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Council Document 11b

Final Policy and Internal Motions Booklet

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This document contains all of the motions that BYC member organisations have submitted for debate at the Annual Council Meeting 2017. The motions submitted are (in alphabetical member order)

Policy Motions

No.	BYC Member	Policy motion name
2	Girlguiding	Tampon Tax
2a	Stroud District Youth Council	Add Amendment to Motion 2: Tampon Tax
1	Girlguiding	Body Confidence
10	The Scout Association	Ensure water and sanitation are at the heart of international development
11	The Scout Association	Emphasise the need for sustainable living practices
3	Girlguiding	Gender Stereotyping
3a	Quakers in Britain	Add Amendment to Motion 3: Gender Stereotyping and Mental Health
5	Hackney Youth Council	Make Feminism Lessons Compulsory
5A1	Girlguiding	Change Amendment to Motion 5: Make Feminism Lessons Compulsory in schools
5A2	Quakers in Britain	Change Amendment to Motion 5: Make Gender Equality Lessons Compulsory
5A3	Stroud District Youth Council	Change Amendment to Motion 5: Make Gender Issues Compulsory
7	National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs	To ensure that agricultural and countryside career options are promoted within school careers guidance
6	National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs	The importance of Buying British produce

No.	BYC Member	Internal Motion Name
1	British Youth Council Board	British Youth Council Manifesto

If you have any questions about any aspect of this process please contact Francesca Danmole on 02072508377 or francesca.danmole@byc.org.uk ; if you have any questions on any aspects of the event Meeting please contact Zoe Cumberland, on 020 7250 8373 or zoe.cumberland@byc.org.uk

This document contains all of the motions and subsequent amendments that BYC member organisations have submitted for debate at the Annual Council Meeting 2017. The motions were prioritised in advance by members online. The original motion numbers have been retained and they are now listed in their prioritised order. Anything that is not debated at ACM will fall to the BYC Board of Trustee Policy Response Group. Procedural and internal motions are listed at the end and will be debated where indicated on the agenda.

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Motion No	2
BYC Member Organisation	Girlguiding
Motion name	Tampon Tax

In 1973, the Government deemed sanitary protection as 'non-essential', meaning that they are taxed as a luxury product. Having a period is not a 'luxury'; it is not something people choose. Sanitary products are essential to the hygiene and dignity of all people who menstruate and allow us to continue to do our everyday activities, such as pursuing our career and education.

It is easy to understand how periods can become unaffordable. On average, those who menstruate will spend £18,450 on periods over the course of their lifetime. The results of not being able to afford these products are concerning. In early 2017 Freedom4Girls (a group that provides sanitary products to women in Kenya) was contacted by a school in Leeds, after concerns that girls were missing school due to their periods, this is not an isolated incident, as teachers and charities around the country are reporting similar occurrences. The SCA Hygiene Matters report found that 40 per cent of girls in the UK have felt that their period has kept them from leading a full and active life at school.

Foodbanks and homeless shelters are also reporting that they require more sanitary products. Those who menstruate but do not have access to these products, such as homeless women, risk their health, hygiene and basic dignity, as they are forced to use toilet paper, socks and newspaper instead of tampons and pads. This can also lead to embarrassment and shame, which further enforces the damaging taboo that surrounds periods.

Other health products, such as incontinence products, are quite rightly not taxed, and even items that could be considered 'luxury' like exotic meat and aircraft repair are not taxed as luxury products - it is clear that sanitary products are more essential than these items, and so should be exempt from luxury VAT. Especially when you consider contraception can be obtained for free.

In 2015 22-year-old Laura Coryton started a petition against 'Tampon Tax' that gained 320,087 supporters and led to a House of Commons and Lords period poverty discussion in March 2015. There were calls for schools to be required to provide pads and tampons and to allow those who receive free school meals access to free sanitary products.

The luxury item tax is also an element of EU law, so Brexit could provide an opportunity to end this unfair tax.

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

The BYC believes that sanitary products are essential for people who menstruate and therefore should not be taxed as a luxury product. We recognise that this tax shows a disregard for the needs of girls and young women and has a detrimental impact on their lives. We call on the Government to remove the luxury tax on these products, and to continue to commit to this following Brexit.

Motion No	2a
BYC Member Organisation	Stroud District Youth Council
Motion name	Tampon Tax
Motion No or theme of Youth Manifesto it refers to	Motion No. 2 – Tampon Tax
<p>Stroud District Youth Council supports this policy motion. However we feel that although removing the tampon tax would make sanitary products more affordable, some women, such as those who are homeless or living in extreme poverty may still not have enough money to buy these items which are vital to them. We feel that sanitary products should be free to purchase for the aforementioned people and therefore this amendment would further enhance the policy motion.</p> <p>Text to be inserted... <i>We also believe that in addition to the tampon tax being removed, sanitary products (as an essential item for females) should be free to purchase for all those deemed to be living under the poverty line.</i></p>	

Motion No	1
BYC Member Organisation	Girlguiding
Motion name	Body Confidence
<p>Over half (52%) of girls aged 7-10 feel they are not good enough – <i>Girls Attitudes Survey 2017</i></p> <p>Low body confidence and self-esteem is becoming a prevalent issue facing young people, and evidence shows this disproportionately affects women and girls. According to Girlguiding's 2016 Girls Attitude Survey (GAS) half of 17-21 year-old girls feel embarrassed or ashamed about the way they look.</p> <p>This lack of confidence stems from several roots. The media has a massive impact on how young people see their own bodies and the bodies of other people. Young people are constantly exposed to media which promotes and endorses unrealistic body types and sexualises both women's and men's bodies. Girlguiding research shows that 70% and 80% of girls aged 11-16 and 17-21 respectively agree that women are too often shown as sex objects in the media and online. Due to the fact that very few body types are portrayed through mainstream media, young people are not exposed to the diversity of different bodies which further impacts body confidence. Globally, according to research carried out by Dove, more than two-thirds of women and girls say increasing pressures from advertising and media to reach an unrealistic standard of beauty is the key force in driving their appearance anxiety. The problem is exacerbated by the increased use of social media with GAS 2016 showing that 37% of girls say they compare themselves to celebrities often or most of the time.</p> <p>Low body confidence has a massive knock-on effect on young people and their ability to live their everyday lives and fulfil their potential. GAS 2016 shows that body confidence issues affects young peoples' ability to wear the clothes they like, have their picture taken, speak up in class and even have fun with their friends. Shockingly 47% of girls aged 11-21 say that the way they look holds them back often or most of the time.</p>	

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council manifesto

The BYC believes body confidence needs to be promoted to ensure that young people are not held back by body confidence issues. The BYC believes the government should support the inclusion of body confidence in SRE/PSHE and ensure that teachers are trained on how to provide help and support for pupils.

The BYC also supports peer education so young people can learn from and talk with their peers about body confidence. For example, the BYC supports peer education programmes such as Girlguiding’s programme ‘Free Being Me’ in which girls aged between 14-25 deliver sessions that help girls recognise beauty myths, grow in confidence and be happy in their own skin.

Motion No	10
BYC Member Organisation	The Scout Association
Motion name	Ensure water and sanitation are at the heart of international development

The UK is lucky in that it has widespread access to clean water and sanitation; it is something that we all take for granted every day. Yet this isn’t the case for everyone. In 2017, we still live in a world where 1 in 10 people have no access to water and 1 in 3 have no access to a toilet. Taps and toilets may not be glamorous, but they have a transformative effect on people’s lives. Without them, hospitals cannot function, children cannot go to school and women and girls are prevented from fully participating in society. We live in a world where more than 900 children under five years old die every day from causes linked to poor water, sanitation and hygiene – that’s one child every two minutes dying unnecessarily. This is not acceptable and needs to change. The UK Government is a global leader in international development and has the power to bring about this change.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 goals created by the UN to improve lives all over the world. We call on the government to actively fulfil these goals, particularly SDG6 which calls for universal access to water and sanitation. This includes achieving universal safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, paying special attention to the needs of women and those in vulnerable situations; improving water quality; increasing water-use efficiency to reduce water scarcity; implementing integrated water resource management; protecting water-related ecosystems; expanding international cooperation to developing countries; and supporting local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Furthermore, these goals are integrated and we cannot achieve other goals, such as those on gender equality, education or health without tackling this water and sanitation crisis. How can we expect doctors to save lives without access to taps and toilets in their hospitals? How can we expect girls to thrive when they are forced to drop out of school when they get their periods? Health, welfare and productivity improvements are closely linked with improvements in access to water and sanitation. If we invest in water and sanitation services, this ensures that money and efforts in other areas are more effective.

Yet currently, only 1.6% of the UK’s bilateral aid budget is spent on water, sanitation and hygiene. Bringing this into line with other areas of development, such as education and health, would ensure the UK is leading the way in resolving this crisis. Further to this, integration water, sanitation and hygiene services into health, nutrition, education, disability, gender equality and climate programmes and strategies will maximise the impact of this aid.

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

BYC believes that the UK Government should show global leadership on water and sanitation, ensuring that it is at the heart of the UK's international development policy. This includes upholding their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG6, ensuring that everyone, everywhere has access to water and sanitation by 2030.

Motion No	11
BYC Member Organisation	The Scout Association
Motion name	Emphasise the need for sustainable living practices

The British people are lucky with the widespread availability of fresh fruit, vegetables and meat on demand almost everywhere in the country every single day. Vary rarely is there something we cannot find instantly on the supermarket shelves. Food from every corner of the world, loaded into baskets and trollies without a thought of what the price was to get it there. However, few of us understand the true costs of food production and distribution (economic, environmental and human), and even fewer recognise the real environmental challenges that it creates.

The BYC stands for the empowerment of young people, and giving them a voice on whatever issues matter to them. This includes our belief in creating a better world - a greener world in which we demand less and take less from our environment. Essential to this is our food security, which, following Brexit in particular, has the potential to become even more reliant on dirty, harmful methods of producing enough food to sustain an ever-growing population.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation states: "Over the coming 35 years, agriculture will face an unprecedented confluence of pressures, including a 30% increase in the global population, intensifying competition for increasingly scarce land, water and energy resources, and the existential threat of climate change. To provide for a population projected to reach 9.3 billion in 2050 and support changing dietary patterns, estimates are that food production will need to increase from the current 8.4 billion tonnes to almost 13.5 billion tonnes a year."

This is not sustainable.

There are ways in which we can help correct the damage already made. We can educate our people on the risks facing our food supplies, and the ways in which we can all adopt more sustainable styles of living. Improving environmental policy concerning reduction of food waste from businesses (particularly supermarkets) is key, but equally so is the education of our young people. Our young people are our future, and educating them on what they can do to save our planet is the best way to help safeguard it for them.

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

BYC calls on the UK Government to introduce compulsory education in all schools concerning the ways in which we grow, process and consume our food, and the ways in which our current means of doing so harm our planet. We further encourage the Government to create and uphold stronger environmental protection laws, and become a global leader in food sustainability, encouraging other nations to do the same

Motion No	3
BYC Member Organisation	Girlguiding
Motion name	Gender Stereotyping
<p>Many young people and children are impacted negatively by gender stereotyping.</p> <p>Gender stereotyping is when it is assumed what someone's interests and characteristics are because of their gender – i.e. boys will like football and engineering and girls will like dance and princesses. We see examples of gender stereotyping in the majority of marketing aimed at children, whether that be in the toy industry, books or films; the preferences and interests that the marketing industry instils within children cannot only lead to insecurities for young people but can hugely impact the skills and interests they will develop, which can directly lead to the inequalities that are seen between genders in later life, for example girls may be less likely to pursue a career in STEM subjects, which can exacerbate the gender pay gap.</p> <p>According to the 2016 Girls Attitudes Survey, 78% of Girls and young women aged 11-21 say they would like to live in a world without gender stereotypes.</p> <p>The marketing of different products to different genders can allow children to believe that they are not as good at something due to their gender, for example girls may believe that they are not as good at maths or engineering due to the lack of such products being aimed at them, which ultimately causes children's potential to be limited and if products were marketed in a gender neutral fashion, as opposed to having 'boys toys' and 'girls toys' then children would be less likely to feel that their gender defined what they could or could not be interested in.</p> <p>Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto BYC believes that gender stereotyping through products, advertising, books and films that are marketed in a gendered way can have negative impacts on the aspirations and beliefs of young people and their futures.</p> <p>The BYC believes that all products, marketed at children should not be done on the basis of gender and that all children should be treated equally in the interests and skills that they are able to develop.</p> <p>We believe that all children and young people should be able to fulfil their potential and be able to follow their dreams, regardless of gender. We believe that by reducing, not reinforcing the gender stereotypes being forced upon young people this will help improve the lives of young people.</p>	

Motion No	9
BYC Member Organisation	Quakers in Britain
Motion name	Add Amendment: Gender Stereotyping and Mental Health
Motion No or theme of Youth Manifesto it refers to	Motion No 3 - Gender Stereotyping

We support the motion from Girlguiding addressing gender stereotyping. We propose that the impact of gender stereotyping on mental health be included in this policy motion, alongside the impact that stereotyping has on the aspirations and beliefs of young people. **We propose the following amended be inserted into the youth manifesto:**

BYC believes that gender stereotyping through products, advertising, books and films that are marketed in a gendered way can have negative impacts on the aspirations, mental health, and beliefs of young people, affecting their future opportunities and ambitions.

The BYC believes that all products, marketed at children should not be done on the basis of gender and that all children should be treated equally in the interests and skills that they are able to develop.

We believe that all children and young people should be able to fulfil their potential and be able to follow their dreams, regardless of gender. We believe that by reducing, not reinforcing the gender stereotypes being forced upon young people this will help improve the lives of young people.

Motion No	5
BYC Member Organisation	Hackney Youth Council
Motion name	Make feminism lessons compulsory

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

We believe that feminism should be incorporated into PSHE. It is vital that we achieve equality for all genders; and educating people on feminism will get us one step closer to achieving this. We should shape the next generation of proud feminists. We call on the Government to pass a law, making it compulsory for feminism to be taught at least once every two weeks. It is important that we break down the stereotypes. Society should allow us to be whoever we want to be, not make us hide away following others

Motion No	5A1
BYC Member Organisation	Girlguiding
Motion name	Add Amendment: Make feminism lessons compulsory
Motion No or theme of Youth Manifesto it refers to	Policy Motion 5 - Make feminism lessons compulsory

Intersectional Feminism:

Intersectional feminism recognises that certain groups of women have different forms of oppression in life that they have to deal with, such as racism and sexism, ableism, classism and many others.

The goal of intersectional feminism is to move toward gender equality for all people. Intersectional feminism investigates and challenges the forces that cause all injustice or inequality, while understanding different issues affect different groups, and the same issue can affect groups differently. For example, the UK gender pay cut is 18% for white women but rises to 26% for Pakistani and Bangladeshi women.

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

We believe that intersectional feminism should be incorporated into PSHEE. It is vital we achieve equality for all genders, especially those that face further discrimination due to race, sexuality, religion, disability, class and groups within society. Through this implementation, we will be shaping the next generation of proud feminists. We call on the Government to pass a law, making it compulsory of feminism to be taught at least once every two weeks. It is important to break down the potential negative stereotypes within society. Society should allow us to be whoever we want to be, not make us hide away following others.

Motion No	5A2
BYC Member Organisation	Quakers in Britain
Motion name	Change Amendment: Make Gender Equality Lessons Compulsory
Motion No or theme of Youth Manifesto it refers to	Policy Motion 5 - Make feminism lessons compulsory

We support Hackney Youth Council's motion to increase the emphasis on gender equality in PSHE in schools. But, whilst feminism can play a significant role in this education, concerns were raised over the wording of this motion. 'Feminism' was perceived as a gendered term, and therefore potentially excluding of some gender identities. In order to be open and inclusive in engaging people in learning about gender equality **we propose the following amended text of Policy Motion 4 to be inserted into the youth manifesto:**

We believe that gender equality lessons should be incorporated into PSHE. It is vital that we achieve equality for all genders; and educating people on feminism and the ideas and actions of groups and individuals fighting for equality for all genders will get us one step closer to achieving this. We should shape the next generation of proud advocates of gender equality. We call on the Government to pass a law, making it compulsory for gender equality to be taught at least once every two weeks. It is important that we break down the stereotypes. Society should allow us to be whoever we want to be, not make us hide away following others

Motion No	5A3
BYC Member Organisation	Stroud District Youth Council
Motion name	Make Gender Issues Lessons Compulsory

Motion No or theme of Youth Manifesto it refers to	Motion No. 5 – Make Feminism Lessons Compulsory
<p>Stroud District Youth Council supports the general principal of this policy motion. However we feel that the term ‘feminism’ is too strong and that it can sometimes be misinterpreted. We therefore suggest that it should be incorporated into lessons with the wider topic of ‘Gender Issues’.</p> <p>We also think that rather than teaching the topic once every two weeks, that it should be taught as a topic over a school term or other set period of time, as we don’t think that schools or the government would be willing to pass a law or adopt such a specific policy.</p> <p>Text to be inserted...</p> <p>We believe that feminism Gender Issues should be incorporated into PSHE. It is vital that we achieve equality for all genders; and educating people on related issues including feminism, will get us one step closer to achieving this. We should shape the next generation of proud feminists. We call on the Government to pass a law, making it compulsory for feminism gender issues to be taught at least once every two weeks over a school term or other set period of time. It is important that we break down the stereotypes. Society should allow us to be whoever we want to be, not make us hide away following others.</p>	

Motion No	7
BYC Member Organisation	National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs
Motion name	To ensure that agricultural and countryside career options are promoted within school careers guidance
<p>Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council manifesto</p> <p>We believe that young people are missing out on the opportunity to develop a fulfilling career in a rural setting. In our experience, students looking at potential careers are not considering a career in agriculture because they are not being given the information to be able to make informed choices at the right time.</p> <p>This could be as easy as explaining that that there is more on offer in agriculture than being a farmer, highlighting the variety of rural business and start-up opportunities to those who have little or no connection to the countryside or farming.</p> <p>If schools used STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects to highlight the agricultural application of these topics then more young people could discover a little more about the opportunities which are readily available in Britain.</p> <p>Additionally, mainstream education often lacks connections to rural employers and therefore positive working examples to offer young people considering their options. We believe that more work experience opportunities in rural and agricultural business would provide much needed education about the variety of jobs available to suit a range of education levels, interests and skills.</p> <p>We want to see more substantial information to be provided in schools careers advice sessions which highlight the options in agriculture and rural business. Links with land based Universities and routes into apprenticeships also need to be developed.</p>	

Motion No	6
BYC Member Organisation	National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs
Motion name	The importance of Buying British produce

British farmers produce about 62% of our food supply and by backing British farming we can become a more food secure nation (*Source: National Farmers Union*).

Choosing British means supporting British farmers, who produce about 62% of our food supply.

If you choose British produce -

- You will be supporting the economy – everyone from the farmer, to those who work in food processing and the retailers selling the food.
- British food travels less far from farm to shop so has a lower carbon footprint than most imported foods.
- Eating British fruits and vegetables in season is good for you. Foods in season contain the nutrients, minerals and trace elements that our bodies need at particular times of the year.
- British meat is produced to some of the highest welfare standards in the world: no growth-promoting hormones are allowed and any antibiotics are administered only under veterinary direction.
- Britain's pig farmers operate by UK law to standards of welfare that are higher than those of nearly every other EU member state. Buying pork that is a 'Product of the EU means there is a 70% chance that it comes from a farming system that would be illegal in Britain.
- Britain's beef and sheep industries are the envy of the world. Protect our great native livestock industry by buying the real thing, not an imported substitute.
- Britain's cattle passport system means that each animal can be uniquely traced to its dam (mother) and place of birth.
- Meat carrying the British Red Tractor logo has been produced to a high set of standards covering every stage of the food chain from rearing to processing and can be traced back to the farm it came from. (*Source: Love British Food*)

Text to be inserted into the British Youth Council Manifesto

The BYC wants to highlight the many benefits of buying British produce and encourage young people as consumers to support local industry and allow small businesses to thrive.

By purchasing British produce, consumers can be proud of the industry that supplies the food they eat. They can be confident that it complies to our strict food hygiene and safety standards, that animal welfare is a high priority, that their food is traceable back to source and that the environmental impacts of producing food have been considered and minimised.

Choosing British food to eat means that young people can help to shape and secure the future of our food industry. This will help the nation make informed choices about the food they purchase and consume.

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Internal Motions

Motion No	1
BYC Member Organisation	British Youth Council Board
Motion name	British Youth Council Manifesto
For members to allow the Board to tidy up the manifesto, looking at any policies that have lapsed to ensure the manifesto is up to date..	

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