

## Generalised Address

Ladies and Gentlemen; residents of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

What have young people ever done for democracy?

It's an excellent question, isn't it?

Here's a better one: "Have young people ever done anything for democracy?"

A few well-known examples spring to mind; Malala Yousafzai who defied the Taliban, Jasilyn Charger and her inclusivity campaigns or Parram Jaggi's environmental entrepreneurship – these young people, and many more like them, are truth that young people really can impact democracy and politics.

With this in mind, what can we do to influence democracy and politics right here in BCP?

We can elect Members of Youth Parliament who will work for you to combat the problems faced by our generation, we can devise youth-led climate policies, we can put a stop to youth poverty and we can become the generation of change – it's time for change!

So how can we bring about change?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, if you elect me as your Member of Youth Parliament, I will advocate for change using a whole variety of policies, such as:

- Lowering the voting age to 16 for Council elections,
- Increasing the number of Higher Education courses and apprenticeship schemes open to 16+ locally,
- Improving quality/access to youth work and social schemes,
- Subsidised school meals for all pupils under the poverty line,
- Calling on the UKYP to create commission to advise on legislative change to end rape culture,
- Introducing monetary, 'physical' and emotional benefits for young carers provided/subsidised by the State or NHS directly.

All these policies are vital to bringing change to our generation, and to the wider world, and many politicians have tried and failed. So, what makes me different from them? Why should you trust me with your vote? Because, unlike other politicians, I will try, and if I fail, I will keep on trying and fighting for you – for us – until we do make a difference.

I was once told, politics is about the many, not the one. But I disagree; politics should involve every single person – politics has become too party-political, it's become all about sides and powerplays, the essence of democracy – the very definition of democracy has been lost; "for the people, by the people" – for you.

Allow me the chance to make a change and I promise, you won't regret it. I can't promise we'll succeed in bringing change on every issue, but I can promise I will fight with every single bit of strength I have to bring change in a meaningful and impactful way to each and every one of you.

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Trust me and together, let's be the generation of change.