

Only the Green Party offers hope to young people, say Bartley and Lucas

31 March 2017

The co-leaders of the Greens, Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley, delivered a 'special message' to young people at their Spring Conference today saying that they offer a party interested in 'moving forward, not turning the clocks back'. [1]

Speaking to their conference in Liverpool the co-leaders – elected last Autumn – promised action against an 'extreme Brexit', opposition to tuition fees and action to bring 'private rents under control'.

Caroline Lucas said:

"Whether you voted Leave or Remain, you need a Party that will stand up with consistency, integrity and conviction for your rights. For young people in particular, let down by Brexit, the Green message is one of a more hopeful alternative. Young people deserve a Party that will say loudly and clearly: freedom of movement is your right, tuition fees must be scrapped and private rents brought under control. So today we have this message for young people in Britain. If you want a Party interested in moving forwards, not turning the clock back. A Party that's honest about the challenges we face and brave enough to build a better, more hopeful country. Then come and join us – the Green Party."

The Green Party – who are currently fighting hard in the Manchester Gorton after coming second there in the General Election – are aiming to appeal to young voters who are disappointed with Labour's stance on Brexit – and who won't trust the Lib Dems after their years in coalition.

Lucas said the Greens are 'a political movement that redistributes both money and power. One that redefines the relationship between work and life. One that embraces the future. Pioneering and forward facing. A future better balanced between what we own and how we experience life – and tipped towards what genuinely makes us happier.'

She went on to say that her party 'is exploring policies like a 3 day weekend, and fair pay. Local banks for the public good. People powered renewable energy. Reclaiming houses as homes, not financial assets. Education as a universal right not a commodity. Proudly defending and sharing the benefits of free movement.'

Speaking after the triggering of Article 50 this week, and the publication of the Great Repeal Bill White Paper, Jonathan Bartley said the Greens are the only party to truly understand environmental protection.

He said:

"In the story of our future, the environment must be centre stage. It has to be. And we are the only Party that truly understands that. That's why the Green Party is demanding a new Environmental Protection Act. One that takes everything good about EU law and goes even further."

Notes:

1. FULL SPEECH [HERE.](#)

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Green Party responds to Theresa May's statement on triggering of Article 50



29 March 2017

The Green Party has responded to the prime minister's statement in Parliament, following the delivery of the letter triggering Article 50 to Donald Tusk, president of the European Council.

Molly Scott Cato, MEP for the South West and Green Party EU spokesperson, said:

"Theresa May's talk of a fairer society stands in stark contrast to her actions. Charging ahead with an extreme Brexit while dragging the rest of the UK with her is no way to ensure an equal Britain that has a productive relationship with its European neighbours.

"May's blustery optimism about her ambitions for the UK after Brexit cannot mask the incredible challenges we face. She failed to even mention the environment or climate change, despite it being the largest shared threat we face.

"The statement repeatedly referenced the potential benefits for our children and grandchildren but the next generation has the most to lose as we hurtle towards an unknown future outside the EU. The Green Party will keep standing up for the environment and freedom of movement, and fighting to stop the UK being turned into a tax haven."

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Green Party: Triggering of Article 50 sets us on dangerous path towards extreme Brexit



29 March 2017

The Green Party has responded to Article 50 being triggered today.

Molly Scott Cato, MEP for the South West and Green Party EU spokesperson, said:

“The triggering of Article 50 today, after the Bill passed without amendments, sets us on a dangerous path towards an extreme Brexit. The toxic combination of a Conservative Party hell bent on ejecting us into the wilderness and a Labour party utterly unwilling to offer principled opposition has led to this cliff edge, and only a distinct change from both will enable us to avoid the dangers that lie ahead.

“What happens next will define this country for a generation or more, as we enter the most important peacetime negotiations in Britain’s recent history. The Green Party will continue to oppose an extreme Brexit – which is why I have fought against triggering Article 50 every step of the way. We will pressure this Government to guarantee the rights of EU nationals living here, protect our environment and workers’ rights and safeguard our communities from the damaging effects of losing access to EU markets. Alongside Green Parties from across Europe we will continue to make the case for continent-wide solidarity in the face of politicians trying to pull us apart.”

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Green Party files complaint over Daily Mail's 'Legs-it' headline



28 March 2017

Amelia Womack, Green Party deputy leader, has submitted a formal complaint to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipsos) over the Daily Mail's 'Legs-it' headline [1].

She accuses the newspaper of breaching the Editors' Code of Practice by discriminating against Nicola Sturgeon and Theresa May because of their gender [2].

Womack said:

"This attempt by the Daily Mail to ignore years of progress by women in politics is utterly pathetic. The paper is deliberately ignoring the struggle women have faced to break into politics even though we now have a female prime minister, first minister and party leaders.

"As a young woman politician I find it absolutely extraordinary that a national newspaper has sunk to this level. Female leaders deserve to be treated with respect, not contempt, and I call on the editor of the Daily Mail to apologise to the Prime Minister and First Minister, and to all of the young women aspiring to be politicians who want to be recognised for their knowledge and achievements, not the shimmer of their legs."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39416554>

2. The full complaint reads:

I wish to make a complaint under the Editors' Code of Practice relating to the Daily Mail's coverage on March 28 of a meeting between Nicola Sturgeon and Theresa May.

The coverage breaches clause 12 as the women are being discriminated against due to their gender.

To bring the politicians' appearance into this story is not only entirely irrelevant but incredibly disrespectful.

This headline and the further derogatory comments inside the paper would not have even been considered, let alone published, if the two politicians in question had been men.

Women in the public sphere deserve to be treated with respect and the headline contributes to a wider culture of sexism. It reinforces a fallacy

that politics isn't a place for women, potentially putting off the next generation of leaders and decision makers.

I despair that a national newspaper thinks it is acceptable to pit women against each other in a competition over who is the most attractive.

Please will you consider if this coverage has breached the code and if so, take action against the Daily Mail to ensure this does not happen again.

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Green Party calls for inquiry into death of schoolboy as 'Hillsborough Law' Bill reaches Parliament



28 March 2017

The Green Party has joined calls for an independent panel inquiry into the death of seven-year-old Zane Gbangbola, who died in 2014 after his home in Surrey was flooded.

Zane's family believes he was killed by hydrogen cyanide carried by floodwater from a nearby landfill site, despite the coroner ruling his death was caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

The family was denied legal aid and is now supporting the Public Authority (Accountability) Bill, dubbed the 'Hillsborough Law' [1], which will be presented to parliament tomorrow, on March 29.

Caroline Lucas MP, Green Party co-leader, is co-sponsoring the bill.

Zane's parents Kye Gbangbola and Nicole Lawler are requesting an independent panel of inquiry, as in the Hillsborough inquest, to review all documentation around Zane's death. More than 30,000 people have signed a petition [2] to support their call.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, met Kye and Nicole earlier this month.

Bartley said:

“I was struck by Kye and Nicole’s determination and resilience in terrible circumstances. They’ve shown enormous courage to continue fighting for justice in the face of a huge bureaucratic machine and vested interests weighted against them.

“I fully support their call for an inquiry and tomorrow we’ll take an important step forward with this bill reaching parliament. It’s crucial there’s a level playing field for families seeking answers about their loved ones’ deaths.

“The implications of Zane’s death are enormous, not just for his family, but potentially for everyone who lives near a landfill site, particularly as many of these sites are unrecorded. The authorities involved in the investigation must be accountable so we can make sure the truth emerges and that a tragedy like this never happens again.”

Notes:

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/sep/08/hillsborough-law-launch-ed-to-ensure-officials-act-with-candour>
2. https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/call-for-a-public-debate-into-the-death-of-7-year-old-zane?bucket=+via+%4038_degrees
3. More information about the campaigns are available at <http://www.truthaboutzane.com/> and <http://www.thehillsboroughlaw.com/>

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