



# Blueprint for Action

33<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE

**FEBRUARY**  
21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025



**Glenroyal Hotel  
Maynooth, Kildare**

# *Amhrán na bhFiann*

**Sinne Fianna Fáil, atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,**  
*Sheena Feena Fall, Ataw fwee yall ag Air-renn*

**Buíon dár slua thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,**  
*Bween daw sloo-uh harten duh rawnig hoo-un*

**Faoi mhóid bheith saor,**  
*Fay voyge vay sayre*

**Seantír ár sinsear feasta,**  
*Shantir are shinsha farsta*

**Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.**  
*Nee ogfur fen teer-on na feign trarl*

**Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil,**  
*a-knocked a heem-sa varna wheel*

**Le gean ar Ghaeil, chun báis nó saoil,**  
*lay gone a gwale coon vosh no sale*

**Le gunna-scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,**  
*lay gunny skrake fwee larvach na bilear*

**Seo libh canaig' amhrán na bhFiann.**  
*shah liv connig our-ron na veen*

**FINE GAEL** 

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# Conference Itinerary

## Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February

Time	Event	Speaker/Person	Location
18:00 – 20:00		<b>Registration desk</b>	Conference Lobby
19:15 – 19:30	Standing Orders & Steering Welcome	Ian Fahey - <i>Vice Chair of Steering Committee</i>	Corrib 1
19:30 – 20:00	Opening Ceremony	Eoghan Gallagher – <i>YFG President</i> <b>Joe Neville TD</b> - Kildare North <b>Martin Heydon TD</b> - Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine - Kildare South <b>Nina Carberry MEP</b> – Midlands North West	Corrib 1
20:00 – 22:00	The Great Debate	<b>Guest chair:</b> Kiera Keogh TD – Mayo <b>Judges:</b> Cllr. Luke Corkery – Fingal Co.Co Cllr. Alan Harney – Galway Co.Co Cllr. Evie Sammon – Kildare Co.Co <b>Secretariat:</b> Jude Perry	Corrib 1
22:00 – Late		<b>YFG SOCIAL</b>	

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

09:30 – 15:30		<b>Registration desk</b>	Conference Lobby
10:00 - 11:00	Constitutional Amendments	<b>Guest Chair:</b> Dr. Ahmad Jamal – Fine Gael National Executive <b>Secretariat:</b> Jude Perry	Corrib 1
11:00 – 11:45	Motions	<b>Guest Chair:</b> Senator Eileen Lynch – Cork North West <b>Responder:</b> Minister of State for Charities, Gaeltacht and the Islands & Rural Transport Jerry Buttimer TD – Cork South Central <b>Secretariat:</b> Steven Murphy	Corrib 1
12:00 – 13:30	Candidates' Debate	<b>Guest Chairperson:</b> Joe Neville TD – Kildare North <b>Secretariat:</b> Cllr. Declan Burgess & Cllr. Rachel Kerley	Corrib 1
13:30 – 15:30	Voting	<b>Returning Officer:</b> Aidan Harkin HQ	Corrib 2
13:30 – 14:15	Session 1 <b>"Blueprint for Justice: Shaping a Fairer Future"</b>	<b>Guest Chairperson:</b> Sarah Jane Wogan (Fine Gael Women's Network) <b>Panel:</b> Catherine Callaghan TD – Carlow Kilkenny Paula Butterly TD – Louth Abby Sammon – Journalist <b>Secretariat:</b> Béibhinn Byrne	Corrib 1
14:15 – 14:45		<b>Lunch (free time)</b>	

15:00 – 15:45	Session 2 <b>“From apprenticeships to PhDs, expanding higher education to meet the challenges of the future”</b>	<b>Guest Chairperson:</b> Senator Mark Duffy – Mayo <b>Panel:</b> Dr. Mary Liz Trant – Director of the National Apprenticeships Office Richard Bruton - Former Minister of Education Senator PJ Murphy – Galway East <b>Secretariat:</b> Jude Perry	Corrib 1
15:45-16:00	<b>Short break</b>		
16:00 – 17:30	The Prime Time Session	<b>MC:</b> Cllr Declan Burgess – Chairperson of the Steering Committee Eoghan Gallagher – YFG President Tánaiste Simon Harris TD – Leader of Fine Gael Minister of Education & Youth Helen McEntee TD – Deputy Leader of Fine Gael Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD – Longford Westmeath	Corrib 1
18:00	Free Time		
19:30	Reception		
20:00 – 22:00	<i>Shane McEntee Memorial Conference Dinner</i>	<b>MC:</b> Ian Fahey <b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Mairead McGuinness, Former EU Commissioner & Former Fine Gael MEP	Connaught Centre
22:00 – Late	Band: The Wilful Followed by DJ		

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

11:00 - 12:00	<b>Election Count</b>		Corrib 2
11:30 – 12:30	<b>“Trans-Atlanticism in the age of Trump”</b> hosted by the YFG International Committee	<b>Guest Chair:</b> Senator Cathal Byrne – Wexford <b>Panel:</b> Regina Doherty MEP – Dublin Senator Joe O’Reilly – Cavan Secretariat: Eoghan Gallagher	Corrib 1
12:30 – 13:00	Election Results by Cllr. Declan Burgess – Chairperson of the Steering Committee	Introduction of the new YFG National Executive Speech by incoming President	Corrib 1
13:00	<b>Close of Conference</b> - Singing of Amhrán na bhFiann		

# Principals and Values

*"Young Fine Gael, the Young United Irelanders, is an Irish Nationalist Youth Movement that pledges allegiance and fidelity to the Irish Republic and derives its inspiration and endeavor from this bedrock. Young Fine Gael is an autonomous yet integral part of the Fine Gael party, it seeks to advance the political representation and objectives of the youth of Ireland through the vehicle of the Fine Gael Party. Young Fine Gael is wholly committed to the development of young people at all levels of political life, and in communion with the Fine Gael Party seeks to maximise the electoral objectives of Fine Gael."*

## Equality of Opportunity

We want to create a fair and caring society where everybody is engaged in democracy, and where there are no barriers to equal opportunity. We stand for investment in our public services and see health and education as rights, not privileges.

## Enterprise and Reward

We encourage initiative, innovation, investment and self-reliance. We also believe in preserving, enhancing and sharing prosperity. We stand for a vibrant, competitive economy. To that end, we believe Government policy should encourage initiative and reward hard work, thus driving economic activity and creating jobs.

## Security

We want to build a safe society in Ireland by protecting citizens and enforcing the law. We also believe in strengthening families, and in fostering communities. We stand for law and order. We believe in tough sentences for criminals and more Gardai on the beat while also tackling the root causes of crime like poverty and educational disadvantage.

## Integrity

We believe in being truthful and courageous in what we do, and in promoting and upholding both the rights and the responsibilities of people. We stand for integrity in public life. We believe in ensuring that all of us live up to our responsibilities as well as enjoying our rights as Irish citizens.

## Ambition

As Young Irelanders, we want to build an Ireland of excellence and ambition. We hope to do this by promoting a shared vision of a confident and sustainable future for Ireland, both at home and abroad. We stand for a climate of hope. To achieve this, we believe in enhancing Ireland's international reputation through our support for the European Union, protecting communities through balanced regional development and safeguarding our children's future through protection of the environment.

## Deis Cothroime

Tá sé de chuspóir ag Ógra Fhine Gael sochaí mhacánta airdeallach a chruthú. Áit a bhfuil gach duine páirteach sa daonlathas agus áit nach bhfuil aon bhac ar dheis cothroime. Seasimid d'infheistíocht in ár seirbhísí poiblí agus féachaimid ar shláinte agus oideachas mar chearta ní mar phribhleidí.

## Fiontar agus luaíocht

Spreagann Ógra Fhine Gael tionsamh, nualaocht, infheistíocht agus féin-mhuinín. Creideann an páirtí go bhfuil sé tabhacht an rathúnas a chóthú, a roinnt agus a mhéadú. Seasimid d'eacamaíocht atá láidir agus tomaíoch. Creidimid gur ceart polasaí an rialtais, spreagadh a thabhairt do tionscnamh, agus luaíocht a thabhairt d'obair chrua, de thoradh ag tiomaint gníomhaíocht gheilleagrach agus ag cruthú post nua.

## Sábháilteacht

Tá Ógra Fhine Gael ag iarraidh sochaí shábháilte a chruthú in Éirinn trína cuid saoránach a chosaint agus tríd an dlí a chur i bhfeidhm. Tuigeann an páirtí, freisin, tabhacht teaghlaigh i ngach cruth nuaaimseartha a neartú agus comhphobal a chothú. Seasann Ógra Fhine Gael don dlí agus an tsíocháin. Creidimid i bpionós níos láidre do coireanna agus níos mó gardaí a chur ar na sráideanna, ag an am céanna ag dul i ngleic le príomhchúiseanna cóiriúlachta mar aon le bochtaineacht agus míbhuntáiste oideachais.

## Macántacht

Creideann Ógra Fhine Gael go gcaithfimid a bheith ionraic agus misniúil i ngach gnó agus go gcaithfimid cearta agus freagrachtaí na ndaoine a chothú. Seasimid d'ionracas an tsaoil phoiblí. Creidimid go gcaithfidh gach duine a dhulgais a dhéanamh chomh maith le taithneamh a bhaint as ár gcearta mar mhná agus fir na hÉireann.

## Uaillmhian

Tá Ógra Fhine Gael ag iarraidh Éire uailleach a chruthú. Ba mhaith linn é seo a dhéanamh trí thionscnamh a dhéanamh ar iomhá do thodhchaí na hÉireann atá muiníneach sa bhaile agus thar lear. Seasimid do shaol dóchasach. Chun é seo a dhéanamh creidimid go gcaithfimid cáil idirnáisiúnta na hÉireann a chothú trí thacaíocht a thabhairt don Aontas Eorpach, agus cosaint a thabhairt do comhphobail trí forbairt réigiúnach agus trí thodhchaí ár bpáistí a choimeád trí aire a thabhairt don timpeallacht.

# Standing Orders for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Young Fine Gael National Conference

## Part 1 – Interpretation (for the purposes of these Standing Orders)

**‘Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules’** means the amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation and detailed in the National Conference Clár.

**‘Conference Motions’** means the policy motions proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation, selected for debate by the National Conference Steering Committee and detailed in the National Conference Clár.

**‘Conference Resolutions’** means the resolutions proposed by certain Units or Organs of the Organisation, selected for discussion by the National Conference Steering Committee and detailed in the National Conference Clár.

**‘Chairperson’** means the individual presiding at a Session.

**‘Delegate Card’** means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to a Registered Delegate upon arrival at the 33<sup>rd</sup> YFG National Conference.

**‘Emergency Motion’** means any motion other than a Conference Motion or an Amendment to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules and not appearing on the National Conference Clár, as prescribed in Part 10 of these Standing Orders.

**‘National Conference’** means the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference of Young Fine Gael, taking place in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

**‘National Conference Clár’** means the programme/agenda for the National Conference.

**‘National Conference Registration Desk’** is the registration desk where members register their attendance at the National Conference and are issued a National Conference Programme, a Delegate Card and miscellaneous items. This desk will open two hours before the commencement of the National Conference and will close at 15:30 on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025.

**‘National Conference Steering Committee’** means those individuals appointed under Article 7 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules to organise the National Conference and who have not otherwise resigned.

**‘National Executive’** means the current Young Fine Gael National Executive.

**‘National Executive Elections’** means the elections of the President of Young Fine Gael, the Vice-Presidents of Young Fine Gael and the ordinary members of the National Executive as outlined in Article 6 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules.

**‘Observer’** means a member of Young Fine Gael who is not a Registered Delegate, or any other person in attendance at the National Conference as an invited guest.

**‘Organiser Card’** means a card issued by the National Conference Steering Committee to members of the Steering Committee and other persons assisting in the organisation of the Conference, as they deem appropriate.

**‘Photographic Identification’** means

a current photographic student card, Garda ID, Passport, drivers’ licence or other form of photographic identification permitted for use by the National Conference Steering Committee.

**‘Quorum’** means 15% of the total number of Registered Delegates.

**‘Registered Delegate’** means a member of Young Fine Gael who has attained membership on or before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 as per Article 6.4 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules; and who appears on the Register of Members; and who has registered their attendance via the National Conference Online-Registration Form before 3PM on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025; and who has been issued with a Delegate Card.

**‘Returning Officer’** means the General Secretary of Fine Gael or his nominee.

**‘Session’** means the National Conference meeting either in plenary session, or in break-out meetings as outlined in the National Conference Clár, each of which shall be considered to be a “Session”.

**‘The Great Debate’** means the team debating competition being held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference.

**‘Unit(s) and Organs of the Organisation’** has the meaning prescribed under Article 2 of the Young Fine Gael National Constitution and Rules.

**‘Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules’** refers to the constitution and rules of Young Fine Gael as adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of



Young Fine Gael.

## Part 2 - Admission to the National Conference

A Delegate card, Observer card, Media card, Candidate card or Organiser card must be produced to gain access to any Session of the 33rd Young Fine Gael Conference at the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

## Part 3 – Ultimate determination

The ruling of the Chairperson of any Session shall be final on all matters..

## Part 4 – Referral

The Chairperson may adjourn a Session in order to consult with the National Conference Steering Committee on any matter relating to the National Conference.

## Part 5 – Conference Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules

- a) Other than in the case of Emergency Motions as provided for under Part 10 below, only Conference Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules which are listed in the National Conference Clár may be moved.
- b) A Conference Motion or an Amendment to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules may only be moved by the Unit or Organ of the Organisation listed on the National Conference Clár.

## Part 6 – Quorum at Sessions

- a) Where fewer than 15% of Registered Delegates are present, a Session shall be deemed to be inquorate and the Chairperson shall adjourn that Session until they deem that Session to be quorate.
- b) Any Registered Delegate may call a quorum count.
- c) Only one quorum count may be called at each Session.

## Part 7 – Speakers and Registered Delegates

- a) At all Sessions, and at the Great Debate, speakers shall only be allowed speak for the duration announced by the Chairperson.
- b) Speakers must wear their respective card, as received from the National Conference Registration Desk, in order to be granted speaking rights.

## Part 8 – Amendments

- a) Amendments to Conference Motions may be submitted to the Steering Committee in writing before 21:00 on Friday, 22nd February 2025 and must be supported by no less than two Registered Delegates. Such amendments may be put to the floor at the Session subject to the absolute discretion of the National Conference Steering Committee.
- b) Emergency Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules may not be further amended pursuant to this part.

## Part 9 – Relevancy/Disruption

- a) If any Registered Delegate or any other person is directed to cease speaking on the grounds of irrelevancy, disruption or being in excess of the allotted time, that Registered Delegate or person must do so forthwith.
- b) In any event where a Registered Delegate or any other person refuses to cease speaking in line with subsection (a) of this Part, the Chairperson or a member of the National Conference Steering Committee may request that Registered Delegate or any other person to immediately withdraw from the Session.

## Part 10 – Emergency Motions

- a) Emergency Motions may be

submitted to the National Steering Committee and may be put to the floor at any Session subject to the absolute discretion of the National Steering Committee.

- b) An Emergency Motion must be submitted in writing to the National Conference Steering Committee before 10:00 on Saturday, 22nd February 2025 and must be supported by no fewer than eight Registered Delegates.
- c) Emergency Motions must only deal with events of exceptional significance.
- d) All decisions of the National Conference Steering Committee in respect of this Part shall be final.

## Part 11 – Voting

### (A) Sessions

- (i) The Chairperson of a Session shall appoint tellers for the duration of that Session.
- (ii) Voting at any Session shall be by a show of Delegate Cards.
- (iii) Conference Motions (or Resolution or any amendments there to), Emergency Motions and Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules shall be put to a vote when, in the view of the Chairperson, they have been fully discussed.
- (iv) In the event that an amendment to a Conference Motion or Resolution is proposed, the following procedure shall apply:
  - Firstly, the Session must vote on accepting the amendment.
  - If the amendment is passed, the Conference Motion as amended shall be put to the Session.



- If there is more than one amendment proposed, the Chairperson shall call for a vote on the amendments, which in their opinion are the most far reaching first.
  - (v) A Conference Motion or Resolution (or emergency motion or any amendment there to) will be deemed to have been carried when the total number of Registered Delegates voting in favour of the motion exceeds the total number voting against the motion.
  - (vi) Amendments to the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules will be deemed to have been carried when they achieve a two-thirds majority of the total number of Registered Delegates voting in Favour or Against, in accordance with Article 12.1 of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, Registered Delegates who abstain from voting shall not be counted as having voted when calculating the result of a vote on each Amendment. .
  - (vii) The Chairperson may order a re-vote where the outcome of a vote is unclear by a show of Delegate Cards.
  - (viii) If the Chairperson orders a re-vote pursuant to subsection (vii) of this part, then the tellers will count the votes and inform the Chairperson of the result of the vote.
  - (ix) In the event of a tie, a Conference Motion or Resolution (or any amendments thereto or an Emergency Motion) shall be deemed not to have been carried, as a majority has not been attained.
  - (x) Once a vote has been called and ruled by the Chairperson, and a result declared, no further requests for counts shall be considered.
- B) Voting at National Executive Elections**
- (i) All Registered Delegates will be entitled to vote at the National Executive Elections.
  - (ii) The National Executive Elections will be run in accordance with the procedures outlined by the National Executive Steering Committee.
  - (iii) A Registered Delegates will not receive a ballot paper for the National Executive Elections unless Photographic Identification is produced to authenticate their identity.
- (iv) These procedures, and the counting of votes in the National Executive Elections, shall be overseen at all times by the Returning Officer.
  - (v) All matters pertaining to the National Executive Elections, including appeals, will be dealt with through the Returning Officer and not the National Conference Steering Committee.
  - (vi) The ruling of the Returning Officer shall be final in all matters.

### Part 12 – Standing Orders

Once these Standing Orders have been accepted by the National Conference, they shall not be suspended or amended.



## Welcome from the Steering Committee

Friends,

Young Fine Gael can be the most powerful method in influencing our party's direction. The tone is set with our young, ambitious and innovative membership. It is vital that Fine Gael values are upheld and that the wider Fine Gael party acknowledges the impact YFG can play in Irish politics. Our autonomy is our strength.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all to the 33rd Young Fine Gael National Conference here in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, County Kildare.

The National Conference is one of Young Fine Gael's key tools, designed to re-energise our membership, set out our policy and campaign goals, elect the new National Executive, and chart the course for YFG's future.

My fellow steering committee members have put in an exceptional effort in organising this national conference and I am very grateful for their work ethic and co-operation in bringing you all a great programme of events. Big thanks to Ian Fahey, Max Murphy, Eoghan Gallagher, Steven Murphy, Beibhinn Byrne, Cllr Rachel Kerley and Jude Perry. Of course, we couldn't have organised this conference without the support and dedication from HQ's Phillip Brennan and Laura Comiskey.

For members who submitted motions, constitutional amendments, suggestions, photos and ideas – we are very thankful. The steering committee would like to thank the staff at the Glenroyal Hotel, the local Fine Gael organisations here in County Kildare, the local public representatives, our party leader Tánaiste Simon Harris and the Parliamentary Party and their staff, all speakers and chairs, the stage, sound and AV staff, and the staff at HQ. Thank you.

I am very impressed by the balanced, passionate, and positive campaigns we have seen in the lead up to the National Executive elections. Elections are exciting but they can be very tough on the candidates themselves. To all the candidates running for positions this weekend, well done on playing your part in designing YFG's blueprint for the future. This organisation is a better place with the involvement of strong like-minded members like yourself. The very best of luck to you all and my sincere best wishes to the incoming President, and the entire National Executive.

Please study this Clár and familiarise yourself with the weekend's itinerary. Whether this is your first conference or fifth, there is something for everyone. It is a jampacked programme and I would encourage delegates to immerse yourself in this forum.

Thank you,

*Declan Burgess*

**Cllr Declan Burgess**  
**Chairperson of the Steering Committee**  
**33rd YFG National Conference**



# Welcome from the President

Dear member,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the 2025 YFG National Conference here in Maynooth.

Over the course of the last few years, YFG have truly shown our value, contributing to a number of highly successful elections for Fine Gael. Members played their part as candidates, campaign managers, staffers, canvassers, poster teams, and in any number of ways.

True to form, when analysing the Fine Gael manifesto and the subsequent programme for government, YFG's handprints can be seen all over it. This shows the value of being involved in this great organisation, putting forward our vision for a better Ireland, and contributing to positive change at local, national and European level.

YFG now boasts more councillors than several major political parties, have a number of candidates for the GE & SE, and have members in leadership roles across every sector in Ireland. Without question, this organisation breeds future leaders of Ireland.

The recent Dáil and Seanad elections marked a major success for our party that very few can claim - party renewal within government. After 14 years in government, we are set for a further five. To put this in context, prior to 2011, Fine Gael had only served in government for a total of 19 years between 1948 and 2011.

This presents an opportunity which cannot be squandered. New TDs and Senators from a variety of backgrounds must be bold about championing the policies that matter to them. YFG must seize this moment too, and with a number of years ahead without elections, now is our chance to be forthright and bold with the campaigns we put forward.

We have achieved a lot during this period in government, but there is so much more to do. The theme of this conference is extremely appropriate - we have five years to deliver a blueprint for action, and tackle the issues of our day. Let's be in a position to knock on doors in a few years and say with confidence that we've delivered on the likes of housing and infrastructure, that we've tackled crime and achieved further economic growth for all to benefit from.

I have no doubt that YFG will step up to the plate and be a strong voice over the coming years. This is a great organisation, with great people. Enjoy the conference, make memories, and don't be afraid to disagree agreeably.

Le meas,

*Eoghan Gallagher*

**Eoghan Gallagher**  
**YFG President**



# Mairéad McGuinness

## **Guest of Honour at the Shane McEntee Memorial Dinner**

Mairéad McGuinness is a former European Commissioner for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union (2020-2024).

Before joining the Commission, Mairéad was First Vice-President of the European Parliament from 2017. She served as a Fine Gael MEP for 16 years and was a Vice-President of the Parliament since 2014.

As Vice-President, she oversaw relations with national Parliaments, led the Parliament's dialogue with religious and philosophical organisations and had responsibility for the Parliament's communication policy.

During her time in the Parliament, Ms. McGuinness sat on a range of committees, covering agriculture, environment, public health, budgets, petitions and constitutional affairs. Her legislative work included leading for the EPP Group on the European Climate Law, the revision of medical devices legislation, and CAP reform post-2013. As an Irish MEP representing the border region, she was outspoken on Brexit and the consequences for the EU and Ireland.

In 2006-2007, Ms. McGuinness chaired the Parliament's investigation into the collapse of the Equitable Life assurance company which identified issues around weak financial regulation.

Prior to becoming an MEP, she was an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and commentator.

# National Executive Report 2024

## Dublin by Jamie Malone

Since taking over my role as Dublin Regional Organiser, the region has been incredibly active over the past 2 years, with our college branches continuing to strengthen, local branches becoming much more active than they had previously been, and a phenomenal effort put in across the region over the Local, European, and General Elections. My aims for Dublin for my term were to drive recruitment, local branch rejuvenation, hold regional events, and support election campaigns.

When the term began, the branches got off to a flying start with almost every branch holding an AGM in the first 2 months, setting the foundations for the coming year's busy election period. We also had our first national campaign day in Dublin for Cllr Frank McNamara, with another National Campaign Day for Cllr David McManus, as well as many Regional Campaign Days across the local campaign. Our local branches were at the forefront of YFG's contribution to the Local Election Campaign with local canvass and leaflet drop days held across the region regularly by branches. I'd like to thank everyone for their phenomenal efforts which saw us help to elect YFG Councillors in the Dublin Fingal, West, Central, Bay North, South West, Dún Laoghaire and Rathdown constituencies.

As well as helping to support our local election candidates, the Dublin local branches held many other great events over the term including many social nights, community cleanups, fundraisers, guest speaker events, Dáil trips, and much more. We have seen such a great increase in local activity that sets branches up well to continue growing under the tenure of the incoming Regional Organiser. One of our best local branch successes has been the establishment of the Dublin North West YFG branch which hadn't been able to affiliate for many years. I'd like to thank the members there for their dedication to setting the branch up again and look forward to seeing it grow further in the coming years.

Our college branches in Dublin have seen some phenomenal increases in membership over the last 2 years, with college branch membership more than doubling over the past 2 years! Our college branches were also incredibly supportive of our local and general election efforts, helping to support National & Regional campaign days as well as supporting candidates in their areas. Our college branches also had some great guest speaker events like DCU YFG's events with Jennifer Carroll Macneill TD and Frances Fitzgerald, their Fireside chat with Fine Gael General Secretary John Carroll, and UCD's Women in Politics panel with Maeve O'Connell TD, Regina

Doherty MEP, and Senator Mary Seery Kearney. Our YFG branches engaged with society life on campus by getting involved in debates and Mock Dáil events and represented YFG strongly with some great wins at these debates. Our college branches also collaborated and met together for some social nights, which presents a great opportunity for incoming committees to collaborate more after the busy years we've had campaigning across the county & city.

With the help of the Dublin Regional Council (DRC), I have worked hard over the last 2 years to support our branches, to organise regional events and to streamline communications in Dublin so that members across the region were aware of all YFG's activity. Our first Dublin Day saw members discuss Budget 2024 with Barry Ward TD in Trinity, with a pub quiz and social night afterwards. The next year's Dublin Day came back bigger and better with a leaflet drop for James Geoghegan TD, followed by a debating competition in the Mansion House as well as a tour by our host the Lord Mayor, rounding off the night with karaoke and pizza. As well as our regional event days, we held many regional campaign days for the local and general elections in almost every constituency during the campaign, with members across Dublin making a phenomenal effort to support our contribution to the campaigns. I'd like to thank the outgoing members of the DRC; Alex, Bill, Isabelle, James, Oisín, Saj, Shane, and Wim for their efforts over the past 2 years.

The past 2 years have seen the Dublin region continue to strengthen with many of our local branches rejuvenated, great increases in membership across local and college branches, and great levels of activity particularly around the election campaigns. I look forward to seeing the region continue to grow under the next Regional Organiser.

## Leinster by Rachel Kerley

I was delighted to be asked to take over the responsibilities for Leinster Regional Organiser in September 2024, following the previously LRO resignation.

As the first task I reached out to Branch Chairs in Leinster to gather how the branches were from their perspectives and advising I would be the new point of contact for Leinster.

We held an AGM for the Leinster Regional Council which appointed a new Chair & Secretary. With the timing of September, most individuals were very much involved in election teams, with the expectation of forthcoming General Election. Preparation focused greatly on General Election, vision was put onto how Leinster could assist with

# Blueprint for Action



candidates and the wider party. Two regional days were held in Kildare & Carlow during the election period.

Leinster has had successful growth in the term of this executive and this was evident since taking over the role as LRO. Members worked exceptionally hard for the Local, European and General Election and credit should be recognised to all. The region has great potential to continue to grow.

## Munster by Liam O'Donovan

The Blue-Weekend made a comeback to Munster in 2023. A highlight in the calendar year for Young Fine Gael members who gathered Macroom the night before Beal Na Blath for a get together involving chats, quizzes and songs.

A branch has been opened in Co. Waterford expanding the footprint Young Fine Gael has in Munster. In county Cork the Cork Sub-Committee was disbanded to create constituency branches within the county. This posed on-going challenges for branches to meet quorum at meetings, but it was a step that saw new members joining the organisation. Branches in Clare, Kerry and Tipperary continue to function well and worked closely with their senior party counterparts. Limerick is an area the next Munster Regional Organiser and National Executive may wish to target for rejuvenation.

The Munster Regional Council worked well together but a demand for more meetings is prevalent now that the year of the elections, 2024, is over which took the majority of time for all Young Fine Gael members across the country.

In all Munster has seen some gains during this National Executive despite challenges but further progress is needed to yield the full potential of this region. The upcoming membership affiliations period will be of utmost importance.

## North West Report by Sean Martyn

Ba mhór an onóir an dhá bhliain atá caite againn ó 2023 a chaitheamh mar eagraí cheantair an Iar Thuaisceart. In the intermittent period we have seen a flurry of activity not just confined to college branches but also in our constituency branches across Connacht and Ulster.

To say that the last two years have been eventful would be an understatement, since February 2023, I've been across the North West region meeting members for various events, canvasses and in the case of Cavan Monaghan's Billy Fox branch, the odd charity mountain climb. In this period not only have we seen an increase in activity but also in membership through increased recruitment and higher levels of membership retention. Much of the credit for this must go to our dedicated branch officers who have went above and beyond to ensure their members

were engaged. All North Western constituency/county branches were fully affiliated in 2023 and that feat was repeated in 2024. In the case of University of Galway, the branch continues to go from strength to strength with September 2024, seeing their highest recruitment figure in a single day since the early 2010's, a real testament to the work to has been put in by its committee and members and the wide array of interests their events cater for.

Great strides have been taken by YFG members in the senior party in the North West as well, whilst the Patrick Hogan branch continues to have unprecedented representation on the Galway East Constituency executive, their lead has been followed in Sligo, Mayo and Galway West most notably, where we are ably represented by some of the rising stars of the party. As a party that is seeking to renew across the whole country, YFG presence on senior officer boards is necessary and an opportunity that our members should grasp on every occasion, to keep the needs of the younger generations to the fore of our party's thoughts and actions over the next five years as well as giving ourselves more experience in how politics works.

In April 2024, we were honoured that the Fine Gael Ard Fheis, was brought to the North West an was held in the University of Galway. YFG's presence could be keenly observed throughout the day, with our members speaking on countless motion in nearly every session and some of these sessions been dominated by YFG motions, with the Gaeilge and Gaeltacht and Education sessions being hearing from numerous North West members. On other occasions members from across the country ran our YFG stand and engaged with delegates who wanted to learn more about us and our plans, policies and campaigns

The previous evening saw a great YFG turnout at our Pre Ard Fheis Social in Claregalway. As a precursor to the following days events, members were given an opportunity to unwind with our county colours night in the Claregalway Hotel. We started with our bilingual Tráth na gCeist, where some of our current exec members were so kind as to provide their baby photos to be pored over by the membership. Congratulations to our winners on the night of Jamie Malone, Bébhinn Lombard, Daniel Lynch and Liam Coppinger, who each received a pot of honey and a bag of turf. The highlight of the evening was the greatly anticipated inaugural North West jiving competition. Taught by Galway East YFG's own Liam Coppinger, 10 couples with immense bravery took to the dance floor and were adjudicated on by former YFG National Executive members and honorary life members of YFG, former Dáil deputy Madeleine Taylor-Quinn and Cllr. PJ Murphy. Our final victors on the night were Mayo's Antoinette Payton and Cavan/Monaghan's Paddy Mulligan, followed in second by Béibhinn Byrne from Wicklow and Galway East's Liam Coppinger, with UCC member Bébhinn

Lombard and Daniel Lynch from Galway East's Patrick Hogan Branch completing the top three. Our winners were again presented with a pot of honey provided by councillor Murphy. Over the course of the evening we were delighted to welcome members of the FG parliamentary party, notably Minister Martin Hendon and at the time Midlands North West Candidate, now MEP, Nina Carberry.

Whilst the North West social offered us an opportunity to rally our troops before the local and European elections, nothing could prepare us for the trojan effort put in by YFG across the North West and the country as a whole. In Connacht and Ulster, we had YFG candidates contesting for seats on Donegal County Council, Monaghan County Council, Galway County Council and Mayo County Council, whilst many YFG supporting councillors, contested seats on the local authorities as well. Though some of our members weren't successful they gave a great account of themselves and of the organisation in their efforts and are well placed to take a seat in four and a half years time. The European Elections saw the retention of both FG seats in the Midland North West, with Nina Carberry, joining Mayo's Maria Walsh in Strasbourg and Brussels. From the North Western perspective and given the division of the constituency, many of our members got to experience the campaign through Maria Walsh's campaign with our members out an about with her across the region, with memorable days canvassing and leafleting outside Connacht Football Championship and Rugby matches some of the highlights for our members.

Our election bonanza year was brought to a close with the General Election in November, where the North West again became a hive of activity for our members. Regional Canvas Days were ran by Mayo YFG for Minister Alan Dillon, Cavan Monaghan YFG for then Cllr. David Maxwell and University of Galway YFG for Minister Hildegard Naughton. Our National Campaign Day focused on Athenry and Galway East candidate Cllr. Clodagh Higgins. Our members also took every opportunity to get out with various other FG candidates across the region and the country, with some going all the way and embarking a (and documenting) the Leader's Tour. Our members again got an even better taste of the political process with many taking part in the tallying of votes across the region a they had done for the locals and European, with their actions providing vital assistance in the areas of information gathering for future elections Whilst FG ultimately maintained its seat count across the North West and with the support YFG provided, we are well placed for gains in 2029.

Mar fhocal scoir, I would just like to thank all the members, branch officers, senior party members, candidates and elected representatives who have engaged, guided, and given me some tremendous support over the past twenty-four months. To my successor, you are walking into the best job on the Exec and will be working with some immensely diligent and helpful people. The west is well and truly awake.

Go n-éirí libh agus go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

### VP Report by Steven Murphy

It has been a busy two years on the YFG National Executive. Particularly, as one of YFG's Executive Council representatives, it has been exceptionally busy as the party has navigated referendums, a local election, general election and change of Leader. Young Fine Gael has been a priority for me and my colleagues Eoghan and Béibhinn on the Executive Council where we used our voices to advocate for young candidates to be on as many Local Election ballot papers as possible. A large number of young candidates ran for Fine Gael in June and by my count we ended up with more 'YFG Councillors' than the Green Party has councillors in the whole country! As Director of Elections for YFG during the local elections, it was a privilege to liaise with so many young candidates and offer them as much support as we could as an organisation.

A personal highlight of my time as Vice-President is having had the opportunity not once but twice to present to the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party in Leinster House and I want to very kindly thank Deputies Richard Bruton and Alan Farrell for their invitations. The message was always positive as I believe that YFG is in a much better place now than when I first took office in early 2023. Our membership has increased significantly, bucking the trend of recent years. The elections provided ample opportunities for members to get together and the momentum of that is telling as there are so many candidates and contests at this conference. This is my eighth YFG National Conference and I can not ever remember so many candidates vying for a seat on the National Executive.

In our term plan for this Executive, we had three priorities: Attracting and retaining members; Contributing to the elections that would take place; and improving the health of our organisation. I believe that we have done ourselves proud in these areas and have made great strides in strengthening the organisation. While this conference is focused on providing a Blueprint for Action, I hope that our action facilitates an ever changing and growing organisation. The future is bright for YFG. Now is the time to capitalise on the progress we have made in recent years.

At the last YFG National Conference, I proposed many changes to our Constitution and Rules. The change I am most proud of is introducing a second Vice-President for YFG ensuring that there will be gender balance at the top table in YFG. It is important that YFG adapts and adjusts as time goes by. In the past few years, I was also involved in setting up our 'Second-Level Network' to give younger members a chance to meet each other and discuss issues important to them. I certainly wish the Second-Level Network existed when I first joined YFG in 2013! As an organisation, we must be progressive and welcoming, and I am glad to have played my part in that. Anything we can do to make YFG a more inclusive and positive space must be done and I would urge everyone running for positions at this conference to continue the good work on this front.

With almost 4 years complete on the National Executive,

I can confidently say it is an honour to be trusted by your peers to be a leader within our organisation, but it is not one that should be taken lightly. The more you put in, the more you get out and I have put my all into YFG over the past few years. I have learned so much about politics and about people and I hope that I have served you all well in my role as Vice-President. I want to thank my family, my girlfriend Erica and my many friends for all their help, support and patience in that time. It has been a privilege to have served on the National Executive of an organisation that has given me so much over the years and I want to wish the next National Executive all the best as they lead YFG into the future.

## Policy Report by Daniel Lynch

The first item on the Policy Agenda this year was finalising the justice document: Building A Just Republic, which had begun under the term of the previous National Executive and was almost complete when I took office. I wish to particularly thank Eli Byrne, and my predecessor Kenneth Henry for the work they put into this document. This document set out a comprehensive list of justice reforms, from safeguarding and compensating victims of crime, to imposing tougher sentences on violent criminals, to increasing Garda Recruitment to make our communities safer. Our proposals were presented to the then Minister for Justice in July 2023 and an excellent conversation was had with Minister McEntee about how our proposals could be acted upon.

Budget 2024 saw the creation of our Pre-Budget Submission. This document was a bold departure from how previous documents had been written, as the membership had a greater contribution to this Pre-Budget Submission than any previous document. This first step in our membership consultation process was allowing branches to submit policy proposals to the National Executive to be included in the submission. I also organised an event in Leinster House where members came and split into smaller groups to discuss policy proposals. We then discussed all of those ideas together and those proposals all fed into the final submission that was presented to Minister Paschal Donoghue.

Shortly after Budget Season ended, YFG received a request from the Parliamentary Party to create a short, two page submission for the Select Committee on Local Government reform. A team was put together to create this submission including: Ciara Murphy, Eli, Byrne, and Art O'Mahony, and I'm very grateful to all of them for their hard work. The Select Committee recently published their findings before Christmas, and it was wonderful for Young Fine Gael to contribute to the Oireachtas Committee so productively.

Finally, last year saw the publication of two documents

in very quick succession: our Pre-Budget submission 'A Fair Deal', and our Youth Manifesto for the General Election 'The Way Forward.' Like the previous year, branch submissions were opened again, and an expanded policy session was held at the annual YFG Summer School. The key ask from Young Fine Gael in the General Election was for a clear commitment that the party would pass our Spiking Bill if re-elected to government. This ask was fulfilled in the Programme for Government which sets out a clear commitment to pass the bill during the term of this government.

## YFG Women's Network Report by Béibhinn Byrne

Since our last National Conference, the YFG Women's Network has been busy with a range of initiatives. With only two women standing for election, increasing women's participation became a key priority for the outgoing National Executive. It has been a true privilege to collaborate with the remarkable Women's Network team throughout this term, watching new members find their footing and welcoming back those who have been involved for some time.

## YFG Women's Network International Women's Day Event 2023:

The YFG Women's Network launched the new National Executive term with a social event at The Well on Stephen's Green. This gathering provided an opportunity for YFG women to connect, share their ambitions for the network, and discuss the importance of creating spaces where women can engage with the issues that matter most to them while also supporting one another.

## Women of YFG Zoom Events:

The "Introduction to Serving on the YFG National Executive" session took place ahead of the first National Executive co-option in 2023. This event aimed to inform female members about the responsibilities of being on the National Executive and to encourage them to consider standing for election. The event was well-received, with former National Executive members sharing their experiences and offering advice.

"2024, Supporting Our Female Candidates" was organized





in preparation for what promised to be a busy election year. Sitting councillors and aspiring candidates shared their insights, helping us develop a strategy to best support our female candidates in the upcoming election cycle.

“Campaign Command: Mastering the Art of Running for Success” took place just before this National Conference, providing valuable support to the inspiring female candidates on their journey to the National Executive. During the event, candidates and members exchanged insights, with experiences and expertise shared. We are thrilled to see so many strong female candidates running for election this time and wish them all the best of luck.

**Introduction to the YFG Women’s Network Event in Leinster House:**

The YFG Women’s Network were delighted to welcome the women of YFG to Leinster House for an event in November 2023 for an information evening and social. We were delighted to see so many new faces as well as a visit from former Minister Josepha Madigan.

**YFG Women’s Weekend 2024:**

The first ever YFG Women’s Weekend took place in on the weekend of International Women’s Day in March 2024, with a small group of women travelling to Carrick-on-Shannon for an inspirational weekend full of bonding, inspiration and motivation. We were delighted to have Caitriona Bergin deliver a workshop on confidence, as well as great speakers who shared their thoughts and insights. This was a monumental event for YFG and I look forward to seeing it continue into the future.



# Prickless Nights by Eoghan Gallagher

As people began to enjoy nights out again post COVID, a causal conversation amongst YFG members threw up the worrying rise in spiking instances in Ireland. It felt strange that there seemed to be little being done about it, and it was from there the Prickless Nights campaign emerged.

In the latter stages of the previous national executive's term, led by then President Art O'Mahony, a lot of effort was put in to draft a Bill on spiking and to discuss the issue with stakeholders and the Parliamentary Party.

We picked up this work and after further discussion with the Fine Gael group of Senators, they agreed they would sponsor our Bill which sought to make spiking a standalone offence, and carry with it a maximum 10 year sentence. This we felt was an appropriate penalty for what is a despicable act. With the government making serious strides by making stalking and strangulation standalone offences, this was an obvious next step, and would give victims the confidence to report what happened to them.

Working closely with the Fine Gael senators, particularly Regina Doherty and Barry Ward, and with support of Simon Harris & Helen McEntee, the Bill successfully passed all stages in Seanad Éireann with cross party support.

The response to this campaign was overwhelming, and it really struck a chord with our generation. Many who have completely opposing views to FG or indeed do not follow politics at all were intent to approach us to share their harrowing story, or to thank us for championing the issue.

Media coverage was immense with many radio interviews completed, print media mentions, and even a shoutout on some popular podcasts.

Of course, legislation alone will not prevent this cruel act, and we ensured that we continued the two other components of the campaign - a call for a multi stakeholder awareness campaign, and for pubs & nightclubs to do more to tackle spiking on their premises. Many meetings with representative groups were held where a range of measures were discussed from training staff, equipping bouncers with equipment, making drink lids available, and much more.

Why anyone would ever spike another person is beyond comprehension, and is unfortunately something which is predominantly done to young females. Which so much to navigate in the modern world already, young people (and their families) deserve to be able to enjoy a night out without fear of being spiked.

With the 'Non-Fatal Offences against the Person (Amendment) (Spiking) Bill 2023' now needing to be brought forward in the Dáil, early stage conversations have been held with our new Fine Gael TDs about sponsoring the Bill. We were delighted that thanks to our lobbying, a commitment to the measures was contained in the Fine Gael manifesto and the subsequent Programme for Government. The onus now falls on the incoming National Executive to pursue this further, and ensure that this Bill is enacted onto the Irish Statute book.

To have a Bill pass all stages of the Seanad is an enormous achievement. No other youth organisation, yet alone youth political party, have achieved this before. We should be very proud of every member to played their part in ensuring this happened.

It is, in my view, up there alongside the illegitimacy campaign of the 1980s as one of our YFG's greatest achievements, and something which will be spoken of for decades to come.

# International Committee Report 2023/2025 by Shane Price

The IC has represented YFG with delegates at all Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) Council meetings since the term of this IC began in May 2023.

The first event was the YEPP Congress 2023 which took place in Braga, Portugal and elected the 2023/25 board in June 2023. A large success for YFG was of our member Eoin Scarlett, who topped the poll for Vice-President. Eoin's election to this prominent position was a testament to the respect and influence YFG holds within the wider European youth political community. His success is a direct reflection of YFG's dedication to engaging in key international political processes and providing our members with opportunities for leadership on a global scale.

YFG regularly attends YEPP council meetings, which are three-day conferences held every three to four months, and consist of two delegates from every YEPP member party, a number of invited guests from partner parties, the YEPP board, and additional members of the local host party. They are hosted by different member parties throughout Europe. YFG has sent delegates and attended regular YEPP Council meetings in including council meetings in Brno, Czech Republic, Skopje, North Macedonia, Turin Italy, Athens Greece and Rabat Morocco

The international committee has been active in fostering collaboration with our sister pirates across Europe. The IC held a two zoom calls with our Spanish Sister Party NNGG to discuss the outcomes of the Spanish General election and also held discussions with our Lebanese sister party, Youth Forces Ketab. In May 2023 YFG hosted a delegation of KAS and JU students who were visiting Ireland on a scholarship and YFG sent delegates to various sister party conferences, such as KNL's Conference in Finland, CJDA's conference in the Netherlands, and the JU's annual Deutschlandtag in Germany.

In terms of policy work, YFG passed a significant policy calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, reflecting our commitment to human rights, peace, and stability in the region. This policy demonstrates YFG's ability to take a firm stance on important international issues, advocating for a resolution to conflict in a way that aligns with our core values.

In addition, we also adopted a policy calling for the advancement of a trade agreement between the European Union and Australia. Recognising the importance of building strong economic partnerships in a rapidly changing global landscape, YFG advocated for closer ties between the EU and Australia to promote trade, innovation, and cooperation on shared global challenge and most recently called on the new government to asses a policy towards independence for Somililand

The International Committee was primarily active in preparing for the European Elections in May 2024. We launched this policy document in March 2024 with Colm Brophy TD in Leinster House. This comprehensive document outlines our priorities on key European issues, from climate action and economic growth to digital innovation and social inclusion. The launch of this document was an essential part of our campaign to ensure that YFG's values are reflected in the future direction of the European Union, and it was a key tool in engaging with European stakeholders and ensuring our influence on the electoral process. The International committee also met with Jennifer Carroll MacNeil in government buildings to discuss and advocating for the priorities outlined in the EU Manifesto.

This past term has been a period of remarkable growth and achievement for Young Fine Gael on the international stage. From representing our interests at YEPP Councils to shaping key policy positions, YFG has been an active and influential voice in European and global discussions. As we move forward into 2025 and beyond, I am confident that YFG will continue to build on this momentum, ensuring that our organisation remains a strong advocate for youth leadership, European integration, and international cooperation.



# National Executive Attendance Report

	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	June 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Dec 24	Feb 25	
Eoghan Gallagher	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Murphy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Béibhinn Byrne	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liam Coppinger	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓												
Daniel Lynch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caolán Maguire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Healy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓						
Jamie Malone	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Liam O'Donovan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Seán Martyn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edel Daly			✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓								
Keeva Walsh			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Rachel Kerley			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Isabelle Danes													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shane Lee													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Candidates For National Executive

Our candidates have written a short bio to introduce themselves and we asked them the following 3 questions for the craic!

**Q1** What would be the title of your autobiography?

**Q2** If you had to be stuck on a desert island with an opposition TD who would it be and why?

**Q3** Do you have any hidden talents or surprising hobbies?

## PRESIDENT



**Matthew Carter**  
Wicklow

Matthew Carter is the Chair of Wicklow YFG, Vice Chair of Wicklow FG and Vice Chair of Blessington Credit Union. For the past two and a half years, Matthew worked as part of Simon Harris T.D.'s team, and now works as a Parliamentary Assistant to Maeve O'Connell T.D.

1. Starting Out
2. Richard Boyd Barrett T.D., because his voice could reach passing ships.
3. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu / Boxing

## PRESIDENT



**Jamie Malone**  
Louth

Since moving to Dublin from Louth, I have recently graduated from Trinity College Dublin after studying Economics & Politics. Since then I have been working as a bar manager in Dún Laoghaire. Outside of politics, I reserve my Sunday afternoons for the F1, I'm a fan of musical theatre, and am known for taking to the karaoke stage at any opportunity.

1. Jamie Malone: Still can't get the shift
2. Holly Cairns, with her farming background in seed production, I might not starve to death
3. While not campaigning I try my hand at reliving my glory days on Xbox playing Black Ops 6, but I can't hit a 360 no-scope like back in the day

## PRESIDENT



**Seán Martyn**  
Clare

Seán Martyn is the outgoing NWRO from West Clare. A history and Irish graduate and student teacher studying in the University of Galway, Seán also works on the family dairy farm. A keen country music and GAA fan, he's still trying to complete his jersey collection, though isn't sure if some of the remaining ones will go down too well in the home county. An experienced bar man, he's hoping that he won't be pulled in behind the bar in Maynooth this weekend.

1. "I'm Freisian, give me your jersey", I think that's an apt enough title.
2. Mattie McGrath obviously, if you annoyed him enough he'd generate enough energy to power a kettle, phone and potentially an electric blanket. Plus he's from Tipp so you might as well be stranded with someone you can get a few digs in at, considering their recent plight on the hurling field.
3. Unknownst to many many I'm actually handy enough in the dessert section of a kitchen. I can pull a decent 99 and make some of the bigger ice cream desserts with my eyes closed.

## VICEPRESIDENT



**Isabelle Danes**  
Dublin Fingal East

I'm a proud Dubliner and a final-year Economics and Politics student at UCD. On the weekends, you'll often find me at home enjoying Formula 1, rugby, or football. I love hiking, beach walks, reading, photography, and, of course, all things politics!

1. Title of my Autobiography: "Unscripted: The Life and Lessons of Isabelle Danes"
2. Pearse Doherty Given his experience challenging government policies, he'd likely be very vocal about the need for a more effective rescue operation.
3. Up until the start of this campaign, a little known secret about me is my love for Landscape Photography.

## VICEPRESIDENT



**Shane Lee**  
Dublin West

Shane is 22 years old and is from Blanchardstown in North Dublin. He is a YFG member in Dublin West and formerly DCU having originally joined in 2021. Shane has worked for a number of Fine Gael's Oireachtas members over the past two years. Shane is the chair of Dublin West YFG and has held several other positions in both YFG and Fine Gael including as the National Executive's Director of Branch Development for the past year. Outside of politics he is passionate about both history and rugby.

1. Falling Upwards
2. Paul Gogarty, he'll ensure we maintain the most civil and the most parliamentary of language possible.
3. Some say I've a special talent for waffling.

## VICEPRESIDENT



**Daniel Lynch**  
Galway

Daniel hails from the small parish of Milltown in North County Galway and is the outgoing Policy Director. He first joined YFG seven years ago when he was just 15. Outside Fine Gael he studies Economics in the University of Galway, and his three great loves in life are Barry's Tea, musical theatre, and his dog Bruno.

1. A Series of Mildly Unfortunate Events
2. I'm not quite sure what the definition of an opposition TD is anymore, so I'll have to say Michael Lowry. He'll somehow negotiate us off the island while still voting with the island.
3. Using only my voice and my knowledge of 20th Century Irish political history, I can put any person to sleep.

## VICEPRESIDENT



**Caolán Maguire**  
Cavan-Monaghan

Caolán Maguire (24) comes from Mullaknock in North Monaghan and is Secretary of the Cavan Monaghan Billy Fox YFG branch. He has been involved in Fine Gael since he was 20. With the help of some good friends, he founded a YFG branch in the newly rebranded ATU Galway. Also studies Software development, when he gets the time!"

1. "How to get elected without ever buying a pint for a voter: a Cavan mans guide to elections"
2. Matt Carthy, it would be hell for me but at least I'd spare the rest of yee.
3. Expertly losing a vice presidential election

## NATIONAL PANEL



**Jamie Hamill**  
Dublin North West

My name is Jamie Hamill, and I'm the youngest candidate running for an executive position. My strengths lie in membership and branch retention, and I'm committed to fixing the fundamental issues that break the link between inactive and active members. That's why, if elected, I will create a national support network to develop engaged members for YFG and their communities.

1. Cautiously living, really because I guess it's what we all do, but especially right now.
2. I'd definitely say Peadar Tóibín just because, No. 1, you could use him as bait for fishing because he's the average size of bait, and No. 2, I'd just love to see how he'd react in sunlight.
3. Nothing absolutely extraordinary but I do theatre and sometimes if I'm lucky get into a show.



**Cian Harrington**  
Dublin South West

My name is Cian Harrington I'm 21 and study Finance in Maynooth. I'm the current Vice Chair for YFG Maynooth. I have an interest in Economics and Politics which led me to YFG. I was active in TDs Maeve O'Connell and Joe Neville's General Election Campaign. Should I be elected I hope to make YFG a better place to empower members who have ambitions for positions in the organisation, help our members reach out and interact with each other to take part in all the different fun and informative events hosted across branches and most importantly make new friends.

1. Title of autobiography - 2 steps forward...
2. Mary Lou McDonald she's an amazing woman who I have a great deal of respect for, while I disagree in her policies she would be very interesting to talk to while stuck on an island.
3. I love rugby. I started playing in 2023 and have loved it ever since.



**Kuruvilla George**  
Dublin North West

I have always believed in building my own path—whether in leadership, creativity, or problem-solving. I studied at Trinity College Dublin, where I am currently pursuing a PhD in AI Governance. Beyond politics, I'm an artist who loves painting and drawing. I enjoy good debates, lively social gatherings, and making the most of every opportunity to connect with people.

1. "From the Ground Up: The Struggle and Strength of Building Your Own Path."
2. Probably Ivana Bacik—she's sharp, politically experienced, and we'd have some great debates while figuring out how to escape!
3. I'm an artist—I love painting and drawing. It's a great way to express creativity and bring a different perspective to politics and leadership.



**Oisín McGauran**  
Dublin Bay South

Hi! I'm Oisín McGauran, a second-year law student at Trinity, from Westmeath. I'm running for the national executive to enhance our organization's structure, strengthen communication, and promote democratic deliberation. I am passionate about developing a more engaged and dynamic Young Fine Gael that represents its members. Outside politics, I enjoy going to the gym and, like many, doomscrolling on TikTok!

1. Forgive me for the cringe, but I would title my autobiography as "Oisín McGauran: Life, Liberty and the Lake County- My Political Journey."
2. That's easy, I would choose Pearse Doherty TD. It would give me the extra motivation I need to get off the Island as quick as I can.
3. While I do not pronounce to be any good at it, I have begun to spend some of my time practicing my Violin. If you want me to play the "Britches Full of Stiches", then I will play it with all the vigour of Heifetz himself. Anything more difficult, you might have some difficulty finding me. As they say, Rome wasn't built in a day!



## Sonya Naumova Galway West

Sonya Naumova is a passionate youth advocate and proud member of YFG from Galway. With leadership experience as a Gaisce Youth Ambassador, Comhairle na nÓg youth leader, and class representative, Sonya is committed to empowering branches, advocating for women in politics, and modernising YFG's digital presence to engage and inspire the next generation of leaders.

1. "Her Turn: Changing the Leadership Game to Empower Women"
2. It doesn't matter who it is - what matters is that we'd find common ground, because collaboration is at the heart of good leadership.
3. Gaisce gave me the title of Youth Ambassador. Social media gave me the title of Queen. You? You get both ;)



## Louis Pemble Wexford

Louis Pemble is a dedicated candidate for the Young Fine Gael National Executive. He brings extensive experience as former President of the Postgraduate Students' Union at the University of Limerick, where he successfully campaigned for additional housing and better employment conditions. An active member in the Wexford constituency, Louis has also made contributions to the new Wicklow-Wexford constituency. Louis offers a pragmatic, results-driven approach to building informed membership, strong community engagement, and delivering impactful policies.

1. Proactive, Pragmatic, Pemble
2. I'll bring Mary Lou, to give everyone else a break for a while!
3. I'm currently training for the marathon at the Great Limerick Run!



## Ben Sheenan Galway West

My name is Ben Sheehan. I have studied financial maths and economics in the University of Galway and I am currently studying for my accounting exams. Outside of this I am COO and CFO for Breakthrough Maths. I have been a member of YFG since 2022 and am currently chairperson for the UG Branch, previously being vice chair. In that time, it has been some experience to work through locals, european, general and now seaned elections. A big inspiration for me to put myself forward for panel is our leader, Simon Harris. The way he has rejuvenated the party and his new approach to social media and engagement is exactly what I want to bring to YFG.

1. How have I ended up here?
2. Danny Healy Rae - would love to hear how he plans to handle Putin
3. As much as I love a pint, I have done track and field my whole life and have 10 All Ireland National Medals.



## Queen-Majeedat Soyemi Dublin Fingal West

My name is Queen Majeedat Soyemi. I am a Nigerian-Irish, from Balbriggan. I am a registered psychiatric nurse and the Managing Director of ZamabCare. I joined Young Fine Gael in 2020, inspired by its values of fairness and equality. I am running for the Panel on the YFG National Executive. In my free time, I enjoy reading reports and spending time with family.

1. Sleeping is for the Weak: A Nurse, Leader, and Overthinker's Guide to Doing It All
2. If I were stuck on a desert island with Mary Lou McDonald, I'd probably spend most of the time debating the merits of her policies while she tried to organize a rescue plan. We'd probably disagree on everything, but at least it would make for some entertaining banter while we tried to figure out how to survive. I'd just hope she brought some snacks.
3. I can literally sleep anywhere. I just have to stay 5 minutes in a position without moving and I am asleep.



## DUBLIN REGIONAL ORGANISER



**Sophie De Miranda**  
Dublin West

I am passionate about politics, international affairs, and preserving the Irish language. I am dedicated to being a voice for change and creating a better future for young people. I have a Bachelor's degree in Politics, International Relations, and languages, and am currently studying a Master's in European Law and Public Affairs. I am a hard-worker who loves learning, and serving others.

1. Dream, Believe, Achieve.
2. If I had to be stuck on a desert island with an opposition TD, I'd choose Ivana Bacik from the Labour Party. With her background in criminal law, sharp intellect, and our shared commitment to human rights and social justice, it would make for some interesting conversations about everything from legal matters to societal issues. With our shared interests, I believe we would make great companions, able to tackle challenges together and come up with a clever plan to survive and escape.
3. I was a competitive gymnast for over 10 years, even becoming National Champion. I then spent 8 years freestyle disco dancing, reaching championship level, and earning multiple national titles. I am multilingual and speak fluent Gaeilge, English, Italian and Spanish.



**Piotr Michalak**  
Dublin Fingal West

Hi there my name is Piotr Michalak, I'm from Balbriggan and I'm running to be your next Dublin Regional Organiser, I'm committed to yfg as the chair of yfg Fingal and am optimistic about yfg future as an organisation, if elected I will be an active and engaged DRO focused to retain members and expand activity in Dublin, I will also focus on establishing a TUD branch and increasing transparency in YFG!

1. Balbriggan born and bred
2. Michael Lowry, he's the most cunning of them all to get us off the island.
3. I love football and hiking and reading, I'm proud to say I read war and peace in only a month.

## LEINSTER REGIONAL ORGANISER



**Conor Dunne**  
Laois

My name is Conor Dunne and I am 16 years old and I am turning 17 on the day the Conference starts. I am a proud Laois man, coming from the great town of Portarlinton and I am a true blue, I would appreciate your number one vote to become the new Leinster Regional Organiser.

1. From Pints to Politics - Conor Dunne's Memoir
2. Richard Boyd-Barrett, I'd argue him off the island!
3. My surprising hobby is that I support and follow Wolverhampton Wanderers & my hidden talent is being able to put a teacher off topic for majority of the class!



**Ian Moran**  
Wexford

Ian is a first year social science student in SETU Waterford. He joined YFG in 2020. He is chair of his local branch in Wexford and has held positions on the LRC and has chaired the Second Level Network. Outside of politics Ian is a rugby fan and enjoys history

The answer to the candidate questions are

1. From rags to still waiting for the riches
2. Richard Boyd Barrett. He shouts enough someone will eventually hear to come save us
3. Juggling with one ball

## MUNSTER REGIONAL ORGANISER



**John Boix**  
Waterford

My name is John, I'm from Dungarvan in Co. Waterford. Before that I lived in Paris, France. I am the constituency youth officer for Waterford, and am currently re-starting Waterford YFG. I am also on the Action panel for spunout, Ireland's youth information platform. I wish to be elected as MRO so that I can ensure that we create more branches in Munster.

1. From one republic to another: Born in France, Made in Ireland
2. Alan Kelly (labour) as he was a senior executive and I think I could learn a lot from him.
3. I enjoy building model aircraft & I speak fluent french



**Bébhinn Lombard**  
Cork South Central

I am Bebhinn Lombard. I am 21 and I am in my third year in University College Cork studying Data Science and Analytics. I have been a member of YFG since starting in college and a member of Fine Gael for 8 years now. In my spare time you'll find me Irish dancing, discussing Cork being the real capital of Ireland and of course politics.

1. Dancing Through Politics: My Journey as Bebhinn Lombard
2. Paul Gogarty - to discuss what is and what is not unparliamentary language
3. I have been Irish dancing for 16 years

## NORTH WEST REGIONAL ORGANISER



**Dean Kenny**  
Mayo

My name is Dean Kenny, I'm 24 years old, and I'm from Belcarra, just outside Castlebar, County Mayo. I'm a qualified secondary school Maths and Applied Maths teacher, and I'm currently working as a Political Assistant to Minister of State Alan Dillon. At weekends you can find me playing the banjo around the pubs of Mayo, or commentating on football games for my local club Balla Gaa, or out running. I've always been involved in my community, volunteering with Foróige, Comhairle na nÓg, Balla GAA, and after I graduated from University of Galway, I remained for a year as President of the Students' Union. I've been involved in YFG since 2016, when we rebooted the Mayo branch, and I'm running to be the next North West Regional Organiser, to ensure the West has an experienced, energetic and enthusiastic voice at the table, to represent the West and ensure that branches in this part of the country get their fair share of funding and support. Looking forward to meeting you all at the conference and hopefully working with you in the future.

1. Wingin' it
2. Richard O'Donoghue from Limerick. Not sure why but I think we'd have a great laugh. Never met him before, maybe that's why I picked him.
3. I have a black belt in Matsubayashi Ryu Karate (although I gave it up a few years ago) and at Christmas time I make a mean mince pie.



# Steering Committee 2025 National Conference



## **Cllr. Declan Burgess – Chairperson**

Declan, 29, is a Fine Gael Councillor in Tipperary, elected in May 2019, on his first attempt and re-elected on the first count in 2024. Declan has served the YFG and Fine Gael organisations in various roles over the years and is a former member of the National Executive, as the Munster Regional Organiser. As a Chef, he has a keen interest in the tourism and hospitality sector. Clearly addicted to running conferences...



## **Ian Fahey - Vice chair**

Ian, 31, is a former government adviser. He has previously served on two YFG National Executives – as Director of Policy and Director of Campaigns. Ian will be nagging several members to contribute, look busy and take their seats – otherwise he gets very cranky. Survivors of the last Conference can attest to this. This is also his absolute definite 100% final year on Steering. He responds well to rock shandy.



## **Eoghan Gallagher - YFG President**

A Maths & Education graduate, outgoing President Eoghan Gallagher has worked in the European Parliament, a Ministers office, and as an FG Press Officer. In LE24 he narrowly missed out on a seat on Galway County Council, receiving over 1,000 first preferences. An avid trad musician, Eoghan holds several medals & awards for his playing.



## **Steven Murphy - Vice President/Director of Elections and Campaigns**

27 year-old Steven is a primary school teacher in Malahide, Co. Dublin. He is originally from Wexford where he first joined YFG almost 12 years ago. Most recently, Steven has served as YFG's Leinster Regional Organiser and as Vice-President. This is Steven's 8th YFG National Conference and his first time on the Steering Committee.



## **Béibhinn Byrne - Director of Communications and Engagement**

Béibhinn, 25 is the outgoing National Secretary and Director of both Women's Engagement and Communications, as well as serving on Fine Gael Executive Council. She is a post-primary teacher currently working in North Dublin where her favourite hobby is to see how many Fine Gael representatives she can get to speak to her students. She has a passion for special education and women's empowerment.



## **Cllr. Rachel Kerley - Director of Campaigns/ Leinster Regional Organiser**

From the wee County of Louth, Rachel was recently co-opted to the Louth County Council. Working in Leinster House for Senator Maria Byrne for the last four years. A Dundalk FC, Man United and Irish Rugby Fan – Luckily, the recent General Election and Rugby results have kept the spirits high. Always remember what is meant for you won't pass by you.

# Blueprint for Action



## Jude Perry

Jude has been a member of Young Fine Gael for over 10 years where he has been involved in various roles across the Party, both North and South. Jude is currently a Parliamentary Assistant to Minister Neale Richmond TD, previous to this he has worked for an MP in the House of Commons and at the Irish Embassy in London. In his spare time, Jude enjoys playing rugby and spending time in his home of County Sligo.



## Phillip Brennan

Phillip, 24, is a campaign officer for Fine Gael. I hail from Clonakilty in west Cork. The home of Michael Collins. Coming from this historical place fuelled my interest in history and politics. I have a degree in BSc Government and Political Science from UCC. I was the biggest baby born in Cork in 2000, that's a fact! Aside from politics, I have a great admiration for music and have 600 vinyl records to my name. I'll let you decide who my favourite musician is!

## Max Murphy Laura Comiskey

# National Executive 2023-2025



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Communications, as well as serving on Fine Gael Executive Council. She is a post-primary teacher currently working in North Dublin where her favourite hobby is to see how many Fine Gael representatives she can get to speak to her students. She has a passion for special education and women's empowerment.



## Shane Lee

Shane is 22 years old and is from Blanchardstown in North Dublin. He is a YFG member in Dublin West and formerly DCU having originally joined in 2021. Shane has worked for a number of Fine Gael's Oireachtas members over the past two years. Shane is the chair of Dublin West YFG and has held several other positions in both YFG and Fine Gael including as the National Executive's Director of Branch Development for the past year. Outside of politics he is passionate about both history and rugby.



### Caolán Maguire

Caolán Maguire (24) comes from Mullaknock in North Monaghan and is Secretary of the Cavan Monaghan Billy Fox YFG branch. He has been involved in Fine Gael since he was 20. With the help of some good friends, he founded a YFG branch in the newly rebranded ATU Galway. Also studies Software development, when he gets the time!"



### Daniel Lynch

Daniel hails from the parish of Milltown in North County Galway and is the outgoing Policy Director. He's a student of Economics, and works part-time in sexual violence prevention and response. In his spare time Daniel is an amateur actor and will be performing in a production of Sweeney Todd in March.



### Isabelle Danes

I'm a proud Dubliner and a final-year Economics and Politics student at UCD. On the weekends, you'll often find me at home enjoying Formula 1, rugby, or football. I love hiking, beach walks, reading, photography, and, of course, all things politics!



### Cllr. Rachel Kerley

From the wee County of Louth, Rachel was recently co-opted to the Louth County Council. Working in Leinster House for Senator Maria Byrne for the last four years. A Dundalk FC, Man United and Irish Rugby Fan – Luckily, the recent General Election and Rugby results have kept the spirits high. Always remember what is meant for you won't pass by you.



### Jamie Malone

Since moving to Dublin from Louth, I have recently graduated from Trinity College Dublin after studying Economics & Politics. Since then I have been working as a bar manager in Dún Laoghaire. Outside of politics, I reserve my Sunday afternoons for the F1, I'm a fan of musical theatre, and am known for taking to the karaoke stage at any opportunity.



### Liam O'Donovan

Liam has enjoyed his time as Munster Regional Organiser. His highlights include bringing back the Blue-Weekend and starting a branch in Co. Waterford.



### Seán Martyn

Seán Martyn is the outgoing NWRO from West Clare. A history and Irish graduate and student teacher studying in the University of Galway, Seán also works on the family dairy farm. A keen country music and GAA fan, he's still trying to complete his jersey collection.

### Keeva Walsh

# Blueprint for Action

## Motions

### MOTION 1

YFG calls on the government to establish a citizens assembly examining the role of Uachtarán na hÉireann, with particular interest in the powers, and length of the term one holds the role.

**Submitted by: Carlow Kilkenny YFG**

### MOTION 2

YFG calls for the lifting of the Dublin Airport passenger cap in recognition of its economic and social harm

**Submitted by: DCU YFG. Similar motion from Kerry YFG.**

### MOTION 3

YFG calls on Fine Gael never to enter government with the Green Party or their equivalent in the future.

**Submitted by: Kerry YFG**

### MOTION 4

YFG calls on the government to immediately commence a review of our electricity and water networks to identify all steps to "storm proof" the networks and ensure sufficient money is allocated to complete the identified steps.

**Submitted by: Patrick Hogan YFG Galway East**

### MOTION 5

YFG calls on the Department of Justice to make the act of 'Catfishing' illegal.

**Submitted by: YFG Women's Network**

### MOTION 6

YFG calls on the government to reverse minimum unit pricing on alcohol.

**Submitted by: Dublin West YFG**

### MOTION 7

YFG calls on Fine Gael to begin putting a framework in place for how the Party would effectively contest elections in Ulster's counties, following a successful Irish Unity referendum.

**Submitted by: Cavan Monaghan YFG – The Billy Fox branch**

### MOTION 8

YFG calls on the government to create provincial Garda training colleges.

**Submitted by: Wicklow YFG**

### MOTION 9

YFG calls on the government to reverse the speed limit reduction on all local roads, from 80 kmh to 60 kmh, introduced in February 25.

**Submitted by: Wexford YFG**

### MOTION 10

YFG calls on the Government to sever formal diplomatic ties with the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**Submitted by: YFG International Committee**

### MOTION 11

YFG calls for an increase of the price of planning objections from €20 to €200 to make it more difficult to object to planning permissions and reduce the number of objections submitted.

**Submitted by: Clare YFG**

### MOTION 12

YFG calls for the swift appointment by Fine Gael HQ of a full-time National Youth Officer, in compliance with the constitution of the organisation.

**Submitted by: Dublin West YFG. Similar motion from the MRC**

# Constitution & Rules

(Bunreacht & Rialacha)

## Young Fine Gael

As amended after the 32nd YFG National Conference (February 2023)

**Young Fine Gael, the Young United Irelanders is an Irish Nationalist Youth Movement that pledges allegiance and fidelity to Ireland and derives its inspiration and endeavour from this bedrock. Young Fine Gael is an autonomous yet integral part of the Fine Gael party; it seeks to advance the political representation and objectives of the youth of Ireland through the vehicle of the Fine Gael Party. Young Fine Gael is wholly committed to the development of young people at all levels of political life, and in communion with the Fine Gael Party seeks to maximise the electoral objectives of Fine Gael.**

### 1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the Organisation shall be Young Fine Gael (The Young United Irelanders), or in Irish shall be Ógra Fhine Gael (Na Gaeil Aontaithe Óga) and referred to the Organisation in this Constitution, shall be deemed to be an organ of Fine Gael.
- 1.2 The Organisation shall foster, promote and develop an interest among young people in political activity and shall seek to promote young candidates in Fine Gael.
- 1.3 The Organisation shall formulate policy representative of the membership of Young Fine Gael.
- 1.4 The Organisation shall take all possible measures to achieve the implementation of all such policies.
- 1.5 The Organisation shall work for the electoral success of Fine Gael.

### 2. Units And Organs Of The Organisation

- 2.1 The Units of the Organisation shall be:
  - (a) The Branch (An Cumann)
  - (b) The Regional Councils (Na Comhairlí Réigiúnacha)
- 2.2 The organs of the Organisation shall be:
  - (a) The Young Fine Gael National Executive (Ardchoiste Ógra Fhine Gael)
  - (b) The National Conference Steering Committee (Coiste Stiúrtha na Comhdhála Náisiúnta)
- 2.3 All elections to office within the Organisation shall be carried out by the proportional representation single transferable vote system (PR-STV).
- 2.4 (a) At least three days notice in writing of any meeting of any unit of the Organisation shall be

- given to all members of that unit plus the Constituency Youth Officer and the National Youth Officer.
- b) ( At least six days notice in writing of any meeting of the National Executive shall be given to all Secretaries of the Organisations branches, save where the National Executive deems the nature of the meeting to be of particular confidentiality or urgency in nature.
- (c) Notice must detail an exact date, time and venue for the meeting of that unit.
- (d) If a meeting is being held in a virtual space, notice must detail an exact date, time and link to join the meeting of that unit.
- (e) If a meeting is being held in a hybrid manner, notice must detail an exact date, time, venue and link to join the meeting of that unit.
- 2.5 Except where specified in this Constitution where for any reason an officer vacates office such office shall be filled by election from amongst and by the members concerned.
- 2.6 A person may not hold the same office within the Organisation, for more than consecutive three terms. Terms are still considered to be consecutive if they are co-opted at a date after National Conference.
- 2.7 The quorum for a Branch meeting shall be five; for branches with a membership of over thirty the quorum shall be eight.
- 2.8 Units may draw up Standing Orders to govern their proceedings provided such Standing Orders do not contradict any provision of this Constitution and provided that such Standing

Orders are accepted by the National Executive and passed at the Annual General Meeting, or a meeting called for that purpose, of the unit concerned and notified in writing to all members of the unit.

- 2.9 An Officer of any unit who, during his term of office, absents himself from three consecutive meetings of that Unit without furnishing the Chairperson or Secretary of that Unit with a written explanation acceptable to that Unit will be subject to a vote of confidence at the next meeting.
- 2.10 No member of the organisation may be elected an officer of any unit or organ of the organisation in absentia.

in its consideration, have damaged the interests of the Organisation.

### 3. Membership

3.1 The means by which a person attains membership are as follows:

- (a) Membership of a Branch of where they are ordinarily resident, Or
- (b) Where no functional branch exists, a person may be affiliated to their nearest local branch.  
And/or
- (c) Any member attending a third-level college shall have the right to join that college branch.
- (d) At the discretion of the National Executive of Young Fine Gael a member may join a branch in a district/ constituency where they are not normally resident on written application to and agreement from the National Executive of YFG only in the circumstance whereby a functional branch exists in their place of normal residency.

3.2 No person shall be a member of the Organisation before the age of 15 and shall not be eligible to renew membership beyond the age of 35.

3.3 (a) Any member of the Organisation may not be a member of any other political organisation

(b) Only members of the Organisation may hold office within the Organisation.

3.4 By accepting membership of the Organisation, each member agrees to be bound by and shall submit to the rules and by-laws of the Organisation.

3.5 The National Executive may, at any time, refer any member of the Organisation to the Fine Gael Executive Council for any breach of this Constitution and Rules, or for any actions which,

### 4. The Branch

4.1 The basic unit of the organisation shall be the Branch. Each Branch shall consist of not less than eight members.

4.2 Each Branch shall be affiliated to Fine Gael as provided for in Part II of the Fine Gael Constitution.

4.3 The National Executive may establish local branches whose functional area shall comprise of more than one Dáil constituency.

- A branch established in this manner shall have the same status as any other branch of the organisation and members of this branch shall have the same status as any other local member of the organisation.

- Members of a branch established in this manner should have voting rights for the purposes of constituency

executive meetings and selection convention in one and only one constituency and this shall be the constituency in which the member is resident in.

- This provision shall be in government and implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Fine Gael Constitution and Rules.

4.4 The Officers of the Branch shall consist of a Chairperson (Cathaoirleach), a Vice-Chairperson (Leaschathaoirleach), a Secretary (Rúnaí), two Treasurers (beirt Chisteoirí), a Public Relations Officer (Oifigeach Caidrimh Phoiblí) and an Inclusion Officer (Oifigeach Ionchuisitheach). The Branch Chairperson shall act as the second treasurer. The Branch may elect other officers if it so desires.

4.5 A member may not hold the position of Chairperson in more than one unit of the organisation without the approval of the National Executive. Approval may only be granted exceptional circumstances and for a set period of time.

4.6 Branches shall be required to furnish particulars to the National Executive on request.

4.7 Approval for the establishment of a Young Fine Gael Branch is at the discretion of the Young Fine Gael National Executive.

4.8 In order to establish a local branch of Young Fine Gael an official launch must be held, written notice of a launch must be furnished to the National Executive and the National Youth Officer at least 21 days in advance of the proposed launch date.



- 4.9 Fourteen days written notice of any branch launch must be furnished to all elected Fine Gael representatives in that Dáil Constituency, the Fine Gael Constituency executive for that Dáil Constituency to also include the Youth Officer appointed for that Dáil Constituency and to the National Executive of Young Fine Gael and to the National Youth Officer.
- 4.10 In the case whereby a previously established Young Fine Gael branch, which has lapsed in its affiliation for a minimum of one year the above procedure (articles 4.7 to 4.9) must be followed in order to re-establish the branch as a functioning unit of the Organisation.
- 4.11 A branch may run a local campaign in their area or campaign for official policy of the Organisation, provided that the campaign is not contradictory to official policy and that the relevant Regional Organiser is informed not less than seven days before any campaign commences.
- 4.12 Branches must furnish their Regional Organiser and the National Youth Officer a copy of an agreed programme of activity for the 12 months ahead within 1 month of the holding of an AGM.

## 5. National Executive (An Tardchoiste)

5.1 Subject to the authority of the National Conference the management, control, government and administration of the Organisation shall be vested in and exercised by the National Executive.

5.2 The National Executive shall consist of:

- a) A President (An tUachtarán), who shall be the Leader of the Organisation, chair of the National Executive and shall be the nominee for the Organisation's first seat on the Fine Gael Executive Council.
- b) Two Vice-Presidents (na Leasuachtarán), one who shall be male and one who shall be female, and who shall be the nominees for the Organisation's second and third seats on the Fine Gael Executive Council.
- c) Eight ordinary members of the National Executive elected at the National Conference in the manner prescribed in Section 6.11.
- d) The President shall be required to co-opt a maximum of three additional members to the YFG National Executive, ensuring as a constitutional requirement that a minimum of 30% of the YFG National Executive are female and a minimum of 30% of the YFG National Executive are male at all times.

5.3 The National Executive shall take office at the close of the National Conference and leave office

at the close of the following National Conference.

- 5.4 The National Executive may adopt Standing Orders from time to time to govern the conduct of its meetings and its day-to-day operations.
- 5.5 Members of the former National Executive must provide a handover document to their counterpart on the new National Executive within a month of National Conference to provide information, advice and guidance.
- 5.6 The National Executive shall meet at least ten times per year.
- 5.7 The President shall assign portfolios and responsibilities to the members of the National Executive. He shall have the authority to change these portfolios at his discretion. The President must appoint a National Secretary when assigning portfolios.
- 5.8 The National Executive shall produce a report to be presented to the National Conference
- 5.9 All members of the National Executive as elected at the National Conference shall work as a unit to furnish all members with, within 45 days of the National Conference, a proposed programme of activity for the coming term of the Executive. The National Executive must furnish all members with an update of this programme of activity no more than 6 months after the programme of activity was initially shared with the membership. Updates shall be given every subsequent 6 months within the term of the National Executive of which the programme of activity belongs.
- 5.10 No person shall remain a member of the National Executive in the same capacity for more than three terms.
- 5.11 No person shall remain a member of the National Executive for longer than four terms.
- 5.12 In the event of the President failing to serve his full term of office, the position will be assumed by the Vice-President. The vacancy for the position of Vice-President shall accordingly be filled by appointment of the President, in consultation with the National Executive.
- 5.13 In the event of a Vice-President failing to serve their full term of office, the vacancy shall be filled by the member of National Panel who received the highest vote at the National Conference.
- 5.14 In the event of any other officer failing to serve his full term of office, the vacancy shall be filled

by appointment of the President, in consultation with the National Executive. In such circumstances the branches from the electoral region where the vacancy arises may submit names for consideration. The appointee must be a member of a branch in the region concerned.

5.15 A National Youth Officer, who shall be employed by Fine Gael, in consultation with the President and the National

Executive, shall act as a Cabinet Secretary to the National Executive and shall be required unless reasons are given 5 working days in advance to the President and General Secretary of the Party, to attend all meetings of the National Executive.

5.16 The National Youth Officer shall present a membership affiliation report at each meeting of the National Executive.

5.17 The members of the National Executive and the National Youth Officer may attend any meeting of any unit or organ of the Organisation.

5.18 The National Executive may appoint sub-committees as deemed necessary and shall determine the power and duration of such sub-committees. Save with the express consent of the National Executive, any member of the National Executive who is a member of any such sub-committee will be deemed to have resigned from that sub-committee on ceasing to be member of the National Executive.

5.19 A Women's Network Committee, a Coiste na Gaeilge and a Second Level Network shall be established at the start of each Executive term in accordance with Article 5.17 of this Constitution. The President in agreement with the National Executive shall nominate a member of the National Executive to act as liaison to the Network.

5.20 Any member of the National Executive who, during his term of office, absents himself from three meetings of that body without furnishing an acceptable written explanation will be deemed to have resigned their position.

5.21 Officers or units of the organisation wishing to select or appoint members to officially represent the organisation at external events must obtain the approval of the National Executive before making the appointment. Notification for the request for nomination to external bodies must be furnished to all branch chairpersons who in turn if desired may make recommendations to the National Executive who will appoint the nominee to be sent forward.

5.22 The President in agreement with the National Executive shall appoint an International Secretary and Deputy International Secretary who from time to time will represent the organisation abroad. Neither the International Secretary nor Deputy International Secretary have to be members of the National Executive.

5.23 Regional Organisers in agreement with the National Executive may call an EGM of any branch in their region if deemed necessary.

## 6. National Conference (An Chomhdháil Náisiúnta)

6.1 The National Conference shall be the supreme authority of the Organisation.

6.2 The National Conference shall be held once in every 18 months on a date set by the National Executive unless specifically opposed by the Fine Gael Executive Council with the National Executive elected on every occasion.

6.3 Every member of the Organisation who attained membership as prescribed in Article 3.1 no later than 31 October preceding the National Conference shall be entitled to one vote at the National Conference subject to the presentation of photo ID.

6.4 The National Conference Steering Committee shall draw up the agenda for the National Conference.

6.5 The President of Young Fine Gael, the two Vice Presidents and the ordinary members of the National Executive shall be elected at every National Conference.

6.6 All candidates for election to the National Executive shall be proposed and seconded by not less than two Branches in the constituency in which they are a candidate. All nominations shall be submitted to the National Conference Steering Committee from at least twenty-one days before the commencement of the National Conference. For a national constituency a candidate requires a nomination from at least 2 branches in at least 2 regions as defined by Article 6.11 (a).

6.7 There shall be at least sixty days written notice of the National Conference to all members of the Organisation.

6.8 All elections at the National Conference shall be carried out using the Seanad Electoral system. The General Secretary of the Fine Gael Party or his Nominee shall act as returning officer.

6.9 In the election of President all members of the Organisation are entitled to one vote.

6.10 In the election of Vice-President all members of the Organisation shall be entitled to one vote.

6.11 The ordinary members of the National Executive shall be elected as follows:

- (a) One ordinary member of the National Executive of Young Fine Gael shall be elected from each of the following regions:
- I. The province of Leinster (excluding Dublin)
  - II. The county of Dublin
  - III. The province of Munster
  - IV. The provinces of Connacht and Ulster. The persons elected shall act as Regional Organiser for the region from which they are elected.
- (b) Four ordinary members of the National Executive of Young Fine Gael shall be elected from a National Constituency, as in the manner of the Presidential Executive Council Representative Elections.
- (c) All members entitled to vote in a constituency, in accordance with Article 6.3 of this constitution, are entitled to contest an election in that constituency.
- 6.12 Motions and Resolutions for the National Conference, and amendments to the Constitution, may be put forward by the National Executive and units and organs of the Organisation not less than twenty-one days before the date of commencement of the National Conference.
- 6.13 The National Flag of Ireland and the flag of the European Union will be displayed at the National Conference.
- 6.14 A mhrán na bhFiann shall be played to signify the start and the end of the National Conference.

## 7. The National Conference Steering Committee (Coiste Stiúrtha Na Comhdhála Náisiúnta)

- 7.1 The National Conference Steering Committee shall be appointed by the National Executive and shall consist of not less than five and not more than eight persons and shall be comprised of:-
- (a) The President and Vice-President (if not seeking reelection)
  - (b) Members of the outgoing National Executive (not seeking reelection), such that the total number of members of the National Executive shall be at least four
  - (c) Not more than four other members of Young Fine Gael or Fine Gael who possess particular skills or experience which would be essential to the arrangement of the logistics of the National Conference, or who are members of Fine Gael in the constituency where the National Conference is taking place.
- The National Youth Officer shall be an ex-officio member of the National Steering Committee. The National Executive shall appoint a Chair of the National Conference Steering Committee, who shall not be a member of the

outgoing National Executive, and issue Standing Orders to it upon its appointment which shall govern its operations.

- 7.2 The functions of the Steering Committee shall be:
- (a) to organise the logistics of the National Conference,
  - (b) to draw up Standing Orders for the National Conference,
  - (c) to select the motions for discussion at the National Conference, noting any direction from the National Executive regarding the compilation and adoption of the organisation's Policy Manifesto.
  - (d) to ensure that all proceedings are ethically conducted and in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the Organisation,
  - (e) to draw up the agenda for the National Conference.
  - (f) to organise a minimum of four Regional Hustings to take place no more than 21 days before the National Conference noting any direction from the Regional Councils.
- 7.3 No candidate may be a member, at any stage, of the Steering Committee for the National Conference at which he is a candidate.

## 8. Policy

- 8.1 The sole responsibility for the co-ordination of policy creation within the organisation lies with the National Executive, which may, from time to time, ratify a policy manifesto or refer same to a National Assembly. Any such manifesto shall be subject to Article 6.1 of this constitution.
- 8.2 Official policy of the Organisation is that which has been approved by the National Executive or National Conference or (if referred to it by the National Executive) the National Assembly.
- 8.3 The National Executive may establish Policy committees, provided that sufficient interest exists among members, membership of which shall be open to all members of the organisation. The National Executive shall determine the scope, nature, duration and terms of reference of such committees.
- 8.4 The National Executive must hold a policy think-in for members to contribute to Young Fine Gael policy formation. Any policy proposals are subject to Article 8.2 of this constitution.
- 8.5 The W.T. Cosgrave Excellence in Policy Award shall be presented to the best contribution to policy by a branch or individual member that year. The winner shall be decided by the National Executive and the award shall be presented each year at Summer School.

## 9. National Assembly (An Tionól Náisiúnta)

- 9.1 The National Assembly shall consist of a delegation from each affiliated Young Fine Gael branch. These delegations shall consist of the Branch Chairperson, or where unable to attend, the Branch Vice-Chairperson, and two other delegates chosen by the branch to attend.
- 9.2 The National Assembly shall meet at least once a year to be held at the Organisation's Annual Summer School or shall be held at the request of the President or where sixty per-cent of the National Executive or more agree that a National Assembly be held. Should two-thirds of affiliated Young Fine Gael branches petition the National Youth Officer, a National Assembly must then be held within six weeks of the petition reaching the required level of support.
- 9.3 The National Executive shall inform all members of the Organisation of the National Assembly twenty-one days in advance.
- 9.4 These meetings of the National Assembly must be presided over by the President or the Vice-President in his absence. All members of the National Executive shall attend meetings of the National Assembly.
- 9.5 Each member attending the National Assembly must be provided with a list of dates of National Executive meetings since the last National Assembly meeting or Young Fine Gael National Conference, whichever being the latter or the two to have taken place and attendance records at these meetings must be presented by the Young Fine Gael National Secretary to the National Assembly.
- 9.6 The functions of the National Assembly shall be to allow members the opportunity to raise issues with and ask questions of members of the National Executive. The Organisation's three representatives on the Fine Gael Executive Council shall provide a report to the membership on their activities as members of that body at the National Assembly. Branches may submit written questions or issues to be addressed up to a week in advance of National Assembly, however questions or issues which have not been previously submitted may still be raised on the floor of the National Assembly.
- 9.7 The National Assembly may dismiss any member of the National Executive by a vote of 75% or more, provided that a motion of dismissal has been sent to the National Youth Officer by at least five Branches and a Regional Council of the Organisation at least 14 days before the meeting. It then must be included in the agenda for the meeting.

## 10. Regional Council (An Chomhairle Réigiúnach)

- 10.1 The National Executive shall establish Regional Councils.
- 10.2 The National Executive shall determine the geographical scope, nature, duration and terms of reference of each Regional Council.
- 10.3 The President, in consultation with the National Executive, shall appoint one member of the National Executive to each established Regional Council. The appointed member shall act as a Cabinet Secretary to the Regional Council. They may be deputized by another member of the National Executive.
- 10.4 The tasks of the Regional Council shall be:
- To develop and co-ordinate the organisation in that region.
  - To provide an opportunity to discuss mutual needs between branches.
  - To co-ordinate regional campaigns in conjunction with the National Executive of the organisation.
  - To foster and promote close cooperation with units of units and organs of the Fine Gael Party.
  - To discuss resolutions proposed by the council to the branches.
- 10.5 No member shall be eligible to serve on two Regional Councils at the same time.
- 10.6 Each Regional Council will have a Regional Inclusion Officer who will coordinate with the Branch Inclusion Officers in their region and work with the National Youth Officer and Members of the National Executive.

## 11. Fine Gael Constituency Youth Officers (Oifigh Óg Dháilcheantar Fhine Gael)

- 11.1 There shall be a Constituency Youth Officer for each Dáil Constituency or where a Dáil Constituency consists of two or more counties, there may be a Constituency Youth Officer for each county.
- 11.2 The role of the Constituency Youth Officer shall be:
- To promote the development of the Organisation and the recruitment of youth members within the constituency.
  - To represent the Organisation at all meetings of Fine Gael Constituency Executive & Constituency Officer Board.
  - To foster the full participation of the Organisation in Constituency Activities especially at times of elections.
- The National Executive shall request a report from each Constituency Youth Officer on their work once in each calendar year. Any Constituency Youth Officer who fails to submit such a report within three months of it being requested shall be deemed to have vacated the position,



with a replacement to be selected in accordance with the processes outlined in this Article.

- 11.3 The Constituency Youth Officer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Fine Gael Constituency Executive. In the election, all members of the Organisation shall have one vote and only members of the Organisation may vote.
- 11.4 If, between Annual General Meetings of the Fine Gael Constituency Executive the position of Constituency Youth Officer is vacant, then the Regional Organiser shall convene a special meeting of the Organisation in the constituency to elect on a replacement Constituency Youth Officer to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Constituency Executive. A week's written notice of such a meeting must be given to all members of the Organisation within the constituency, Constituency Executive, the Regional Council, the National Youth Officer, and the National Executive.
- 11.5 Where no Branch of the Organisation exists in a constituency and where no Constituency Youth Officer has been approved, the President, in consultation with the National Executive shall appoint a Constituency Youth Officer for that constituency.

## 12. Alteration And Interpretation

- 12.1 Any provision of this Constitution may be amended, whether by way of variation, addition or repeal, only by a two-thirds majority of a quorate session of the National Conference.
- 12.2 This Constitution and Rules, as amended, shall be communicated by the President to all members of the Organisation within thirty-five days of the close of each National Conference. It shall also be posted to the organisation's website.
- 12.3 In this Constitution, where the context so admits and unless the contrary intention appears words singular shall include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular. Words denoting the female gender shall include the male gender and vice versa.
- 12.4 In the event of a conflict over the interpretation of this Constitution or the validity of organisational procedures, the first body of appeal shall be the National Executive, and the final body of appeal shall be the Executive Council of Fine Gael.
- 12.5 The Constitution shall come into effect immediately on being approved by the National Conference. The Constitution of Young Fine Gael in force immediately prior to the coming into operation of this Constitution shall, of that date, cease to have any effect.
- 12.6 This Constitution shall be subject to the overriding

of any conflict, the provision of that Constitution shall prevail. In the event that no provision exists in this Constitution for a particular situation, but provision does exist in the Fine Gael Constitution, then the provision of that Constitution shall apply.

- 12.7 The National Executive and the National Assembly shall ensure that all provisions of the Young Fine Gael Constitution and the Constitution of Fine Gael are upheld.

# Constitutional Amendments

## 1. Unit Term Limits

In Article 2.6, DELETE the word “three” and SUBSTITUTE with the word “five.”

ADD the words “unless otherwise specified in this constitution” at end of the first sentence.

**Effect:** This brings (Branch/Regional Council) term limits in line with the Fine Gael constitution, whilst keeping rules about National Executive term limits in its current form.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 2. Membership Age (I)

In Article 3.2, DELETE the number “35” and SUBSTITUTE with “30”

**Effect:** Reduces the membership upper age limit to 30 years of age. (Note: Amendment 3 falls if this amendment is passed)

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 3. Membership Age (II)

In Article 3.2, DELETE the number “35” and SUBSTITUTE with “40”

**Effect:** Increases the membership upper age limit to 40 years of age. (Note: This amendment falls if Amendment 2 is passed)

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 4. Multiple Units (I)

DELETE Article 4.5

**Effect:** A member may be chair of multiple units. (Note: Amendment 5 falls if this amendment is passed)

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 5. Multiple Units (II)

In Article 4.5, DELETE the words “for a set period of time” and SUBSTITUTE with “may only last a maximum of three months”

**Effect:** A member may be chair of multiple units for no more than three months, with the express permission of the National Executive.

(Note: This amendment falls if Amendment 4 is passed)

**Proposed by: Dublin West YFG**

## 6. Programme of Activity

DELETE Article 4.12

**Effect:** Removes the need for a branch to submit an agreed programme of activity to the Regional Organiser and National Youth Officer.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 7. Location of National Executive Meetings

In Article 5.6, INSERT the sentence “At least one meeting must be held in each of the four regional council areas” at the end of this article.

**Effect:** Requires that National Executive to have at least one meeting in Dublin, at least one meeting in Leinster, at least one meeting in Munster, and at least one meeting in the North-West as part of its ten meetings in one year.

**Proposed by: Dublin West YFG**

## 8. Vacancy for President

DELETE wording in Article 5.12 and SUBSTITUTE with “In the event of the President failing to serve their full term of office, the National Executive shall decide via secret ballot, which Vice-President will assume the role of President. The vacancy for the position of Vice-President shall accordingly be filled by appointment of the President, in consultation with the National Executive, in accordance with Article 5.2 (b).”

**Effect:** Clarifies the process for the National Executive to elect a new President should a vacancy ever arise – as well as providing clarity on how a new Vice-President should be appointed in the aftermath of such an election.

**Proposed by: Clare YFG**

## 9. Vacancy for Vice President

DELETE wording in Article 5.13 and SUBSTITUTE with “In the event of a Vice President failing to serve their full term of office, the vacancy shall be filled by the member of National Panel who received the highest vote at the National Conference in accordance with Article 5.2 (b). If not, the appointment of a new Vice President shall be made by the President in consultation with the National Executive.”

**Effect:** Clarifies the process for the election of a new Vice-President and safeguards the ability to appoint a new

Vice President in instances where the gender requirement cannot be filled from the membership of the National Executive.

**Proposed by: - Dublin West YFG & Patrick Hogan (Galway East) YFG**

## 10. Remuneration

In Article 5.19, SUBSTITUTE "5.18" in place of "5.17"

**Effect:** Corrects a remuneration error from a previous National Conference.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 11. Prevention of (International Committee Secretarial) Dual Mandates

In Article 5.22, SUBSTITUTE the words "may not occupy" in place of "have to."

**Effect:** Clarifies that members of National Executive members may occupy the positions of International Secretary or Deputy International Secretary.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 12. Term Limits of International Committee Secretarial Positions

At the end of Article 5.22, ADD the sentence "A member may only occupy these roles for a maximum of three terms"

**Effect:** Installs a term limit of no more than three terms for the positions of International Secretary and Deputy International Secretary.

**Proposed by: Dublin West YFG**

## 13. National Executive Candidate Thresholds

In Article 6.6, SUBSTITUTE the words "at least one branch from each of the four regions" in place of "at least 2 branches in at least 2 regions."

**Effect:** Reduces threshold for a candidate to contest certain National Executive positions.

**Proposed by: Dublin West YFG**

## 14. Matters Arising from Two Vice Presidents (I)

In Article 7.1 (a), SUBSTITUTE the words "and both Vice Presidents" in place of "and Vice President"

**Effect:** Updates the Constitution in light of previous

amendments regarding the introduction of a female Vice President at the 31st Conference.

**Proposed by: Patrick Hogan (Galway East) YFG & Clare YFG**

## 15. Eligibility for WT Cosgrave Award

In Article 8.5, INSERT the words 'or network' after the word 'branch'.

**Effect:** Enables Networks to be rewarded the Cosgrave Award.

**Proposed by: YFG Womens Network & Dublin West YFG**

## 16. Information of Motions Passed at Conference

INSERT a new Article 8.6 which reads: "All motions and resolutions passed at the National Conference shall be compiled and sent to members within thirty-five days of the close of conference and shall be posted to the organisation's website"

**Effect:** Applies similar rules to that of the senior party's practices.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 17. National Assemblies

In Article 9.2, SUBSTITUTE the words "twice a year; once at the Organisation's Annual Summer School, with another to be held at a different National Event" in place of "once a year to be held at the Organisation's Annual Summer School"

**Effect:** Increases the minimum number of National Assemblies to be held per year.

**Proposed by: Louth YFG**

## 18. Threshold to call a National Assembly

In Article 9.2, SUBSTITUTE the word "half" in place of "two-thirds"

**Effect:** Reduces the amount of branches needed to call a national assembly.

**Proposed by: Wexford YFG**

## 19. Matters Arising from Two Vice Presidents (II)

In Article 9.4, REPLACE all the words with the following: "These meetings of the National Assembly must be



presided over by the President or one Vice-President, designated by the President, in his absence. All members of the National Executive shall attend meetings of the National Assembly."

**Effect:** Updates the Constitution in light of previous amendments regarding the introduction of a female Vice President at the 31st Conference.

**Proposed by:** *Patrick Hogan (Galway East) YFG*

## 20. Youth Officer Reports

In Article 11.2 DELETE the words: "The National Executive shall request a report from each Constituency Youth Officer on their work once in each calendar year. Any Constituency Youth Officer who fails to submit such a report within three months of it being requested shall be deemed to have vacated the position, with a replacement to be selected in accordance with the processes outlined in this Article"

**Effect:** Removes the requirement for the Youth Officer to submit a report to the National Executive – and all punitive measures for failure to submit same.

**Proposed by:** *Wexford YFG*

## 21. Voting on Amendments

In Article 12.1, DELETE the words "two-thirds"

**Effect:** Allows for the constitution to be amended by a simple majority vote rather than a two-thirds majority.

**Proposed by:** *Wexford YFG*



# National Youth Officer Report



We welcome members of Young Fine Gael from all corners of Ireland, and our international observers, and YEPP to the Glenroyal Hotel for the 33rd Young Fine Gael National Conference. The National Conference promises to be an exciting weekend for all those who are passionate about Fine Gael and politics. Throughout the weekend, members will see teams go head-to-head in the Great Debate, new policies being formed following lengthy debates and discussions, and a new National Executive elected.

I especially want to welcome Tánaiste and Leader of Fine Gael Simon Harris to come from YFG. Thank you Tánaiste for joining us in Maynooth this weekend.

We have a jam-packed weekend ahead with fantastic guests and panel discussions joining us. I would encourage members (especially new YFG members) to attend all sessions and join in the debate, action, and fun.

## The National Executive

The outgoing National Executive have been in place since February 2023 and have had an exciting and engaging term. Since the previous National Conference in the Galway Bay Hotel there have been two referendums, a Local, European, and General election.

Under the leadership of YFG President Eoghan Gallagher, the team has achieved a huge amount considering the hectic year that was 2024. This term saw Young Fine Gael navigate three elections, a change in leadership and the highest number of young candidates to be elected. During this term, there have been two Garret FitzGerald Summer School events, YFG Women's Weekend in Carrick-On-Shannon in March 2024, two Freshers' Week Recruitment Campaigns in colleges throughout the country and the publication of the One Island Committee Transport Document.

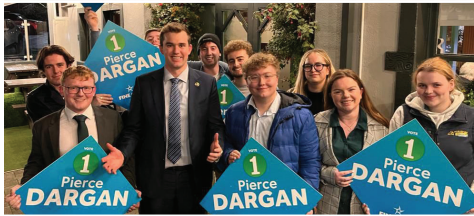
## The Members

I personally want to thank members of Young Fine Gael who campaigned so hard throughout the European, Local, and General elections. Your contributions significantly impacted Fine Gael's success. Whether you canvassed, knocked on doors, handed out leaflets, or went on the leader's tour, you contributed. I truly am amazed by the level of hard work and dedication you have put into this party.

## Information

Over the course of the conference, or at any stage throughout the year. I am always an email or a phone call away. I hope you have a wonderful weekend and a constructive National Conference.

*Phillip*



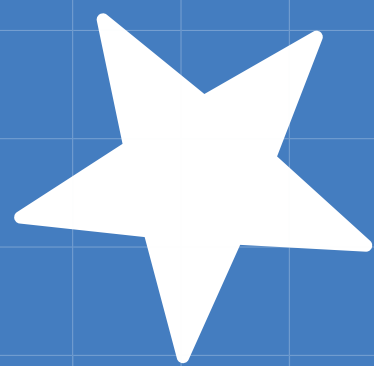
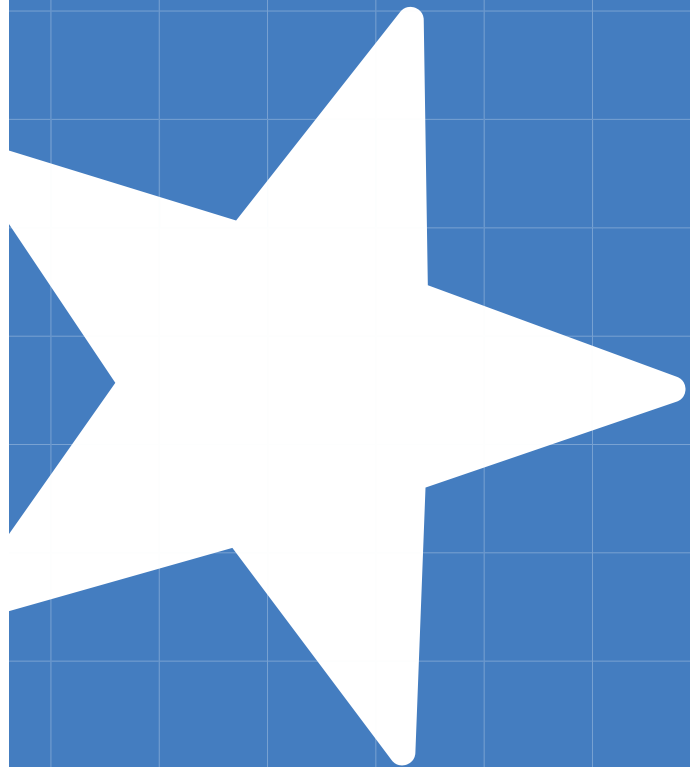












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