

4 steps on how BYC members makes policy through the Annual Council Meeting

Please keep this document safe, you will need it to participate in BYC's Annual Council Meeting 2017. If you need this document in another format contact events@byc.org.uk or call 020 7250 8373.

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What is policy and how do BYC members make it?

Policy Making at BYC Meetings.

Policy shall be discussed at Annual Council Meetings of BYC allow BYC youth policy to be discussed thoroughly and separately from general BYC business.

At ACM proposals for policy can be submitted as motions by either member organisations or the Board of Trustees.

What is a motion?

A motion is basically some words which says what BYC feels about a certain topic. It is something that membership organisations can submit, and then members at the ACM discuss and vote on it to see if it should become policy of the BYC.

Motions for policy can either create new policy or amend existing policy. If a motion becomes BYC policy it will change BYC's **Youth Manifesto**, as it either adds to or deletes policy statements contained in this document.

A policy will lapse (cease to exist) two years after last adopted at an Ordinary Meeting, unless it is otherwise decided to continue or amend this policy. BYC Board of Trustees will consider current policies manifesto and recommend those areas due to lapse, to be retained or updated.

Urgent Policy Making.

Sometimes between Ordinary Meetings, BYC needs to make policy quickly in reaction to development in politics and our society. For example, Bills may be announced in the Queen's Speech or the Government may announce a new initiative that affects young people's lives.

In between Ordinary Meetings, BYC's staff works with the BYC Trustee Policy Making Group to draft policy, which then has to be ratified by all BYC trustees. These policies are included in the manifesto circulated to Members.

To see the BYC Manifesto and an archive of BYC policy please visit:

<http://byc.org.uk/resources/byc-manifesto.aspx>

Step One - What should our motion be on and what should it say?

- Think about issues you care about that are current but also might come up in the future.
- What should BYC believe about it?
- Do you want anyone so do something about it? If so who?
- Is there a call to action?
- Get all the facts and figures you can to support your argument and argue your case.

Step Two – Does BYC already believe in the topic?

Check that you aren't writing a motion about something BYC already believes in by [reading the current manifesto](#) .

- If you are still unsure, you can call the BYC's Policy and Campaigns team on 0207 250 8377
- If it isn't in the manifesto then head to step three

Step Three - How should it be written?

- Their needs to be a statement of belief in a certain topic for example

“BYC believes that women and girls of all ages should have their rights promoted and protected. They should receive an education equal to that of their male counterparts, be protected from forced and child marriage, any violations of their internationally recognised rights, including through Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and from being used as weapons in areas of conflict.

We believe in the value of organisations promoting women and young girls' rights internationally and seek to bring these issues to an international forum.”

- Your motion cannot be longer 500 words and be as concise as possible
- If you want the Government to do something about it also include 'We call on the Government to...'. If there is anyone else who can do something about to be sure to include them too.
- If you are still unsure, you can seek advice about how to draft your motion from BYC's policy team on 020 7250 8377
- Remember to use the motion form to submit what you want to say
- It is important that in the section '**Text to be inserted into youth manifesto**' that this is a clear statement of belief in the topic and why it is an important issues rather than telling BYC to do something or join.
- If you want the Government to do something about it also include 'We call on the Government to...'. If there is anyone else who can do something about to be sure to include them too.
- You might want to lists some facts and figures about your motions on the form. These are included in the 500 word count.

Step four – Each member organisation can submit 3 motions

- Each BYC member organisation has the opportunity to submit up to three motions

- If you want to submit another one or two motions, just follow steps 1 to 3 again

Don't forget to send them in!

Make sure you send your motions in by the deadline. Your motions must be sent to BYC **by 5pm on the Tuesday 27^h June 2017.**

Sample motion

<p>Priority Policy: Protect the Rights of Girls and Young Women Internationally</p> <p>Proposed by [name of BYC member Organisation].</p> <p>In many areas of the world, women and young girls regularly have their rights violated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many girls are forced into marriages, often at a very young age. • Many women don't get an adequate education and this drastically affects their future prospects. 17 million girls of primary age are expected to never enter school. (UNESCO 2013) • Violence against women and girls violates the rights of girls and women in countries across the world. This includes Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights (WHO 2014), has no health benefit and only causes harm. • Women of all ages are frequently being used as weapons in areas of conflict. The UN Security Council has reported that 'women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence, including as a tactic of war'(2008) 	<p>Text to be inserted into youth manifesto</p> <p><i>“BYC believes that women and girls of all ages should have their rights promoted and protected. They should receive an education equal to that of their male counterparts, be protected from forced and child marriage, any violations of their internationally recognised rights, including through Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and from being used as weapons in areas of conflict.</i></p> <p><i>We believe in the value of organisations promoting women and young girls' rights internationally and seek to bring these issues to an international forum.”</i></p> <p>Please complete a separate BYC Motion Submission form for every motion your organisation submits to BYC's Annual Meeting 2017</p>
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