
Unity Begins with You

YFG
National Conference
15th – 17th April, 2021

Conference Itinerary

Saturday, 17 April (continued)

Time	Event
16:20-16:40	International Session
16:40-17:00	Break
17:00 - 18:30	Primetime Session Opening Speech: Daire Lawler, President of Young Fine Gael Leader's Speech: Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste and President of Fine Gael "In Conversation with Leo Varadkar and Nora Owen", Moderated by Daire Lawler, President of Young Fine Gael Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste and President of Fine Gael Nora Owen, former Minister for Justice (1994-1997), former Deputy Leader of Fine Gael (1993-2001)
18:30 - 19:00	Awards Ceremony
19:00 - 20:00	Gameshow entertainment

Saturday, 24 April

All day	Counting of Votes Returning Officer: Terry Murphy, Director of Research, Fine Gael Announcement of Results Cllr Eileen Lynch, Chair of the YFG National Conference Steering Committee Close of Conference
19:00 - 20:00	Gameshow entertainment

Principals and Values

Young Fine Gael, the Young United Irelanders, is an Irish Nationalist Youth Movement that pledges allegiance and fidelity to the Irish Republic and derives its inspiration and endeavor from this bedrock. Young Fine Gael is an autonomous yet integral part of the Fine Gael party, it seeks to advance the political representation and objectives of the youth of Ireland through the vehicle of the Fine Gael Party. Young Fine Gael is wholly committed to the development of young people at all levels of political life, and in communion with the Fine Gael Party seeks to maximise the electoral objectives of Fine Gael.

Equality of Opportunity

We want to create a fair and caring society where everybody is engaged in democracy, and where there are no barriers to equal opportunity. We stand for investment in our public services and see health and education as rights, not privileges.

Enterprise and Reward

We encourage initiative, innovation, investment and self-reliance. We also believe in preserving, enhancing and sharing prosperity. We stand for a vibrant, competitive economy. To that end, we believe Government policy should encourage initiative and reward hard work, thus driving economic activity and creating jobs.

Security

We want to build a safe society in Ireland by protecting citizens and enforcing the law. We also believe in strengthening families, and in fostering communities. We stand for law and order. We believe in tough sentences for criminals and more Gardaí on the beat while also tackling the root causes of crime like poverty and educational disadvantage.

Integrity

We believe in being truthful and courageous in what we do, and in promoting and upholding both the rights and the responsibilities of people. We stand for integrity in public life. We believe in ensuring that all of us live up to our responsibilities as well as enjoying our rights as Irish citizens.

Ambition

As Young Irelanders, we want to build an Ireland of excellence and ambition. We hope to do this by promoting a shared vision of a confident and sustainable future for Ireland, both at home and abroad. We stand for a climate of hope. To achieve this, we believe in enhancing Ireland's international reputation through our support for the European Union, protecting communities through balanced regional development and safeguarding our children's future through protection of the environment.

Deis Cothroime

Tá sé de chuspóir ag Ógra Fhine Gael sochaí mhacánta airdeallach a chruthú. Áit a bhfuil gach duine páirteach sa daonlathas agus áit nach bhfuil aon bhac ar dheis cothroime. Seasimid d'infheistíocht in ár seirbhísí poiblí agus féachaimid ar shláinte agus oideachas mar chearta ní mar phribhleidi.

Fiontar agus luaíocht

Spreagann Ógra Fhine Gael tionsnamh, nualaíocht, infheistíocht agus féin-mhuinín. Creideann an pairtí go bhfuil sé tabhacht an rathúnas a chóthú, a roinnt agus a mhéadú. Seasimid d'eacamaíocht atá láidir agus iomaíoch. Creidimid gur ceart polasaí an rialtais, spreagadh a thabhairt do tionscnamh, agus luaíocht a thabhairt d'obair chrua, de thoradh ag tiomaint gníomhaíocht gheilleagraich agus ag cruthú post nua.

Sábháilteacht

Tá Ógra Fhine Gael ag iarraidh sochaí shábháilte a chruthú in Éirinn trína cuid saoránach a chosaint agus tríd an dlí a chur i bhfeidhm. Tuigeann an pairtí, freisin, tábhacht teaghligh i ngach cruth nuaaimseartha a neartú agus comhphobal a chothú. Seasann Ógra Fhine Gael don dlí agus an tsíocháin. Creidimid i bpionós níos láidre do coireanna agus níos mó gardaí a chur ar na sráideanna, ag an am céanna ag dul i ngleic le príomhchúiseanna cóiriúlachta mar aon le bochtaineacht agus míbhuntáiste oideachais.

Macántacht

Creideann Ógra Fhine Gael go gcaithfidh a bheith ionraic agus misniúil i ngach gnó agus go gcaithfidh cearta agus freagrachtaí na ndaoine a chothú. Seasimid d'ionracas an tsaoil phoiblí. Creidimid go gcaithfidh gach duine a dhulgais a dhéanamh chomh maith le taitheamh a bhaint as ár gcearta mar mhná agus fir na hÉireann.

Uaillmhian

Tá Ógra Fhine Gael ag iarraidh Éire uailleach a chruthú. Ba mhaith linn é seo a dhéanamh trí thionscnamh a dhéanamh ar iomhá do thodhchaí na hÉireann atá muiníneach sa bhaile agus thar lear. Seasimid do shaol dóchasach. Chun é seo a dhéanamh creidimid go gcaithfidh cáil idirnáisiúnta na hÉireann a chothú trí thacaíocht a thabhairt don Aontas Eorpach, agus cosaint a thabhairt do comhphobail trí forbairt réigiúnach agus trí thodhchaí ár bpáistí a choimeád trí aire a thabhairt don timpeallacht.

Motions

MOTION 1

Young Fine Gael calls on a partnership between Alliance Youth in Northern Ireland and Young Fine Gael to build greater cross-border relations on issues affecting young people on the entire island of Ireland.

Submitted by: Roscommon Galway YFG

MOTION 2

Calls on the Government and the HSE to undertake a Jigsaw project (Youth Mental Health Centre) in every county in Ireland.

Submitted by: Tipperary YFG, related motions from UCC YFG and Roscommon Galway YFG

MOTION 3

Young Fine Gael calls on the government to condemn the treatment of the Uighur Muslims in Xingjiang China and to recognise the policies of the CCP as a Cultural Genocide. As a recognition of this, and the violation of the Hong Kong Basic Law, YFG calls on the European Union to reject the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment with China.

Submitted by: Combined motion between DCU Young Fine Gael and the International Committee; related motions from Trinity YFG and Dublin Bay North

MOTION 4

Young Fine Gael calls on the government to allow foreign insurance companies to offer car insurance to increase competitiveness and decrease prices as a result.

Submitted by: UCC YFG- similar motion Kerry YFG and NUI Galway

MOTION 5

Young Fine Gael calls on the party leader to appoint a party TD as spokesperson for the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Irish speaking community.

Submitted by: Clare YFG- similar motion Dublin Mid West YFG

MOTION 6

Young Fine Gael calls on the government to hold a referendum allowing for EU citizens resident and working in Ireland for at least five years the right to vote in national elections.

Submitted by: Kerry YFG; similar motions from UCC YFG and NUI Galway

MOTION 7

Young Fine Gael calls for the establishment and funding of Rural Working Hubs in tandem with the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan, to facilitate remote working in a community setting and a clear timeline for its delivery.

Submitted by: NUI Galway

MOTION 8

Young Fine Gael calls on the Minister for Education to make consent classes mandatory within second level education in line with UNESCO's recommendations.

Submitted by: Galway East- Patrick Hogan, related motions from NUI Galway and Women's Network

MOTION 9

Young Fine Gael calls on the Party Leadership to establish a Parliamentary liaison between Fine Gael and Young Fine Gael, who would consider matters such as possible funding streams and support for election candidates.

Submitted by: Women's Network

MOTION 10

Young Fine Gael calls on the government to extend closing times past 2.30am for bars, pubs and nightclubs to save the night time economy.

Submitted by: Kerry YFG similar motion from NUI Galway

SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

1) Honorary Life Membership to Michel Barnier (UCC, Kerry YFG, NUI Galway and the International Committee).



Constitutional Amendments for the Young Fine Gael 31st National Conference

AMENDMENT 1: PREAMBLE

(Kerry YFG)

That the Preamble be amended to insert the following after "of the Fine Gael party":

"and is proudly allied with fellow Christian Democratic and centre-right youth political organisations who are members of the Youth of the European People's Party".

Effect: Amends the Preamble to include a mention of Young Fine Gael's membership of the Youth of the European People's Party.

AMENDMENT 2: CAMPAIGNS

(UL YFG)

Delete the current sections 1.4 and 1.5 and insert a new Article 1.4 to read as follows:

"The Organisation shall actively campaign;

(a) In all referenda, where upon the position of the Organisation is determined by a vote of the membership taken at a national assembly (in person or virtually) held when the wording of the referenda question is known.

(b) In all elections where Fine Gael candidates or independent candidates endorsed by Fine Gael Executive Council appear on the ballot.

(c) On Policy positions determined by the membership or a vote of the National Executive, in line with the provisions laid out in section 9 of this constitution."

Effect: Compels the Organisation to actively campaign in circumstances where:

(a) A vote is taken by the National Assembly (the National Executive would need to call the Assembly);

(b) In all elections (Local, European, General Election, Seanad Election, Presidential) where

Independent candidates endorsed by Fine Gael Executive Council appear on the ballot; and

(c) official YFG policy.

AMENDMENT 3: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

(Kilkenny YFG)

Insert a new Article 2.11 to read as follows:

"No member shall be required to qualify for, or be disqualified from, any office within the Organisation on the basis of their sex, race, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation."

Effect: Prohibits discrimination against members on the basis of their sex, race, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation.

AMENDMENT 4: MEMBERSHIP AGE

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Kerry YFG, UCC YFG)

In Article 3.2, to amend "35" to "30".

Effect: Reduces the age limit for YFG membership from 35 to 30. No member may reaffiliate after their 30th birthday. All current members over the age of 30 would remain as members until the next affiliation date.

AMENDMENT 5: BRANCH CAMPAIGNS

(Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG, NUI Galway YFG)

Insert a new Article 4.11 to read as follows:

"A branch may run a local campaign in their area or campaign for official policy of the Organisation, provided that the campaign is not contradictory to official policy and that the relevant Regional Organiser is informed not less than seven days before any campaign commences."

Effect: Allows local branches to run local campaigns provided they do not contradict official Young Fine Gael policy.

AMENDMENT 6: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE - CASTING VOTE

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG, Kerry YFG, UCC YFG)

Delete Article 5.2

Effect: Deletes a provision which purports to state that the President does not have a casting vote at National Executive Meetings. As it stands, Article 5.2 is in conflict with a determination by the Fine Gael Executive Council on 18 June 2019 that the President of YFG, as Chair of the National Executive, should inherently have a casting vote at meetings of the National Executive.

AMENDMENT 7: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE – COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG, Kerry YFG, UCC YFG)

To insert the following at Article 5.2:

"The National Executive shall act collectively and speak with one voice, and its discussions shall be bound by confidentiality. The President, or in his/her absence the Vice President or the National Youth Officer, shall act as spokesperson for the National Executive and the Organisation."

Effect: Places an onus of collective responsibility on the National Executive, binds discussions of the National Executive to confidentiality and codifies the existing practice that the President, or in his/her absence the Vice President or the National Youth Officer, shall act as spokesperson for the National Executive and the Organisation.

AMENDMENT 8: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE – CO-OPTIONS

(UL YFG)

Delete Article 5.3(d) and insert a new Article 5.3(d) which reads as follows:

"Up to three additional members may be co-opted by the President, each of whom must receive the express consent of a majority of the National Executive to redress any imbalances that exist as regards region and skills."

Effect: Since 2001, the President has had the power

to co-opt a number of additional members, at his/her personal discretion, to address regional or skills imbalances. This amendment would remove that power, and require a majority vote by the National Executive for future co-options.

AMENDMENT 9: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE – STANDING ORDERS

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Insert a new Article 5.5 as follows:-

"The National Executive may adopt Standing Orders from time to time to govern the conduct of its meetings and its day-to-day operations."

Effect: Clarifies that the National Executive may adopt Standing Orders to govern its workings.

AMENDMENT 10: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE – TRAVEL ABROAD

(Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Insert a new Article 5:10 to read as follows:

"Any member of the National Executive who leaves the island of Ireland for a continuous period of not less than two months duration shall be deemed to not be in a position to perform their duties and shall be deemed to have resigned their position on the National Executive."

Effect: Provides that a member of the National Executive will be deemed to have resigned their position on the National Executive if they leave the island of Ireland for more than 2 months.

AMENDMENT 11: YFG WOMEN'S NETWORK

(YFG Women's Network, Dublin Mid-West YFG; Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG, Kerry YFG, NUI Galway YFG, Trinity College Dublin YFG)

Insert a new 5.19 to read as follows:



"A Women's Network Committee shall be established at the start of each Executive term in accordance with Article 5.18 of this Constitution. The President in agreement with the National Executive shall nominate a member of the National Executive to act as liaison to the Network."

Effect: Allows the President, in agreement with the National Executive, to appoint a chair, Exec Liaison and committee for the Women's Network.

AMENDMENT 12: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE - VOTING AT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Insert a new Article 5.23:

"The Organisation's three representatives on the Fine Gael Executive Council shall, as far as practicable, speak, act and vote as members of that body in line with the official positions taken by the Organisation, either by the National Executive, the National Assembly, or the National Conference, as the case may be. The National Executive shall monitor the observance of this article and receive reports from the three representatives."

Effect: Compels the Organisation's three representatives on the Fine Gael Executive Council to speak, act and vote as members of the body in line with the positions of the Organisation.

AMENDMENT 13: VOTING RIGHTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE - 30 DAY RULE (YFG National Executive)

Delete Article 6.3 and insert a new Article 6.3 to read as follows:

Every member who attained membership of the Organisation as prescribed in Article 3.1 not less than 30 days in advance of the commencement of the National Conference or at the close of college branch affiliations, whichever is later, shall be entitled to one vote at the National Conference subject to the presentation of a photo ID.

Effect: Clarifies which members of the Organisation are entitled to vote at a YFG National Conference

AMENDMENT 14: VOTING RIGHTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE- AFFILIATION DATE RULE

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG)

Delete Article 6.3 and replace with a new Article 6.3:

"Every member of the Organisation who attained membership as prescribed in Article 3.1 no later than 31 October preceding the National Conference shall be entitled to one vote at the National Conference subject to the presentation of photo ID."

Effect: Clarifies which members of the Organisation are entitled to vote at a YFG National Conference.

[Falls if Amendment 13 is passed.]

AMENDMENT 15: NATIONAL CONFERENCE - STEERING COMMITTEE

(Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Delete article 7.1 and replace with a new Article 7.1 as follows:

"The National Conference Steering Committee shall be appointed by the National Executive and shall consist of not less than five and not more than eight persons and shall be comprised of:-

- a) The President and Vice-President (if not seeking re-election)
- b) Members of the outgoing National Executive (not seeking re-election), such that the total number of members of the National Executive shall be at least four
- c) The National Youth Officer
- d) Not less than two other members of Young Fine Gael or Fine Gael who possess particular skills or experience which would be essential to the arrangement of the logistics of the National Conference, or who are members of Fine Gael in the constituency where the National Conference is taking place.

The National Executive shall appoint a Chair of the National Conference Steering Committee, who shall not be a member of the outgoing National Executive, and issue Standing Orders to it upon its appointment which shall govern its operations."

Effect: Changes the composition of the YFG National Steering Committee and limits the size of it to between five and eight members in line with recent National Conferences.

AMENDMENT 16: NATIONAL COUNCIL (Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Delete Articles 8, 2.2(c) and 5.5

Effect: Abolishes the National Council introduced at the 30th National Conference.

AMENDMENT 17: MEDIA (Kilkenny YFG)

Insert a new Article 9.4 to read as follows:

"Only the National Executive may issue comments or press releases to the national media on any issue relating to the Organisation or its policies. Units or Organs may not issue comments or press releases to the national media without the prior authorisation of the National Executive. Branches may engage with local media in their constituency in order to campaign on any local issues and to promote existing official national policy of the Organisation."

Effect: Clarifies that only the National Executive can comment to the national media in respect of any matter. Branches can issue press releases to the national media with the prior authorisation of the National Executive. Branches can engage with local media in relation to local issues or to promote existing YFG policy.

AMENDMENT 18: CONSTITUENCY YOUTH OFFICERS (Kerry YFG, UCC YFG)

Add a new paragraph at the end of Article 12.2 to say as follows:

"The National Executive shall request a report from each Constituency Youth Officer on their work once in each calendar year. Any Constituency Youth Officer who fails to submit such a report within three months of it being requested shall be deemed to have vacated the position, with a replacement to be selected

in accordance with the processes outlined in this Article."

Effect: Requires Constituency Youth Officers to submit a report to the National Executive once each year. Failure to submit such a report within three months will result in the Constituency Youth Officer being deemed to have resigned their position.

AMENDMENT 19: QUORUM FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (Dublin Bay North (Alfie Byrne) YFG, Galway East (Patrick Hogan) YFG)

Amend 13.1 to add a new sentence after "National Conference".

"For the purposes of this article, a quorum shall be one-quarter of all registered delegates of the National Conference."

Effect: Requires that a minimum quorum of one-quarter of all registered delegates be present in order for an amendment to the YFG Constitution and Rules to be passed.

AMENDMENT 20: GENDER-NEUTRAL (UL YFG)

"To amend each of Articles 2.9, 5.9, 5.14, 5.15, 5.19 and 10.4 by replacing each occurrence of the words "he", "his", and "himself" with the words "they", "their" and "themselves" respectively

And

Delete the following from Article 13.3:

"Words denoting the female gender shall include the male gender and vice versa"

Effect: Amends the Constitution to replace all references to the male gender with gender-neutral references



Standing Orders for the 31st Young Fine Gael National Conference

Part 1 – Interpretation (for the purposes of these Standing Orders):

'Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules' means the amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation and detailed in the National Conference Clár.

'Conference Motions' means the policy motions proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation, selected for debate by the National Conference Steering Committee and detailed in the National Conference Clár.

'Chairperson' means the individual presiding at a Session.

'Emergency Motion' means any motion other than a Conference Motion or an Amendment to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules and not appearing on the National Conference Clár, as prescribed in Part 10 of these Standing Orders.

'Host Zoom Account' is the Fine Gael Zoom Account which will host each Session of the National Conference and to which persons wishing to raise a point or wishing to speak at any Session registers their desire to do so.

'Mute' means a remote action, taken by the Host and/or a member of the National Conference Steering Committee through Zoom, which deactivates the microphone of a Registered Delegate or Observer.

'National Conference' means the 31st National Conference of Young Fine Gael.

'National Conference Clár' means the programme/agenda for the National Conference.

'National Conference Steering Committee' means those individuals appointed under Article 7 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules to organise the National Conference and who have not otherwise resigned.

'National Executive' means the current Young Fine Gael National Executive.

'National Executive Elections' means the elections of the President of Young Fine Gael, the Vice-President of Young Fine Gael and the ordinary members of the National Executive as outlined in Article 6 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules.

'Observer' means a member of Young Fine Gael who is not a Registered Delegate, or any other person in attendance at the National Conference as an invited guest.

'Quorum' means 15% of the total number of Registered Delegates.

'Registered Delegate' means a member of Young Fine Gael who has attained membership on or before the 15th March 2021, and who appears on the Register of Members, and who has registered their attendance via the National Conference Online-Registration Form before Noon on 10 April 2021, and who displays their full name and branch name on their Zoom profile/thumbnail, and who shall be capable of being heard and (where practicable) be seen by other members in attendance at Sessions of the National Conference.

'Returning Officer' means the General Secretary of Fine Gael or his nominee.

'Session' means a full online meeting of the National Conference meeting in plenary session, or apart thereof (as applicable), and as outlined in the National Conference Clár.

'Steering Committee Email Account' means yfgsteering2021@gmail.com, being the email address of the National Conference Steering Committee.

'The Great Debate' means the team debating competition being held on Friday 16th April 2021 at the 31st National Conference.

'Unit(s) and Organs of the Organisation' has the meaning prescribed under Article 2 of the Young Fine Gael National Constitution and Rules.

'Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules' refers to the constitution and rules of Young Fine Gael as adopted by the 30th National Conference of Young Fine Gael.

'Zoom' means the videoconferencing software through which the National Conference is being hosted.

Part 2 - Attendance

1. All references to Registered Delegates being 'present' includes participating through virtual means, including audio conferencing or video conferencing at a Session that is hosted via the Host Account.
2. Registered Delegates and Observers will be admitted to all

Sessions by the Host Account subject to Part 7(b) and Part 7(c) of these Standing Orders.

Part 3 – Ultimate Determination

The ruling of the Chairperson of any Session shall be final on all matters.

Part 4 – Referral

The Chairperson may adjourn a Session in order to consult with the National Conference Steering Committee on any matter relating to the National Conference.

Part 5 – Conference Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules

1. Other than in the case of Emergency Motions as provided for under Part 10 below, only Conference Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules which are listed in the National Conference Clár may be moved.
2. A Conference Motion or an Amendment to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules may only be moved by the Unit or Organ of the Organisation listed on the National Conference Clár.

Part 6 – Quorum at Sessions

1. Where fewer than 15% of Registered Delegates are present, a Session shall be deemed to be

inquorate and the Chairperson shall adjourn that Session until they deem that Session to be quorate.

2. Any Registered Delegate may call a quorum count.
3. Only one quorum count may be called at each Session.

Part 7 – Speakers and Registered Delegates

1. At all Sessions and at the Great Debate, speakers shall only be allowed speak for the duration as announced by the Chairperson.
2. Registered Delegates must display their full name and branch name on their Zoom profile/thumbnail. Observers must display their full name and branch name where practicable.
3. Registered Delegates and Observers must ensure that their camera is switched on at all times, where possible. In the event that a participant is not in a position to switch on their camera, a recent photograph of themselves shall be displayed instead.

Part 8 – Amendments

1. Amendments to Conference Motions may be submitted to the Steering Committee Email Account before 21:00 on Thursday 15th April 2021 and must be supported by no less than two Registered Delegates. Such amendments may be put to the floor at the Session subject to the

absolute discretion of the National Conference Steering Committee.

2. Emergency Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules may not be further amended pursuant to this part.

Part 9 – Relevancy/Disruption

1. If any Registered Delegate or any other person is directed to cease speaking on the grounds of irrelevancy, disruption or being in excess of the allotted time, that Registered Delegate or person must do so forthwith.
2. In any event where a Registered Delegate or any other person refuses to cease speaking in line with subsection (a) of this Part, the Host or a member of the National Conference Steering Committee may mute that Registered Delegate.

Part 10 – Emergency Motions

1. Emergency Motions may be submitted to the Host Account and National Conference Steering Committee Email Account and may be put to the floor at a Session subject to their absolute discretion.
2. An Emergency Motion must be submitted to the National Conference Steering Committee Email Account before 09:00 on Saturday 17th April 2021 and must be supported by no less than eight Registered Delegates.



3. Emergency Motions must only deal with events of exceptional significance.
4. All decisions of the National Conference Steering Committee in respect of this Part shall be final.

Part 11 – Voting

1. SESSIONS

1. The Chairperson of a Session shall appoint tellers for the duration of that Session.
1. When a vote is called, the tellers shall ensure that only Registered Delegates are admitted to the Session.
2. Registered Delegates who do not comply with Part 7(c) of these Standing Orders will not be permitted to vote in any Session.
3. All voting at all Sessions shall take place via a multiple choice online Zoom poll.
4. The multiple choice options for each online Zoom poll shall be as follows:
 - In Favour
 - Against
 - Abstain
5. Conference Motions (or any amendments thereto), Emergency Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules shall be put to a vote when, in the view of the Chairperson, they have been fully discussed.
6. In the event that an amendment to a Conference Motion is

proposed, the following procedure shall apply:

- The Session must first vote on accepting the amendment.
 - If the amendment is passed, the Conference Motion as amended shall be put to the Session.
 - In the event that there is more than one amendment proposed the Chairperson shall call for a vote on the amendments, which in his opinion are the most far-reaching first.
7. A Conference Motion (or any amendment thereto) will be deemed to have been carried when a simple majority of Registered Delegates present at the Session vote in favour of the motion.
 8. Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules will be deemed to have been carried when they achieve a two-thirds majority of Registered Delegates present at a quorate Session, in accordance with Article 13.1 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules.
 9. After voting, the total number of votes in Favour, Against and Abstentions shall be announced at the Session.
 10. The Chairperson may order a re-vote when not less than two Registered Delegates request a re-vote.
 11. In the event of a tie, a Conference Motion (or any amendments

thereto) or Emergency Motion shall be deemed not to have been carried, as a majority has not been attained.

12. Once a re-vote has been called and ruled by the Chairperson, and a result declared, no further requests for re-votes shall be considered.

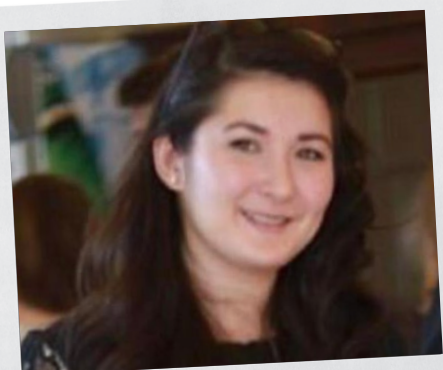
2. VOTING AT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

1. All members of Young Fine Gael who attained membership on or before 15 March 2021 are entitled to vote at the National Executive Elections irrespective of whether they are Registered Delegates.
2. The National Executive Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures adopted by the National Executive, approved by the Fine Gael Executive Council, and as outlined to members by the National Conference Steering Committee.
3. These procedures, and the counting of votes in the National Executive Elections, shall be overseen at all times by the Returning Officer.

Part 12 – Standing Orders

Once these Standing Orders have been accepted by the National Conference, they shall not be suspended or amended.

Project Officer for Young Fine Gael Report



Aoife Nígeo

We welcome members from the 4 corners of Ireland, and our international observers to this exciting virtual weekend that will see teams go head-to-head in the Great Debate, new policies being formed following lengthy debates on motions and the new National Executive elected.

We have a busy weekend ahead with great guest chairs and expert speakers joining us and I would encourage members to attend all sessions and join in the debate.

The National Executive

Since I joined in the middle of 2020, I am proud to say Young Fine Gael has been a hive of activity, albeit virtually. It has been a busy term since the last conference in Carlow in 2019. The members of the National Executive have represented members to the best of their ability and elevated YFG to a place of reckoning among our peers in the wider Fine Gael family and to external stakeholders.

Under the leadership of Daire Lawler, the team has achieved so much for the organization and the Fine Gael Party. Daire's dedication ensured the team were united at all times and in 15 short months has a lot to be proud of, despite the obvious setbacks and challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic wrought. I would guide you to read the National Executive report set out at the beginning of this Clár. If you require any further details on their campaigns, policies or events – please email me and I would be happy to help.

The Members

The members have not only kept YFG alive, but their renewed enthusiasm as witnessed in the lead up to this conference has been encouraging. From our non-college branches to our college branches there is so much movement and activity week-to-week including, a notable increase in the participation in events held by the subcommittees. I want to thank all members, committee members, chairs and secretaries for the work they put in year in, year out. When the time comes for members to move from YFG to Fine Gael – may we look back fondly at the friendships forged and lessons we have learned during our time together.

To members of the Steering Committee, a heartfelt thank you from myself as this conference would not have been as successful without your input and assistance.

Information

Over the course of conference, or at any stage during the year, I am at the other end of an email or phone call if you or your YFG branch need more support. I hope you have a great weekend.

Contact Aoife

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