

## Young Labour International members form group "to beat the Tories and look good doing it"

*Labour members living overseas aged under 27 are launching a campaign to promote the group, which plans to officially form next year.*

The Labour Party's electoral campaign in 2017 changed a great deal of things overnight; it changed Brexit from hard to soft, the colour of our electoral map, and indeed the colour of many Tory MPs' trousers.

It also spurred things into motion further afield. Young members of the Labour party living overseas saw hope and opportunity in the election result, and it led them to come together and try to form an organisation.

"It was a catalyst for a lot of us, it made us want to reach out and see what we could do," said Patrick Jones O'Brien (USA) and Calum Paramor (France), the group's temporary co-ordinators.

"There are 5 million UK citizens living abroad, of whom 2 million are eligible to vote. Of these, only 10% do. We strongly believe that we can change this."



"Our membership is large compared to a normal Young Labour group, there are close to 300 of us, but since we're spread across all four corners of the world, it

means that every member counts and can be an important part of the movement we're creating."



The group sees itself doing things a normal Labour group can't. "Normal Labour International meetings are great. They happen once a month via video conference and are an excellent way of breaking political isolation and organising the party. The problem is that it can be a bit alienating for people our age without much experience of local party politics, they are often very acronym heavy and you can end up being the only young member in the meeting."



"What we're hoping to do is create a space where young members can feel more comfortable and organise ourselves. We're also more free when it comes to organising events, messing about on social media, and sharing socialist fashion

tips (FYI, beards are in this season). In short, we're forming this group to beat the Tories and look good doing it."

The group are launching a promotion campaign this week from their Twitter account @younglabourint in which they will share pictures of their members holding signs translating "For the many, not the few" in to the language of the country where they live. Tweet them if you'd like to get involved.



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**ENDS**