

# Green Party to stand in Stoke by-election



1 February 2017

North Staffordshire Green Party has announced local activist Adam Colclough as its candidate for the Stoke by-election.

Colclough is from Stoke and understands the problems it faces. He wants to end austerity and tackle insecure employment, low pay and inadequate housing. His priorities are the NHS, social care and education.

Colclough works in logistics operations but also has roles in a mental health forum, NHS patients' forum and young offenders' rehabilitation organisations. He is studying part time for a sociology degree at Staffordshire University.

Colclough said:

"I'm absolutely committed to fighting for a better future for my city and its people. Politicians need to be honest about the real causes of the problems that blight Stoke on Trent and offer credible solutions that will work. Simply staying silent about austerity instead of offering realistic, alternative economic and industrial policies is not good enough.

"The people of Stoke have been taken for granted for far too long and the Green Party will be honest in addressing these issues to create a fair and sustainable future. Many people in Stoke are disconnected from the three mainstream parties and seeking an alternative. We want to offer them one based on inclusion and hope, not division and prejudice."

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"Adam has lived in Stoke his whole life which means he truly understands the strengths and challenges of the local area. He would do whatever it takes to work with others of like mind to meet the needs of the local community, and defeat the forces that seek to separate us. I'm proud that Adam is offering a brighter, fairer future."

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

---

## [Green Party leaders ask Theresa May: Did you know about the Muslim ban?](#)



31 January 2017

**\* Jonathan Bartley, co-leader: May's inaction a betrayal of Britain and appeasement of a racist, bigoted President**

The leaders of the Green Party have written to Theresa May [1] to ask her if knew about President Trump's Muslim ban before it was announced.

The call follows reports that the Prime Minister was told about the ban during her visit to the United States. [2]

The letter from Jonathan Bartley and Caroline Lucas states that, with more than 1.5 million people signing a petition [3] to cancel Trump's state visit because of the ban, the public have the right to know how much May was told about the policy in advance.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"News that the Prime Minister already knew about President Trump's Muslim ban is deeply disturbing and will send a chill down the spine of all who believe in a just and compassionate world.

"This week more than 1.5 million British people made it clear they want to live in a country that shows leadership and has a clear resolve to create a world where refugees are welcomed and supported. Donald Trump's action stands

in complete opposition to this.

“Theresa May must answer questions on how much she knew and what she did to challenge such a vile policy.

“If the Prime Minister knew about the Muslim ban in advance, and failed to challenge it, it would be not just a betrayal of the open, tolerant and welcoming country that Britain should be, but amount to appeasement of a racist, bigoted President.”

**Notes:**

1. Dear Prime Minister,

We are concerned by reports you were told about President Trump’s plans to ban the residents of seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States in advance of the policy announcement.

With more than 1.5 million people signing a petition calling on you to cancel the state visit invitation extended to the US President, it’s clear that there is a huge public anger. The country has a right to know how much you were told about the ban, and what you said to the President about it.

Were you told about the ban at the meeting with President Trump?

If so, what exactly were you told, and when.

And crucially, what did you say in response?

Yesterday we also learnt that the President may be intending to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement – an announcement which came just days after you left the US. Such a move would be a bitter blow to Britain’s stated intent to work with other countries to tackle climate change, possibly the greatest threat that our country faces.

Did you talk to the President about climate change?

What did you say, and what was his response?

If you did not raise climate change with him, then why?

The British people deserve to be told the truth. We trust you will answer these pertinent questions as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader

Caroline Lucas, Green Party co-leader

1. <https://www.channel4.com/news/by/gary-gibbon/blogs/theresa-may-told-a-us-refugee-ban-was-coming>
2. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/171928>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

---

## [Green Party calls on all councils to welcome refugees after 'national disgrace' of asylum seekers' housing revealed](#)



31 January 2017

The Green Party has branded the poor housing and lack of support for refugees in the UK a “national disgrace” and called on every council in the country to step up and take in refugees.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, made the call after it was revealed some asylum seekers were living in “rat infested” conditions [1].

Bartley said:

“That we would house those fleeing conflict and persecution in rat infested conditions is nothing short of a national disgrace.

“How low can Britain go? This country has a proud history of being a safe haven where those who have been abused, traumatised and suffered violations of their basic human rights can find protection and support. That heritage is being betrayed by this Government.

“We need to see every single local authority welcoming refugees and it is

unacceptable that while some councils have taken in hundreds of asylum seekers others, like in the Prime Minister's own constituency, have taken none at all.

"We are all citizens of the world and we all have a responsibility to provide sanctuary for those fleeing persecution. With the barbaric policies coming from Trump's America this week the UK should be showing the world how we can and must do better."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-38799694>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

---

## [Green Party responds to news Trump could pull out of Paris Agreement](#)



30 January 2017

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, has responded to the news today that Donald Trump could pull the US out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement within a matter of days. [1]

Bartley said:

"The news that Donald Trump could pull the US out of the Paris Agreement is a shame on our own Government. The Prime Minister's failure to prioritise climate change with the President is a complete dereliction of duty.

"But although a US withdrawal would be a bitter blow to the fight to save our planet, the momentum we have gathered is unstoppable, and the Paris Agreement will continue in strength with or without Donald Trump."

Notes:

1. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-paris-climate-change-deal-myron-ebell-us-president-america-pull-out-agreement-a7553676.html>

[Tweet](#)

[Back to main news page](#)

[Let's block ads! \(Why?\)](#)

---

## [Greens condemn Trump's shameful ban on Muslims and refugees](#)



30 January 2017

Dear Editor,

It's mortifying that the Prime Minister was photographed hand in hand on Holocaust Memorial Day with a US President who, later that day, signed an executive order which places an immediate ban on immigrants from seven Muslim majority countries and all refugees entering the USA.

The order, which is called 'Protection Of The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States', also states that prohibition would not apply to non-Muslims and that Christians fleeing persecution would be prioritised for resettlement.

These measures are a barbaric attack on Muslims in the USA, from the

countries which are now banned and on all Muslims around the world. It stamps upon all principles of liberty and civil rights and undermines the value system upon which all our democracies is based.

As Greens here in the UK we are ashamed that the highest elected official of our country visited the USA during this time and then spectacularly failed to take a serious stand against such hatred.

We call upon our Prime Minister to immediately condemn the order in the strongest. Half-baked statements simply aren't good enough. All who value human rights must stand up against this alarming act, the rise in hatred it represents and these clear stirrings towards fascism.

Caroline Lucas MP, Co-Leader

Jonathan Bartley, Co-Leader

Baroness Jenny Jones

Molly Scott-Cato MEP

Sian Berry AM

Caroline Russell AM

Ousman Noor, Campaigns Coordinator, London Green Party

[\*\*\*Published in the Guardian\*\*\*](#)

[\*\*Tweet\*\*](#)

[\*\*Back to main news page\*\*](#)

[\*\*Let's block ads! \(Why?\)\*\*](#)