

EC8 Srishagon Abraham: Candidate for Executive Committee

Agenda item: 2. Executive Committee Candidates

Introduction

Dear beloveds,

Srishagon here (he/him), and I'm excited to be rerunning for the coming 23-24 EC mandate.

As we head into an exciting and uncertain period next year, we must push ahead united, together, as a movement based on solidarity, inclusivity, diversity, and intersectionality. This has been my mission and vision the past year; and this is a vision we will strive for again if you place your trust in me once more to elect me as your EC member.

As EC member, I will ensure we continue taking the necessary steps to make this Federation a Federation for all Young European Greens, striving for a message of inclusivity and solidarity with People of Colour and oppressed and marginalised communities, with our friends in Ukraine, with our non-EU Member Organisations, with the Global South, and with you, the Young Greens, that make us, us.

In all my efforts, I do this for and with you. A green Europe and world is one we fight for, together. Not me, us.

For you, for us, for FYEG,

Srishagon Abraham



Member Organisation:
DWARS, GroenLinkse
Jongeren (Dutch Young
Greens)

Supporters

Cameron Garrett (Scottish Young Greens); Igor Skórzybót (Ostra Zieleń – Polish Young Greens); Julian Rossmann (Young Greens Southtyrol); Marta Bogustova (Protests); Alyona Sherekhova (Green Youth of Ukraine); Iason Paschalidis-Gerostergiou (Νέοι Πράσινοι - Greek Young Greens); Mylena Ferreira (Joves Ecosocialistes - Catalan Young Greens); Ivana Vojnov (Green Youth of Serbia); Danilo Boskovic (Youth Forum URA); Patrícia W. Marcelino (Ecolojovem- Portuguese Young Greens); Nefertiti Bikin-kita (Swiss Young Greens); Theo Lecarpentier (écolo j); Nijat Guliyev (MIL Network); Benjamin Wold Birmanis (Young Greens of England and Wales); Tommaso Gorini (Giovani Europeisti Verdi); Konsta Lindi (Vihreät nuoret); Ellen De Wit (Jong Groen); Tove Ljungberg Haasum (Grön Ungdom); Mireia Roncero (Juventud Verde)

To: The General Assembly
of the Federation of Young European Greens

Not me, us.

An FYEG for all.

Dear Member Organisations,

I'm excited to be rerunning for the coming 23-24 EC mandate, and I hope to have your support as I continue my push for a more inclusive Federation of Young European Greens.

When I ran last year, I ran on one core promise: solidarity – separated into three spheres in which it is central: within the Federation through the capacity development of our Member Organisations (MOs), within the internal organisation of FYEG through prioritising expanding our work on intersectional inclusion, and external to the Federation through international solidarity. This is a promise I have prioritised throughout my current mandate, and I'm honoured to share some of the things I could do thanks to the trust the MOs placed in me to elect me last year.

Nothing about us, without us: no climate justice without racial justice

Racial justice and inclusivity has been at the very core of my mandate. I founded and currently coordinate the Racial Justice Task Force which finally addressed the recurring issue for participants of marginalised identities at FYEG events: microaggressions. We composed a short and long version of an explainer, and will eventually expand this into a poster and short interactive session outline for the start of events. We also incorporated or made central racial justice into various posts and campaigns ([European Year of Youth Closing Conference](#); Mental Health: [refugees, racism](#); Tax the Rich [launch](#); [March 21st](#); [green narratives](#)). Furthermore, we drafted a radical and comprehensive [statement sharply criticising Europe for its racialised border policy](#), co-signed by our MOs *Giovani Europeisti Verdi*, *Νέοι Πράσινοι* (Neoi Prasinoi), and the Young Greens of England & Wales. We also attended the Equality Workshops of Equinet and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Week of the European Network Against Racism, where we networked with various racial justice civil society organisations (CSOs). We plan to further expand our cooperation with racial justice organisations, and are taking the first step within a mainstream political organisation to adopt a radical approach to decoloniality. Although we did not get to renew the Inclusion Plan this year, this will be our highest priority the coming year.

There is no future for Europe without a free Ukraine by our side

Throughout this mandate, it has been of utmost priority that we act in solidarity with our friends in Ukraine. That remains ever clear. This is not a promise or a campaign slogan, but an essential responsibility for anyone in or who wishes to be in the EC. As we head into EU24 and campaign around a message of system change, we must, as the EC, as FYEG, as Young Greens, acknowledge the systems in place that enabled this Russian imperialist conquest, this genocide of the Ukrainian people, this inaction of the West, and the role and culpability the West had in enabling and perpetuating this. During this mandate, we fought for and got adopted amendments at the 36th European Green Party Council in Copenhagen demanding military support and aid in all its forms for Ukraine, we gave our speaking rights to our friends in *Зелена молодь України* (Green Youth of Ukraine), we are coordinating a campaign on divestment from Russia with Tilt, CDN, and *Екодія* (Ecoaction), and we planned the Common Study Session 2023 with CDN on security. Heading into the next mandate, I intend to keep working with our partners in CDN to realise this Study Session and make it a success.

Mental Health is Political

Much of my mandate focused on mental health justice. I had the honour of coordinating the Mental Health Working Group and its passionate and vocal members. Thanks to them, we launched an intersectional social media campaign on World Mental Health Day that went beyond focusing on ill-health and services, highlighting in particular how systems of housing and work influence mental health and emphasising mental health justice for marginalised peoples – refugees, trans youth, and racialised youth, ending with a final video collaboration with Finnish MEP Alviina Alametsä and Swedish MEP Alice Bah Kuhnke. Alongside the campaign, we drafted a radical resolution on mental health that was adopted at the 36th European Green Party Council in Copenhagen addressing mental health holistically vis-à-vis education, housing, work, healthcare services, and systemic discrimination. We also drafted, with the Prep Team of the Mental Health Lab, the Mental Health Toolkit and joint statement signed by CSOs, and I got to speak with Chloe on the Burning Case Podcast about the oppressive systems that hurt our minds and the work FYEG has been doing!

Capitalism is not broken, it's rigged in favour of the rich

At the same time, economic justice has been a strong part of my mandate. With Antonio, we coordinated and drafted the content for our Tax the Rich campaign, calling out the greed of corporations and the rich, criticising 'work hard' narratives, and calling for a better world socially and ecologically. Besides the campaign, I founded and currently coordinate the Beyond Growth Platform. We have also drafted a radical manifesto with Generation Climate Europe (GCE) on post-growth, which we are using to shape the session we are planning with GCE at the pre-conference activity organised by European Youth Forum and other CSOs prior to the Beyond Growth Conference in May.

Organisational solidarity

During this mandate, my focus on solidarity also rung true within the organs of FYEG. In our online spaces, we standardised all major FYEG-linked Telegram groups, drafted an Online Code of Conduct, and implemented a moderation policy. In the EC, I provided a legal lens as we examined our Statutes and IRPs amendments and in various other discussions; and we implemented various mechanisms for efficiency, professionalism, and organisational best practices, including Action Points and Memos for meetings, a Candidates Policy for promoting candidates, and a Confidentiality Policy to make clear what we can or can't share outside the EC/Office. With our MOs, we coordinated with Cinta our successful Young Greens Decentralised Trainings and are now busy coordinating the 2023 edition with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), we coordinated two fundraising trainings, we urged for more accessible funding support and processes for small youth CSOs from the European Commission at the Stakeholders Meeting and Closing Conference for the European Year of Youth, and we were involved with the Winter Weekend of Jong Groen and écolo j to speak on capacity development, as well as an event of International Foundation GroenLinks on cross-border cooperation with our MO DWARS and partners from CDN, the Lebanese Green Wave, and the Georgian Greens.

FYEG as a respected member of the European Green Party

Lastly, it was important to me that FYEG profiles itself as a qualified, professional, and creditable member party of the Greens. Besides the mental health resolution, we drafted an emergency resolution on solidarity with the White Paper Revolution protesters in China and co-submitted it with six of our partners Miljøpartiet De Grønne, GroenLinks, Groen, Vihreät - De Gröna, the Green Party of England and Wales, and the Scottish Green Party. We also submitted over 50 comprehensive substantive amendments to resolutions on the energy crisis, Ukraine, Myanmar and the Mediterranean, and were a driving force in the compromise discussions for over five resolutions. We led the negotiations and succeeded in pushing our partners to find consensus and to achieve concessions and compromises for several key divisive amendments, gaining a reputation for such by the Amendments Committee.

We're all in this together

Though I could not pursue everything I wished to, I know I put in my all this past mandate to strive for this vision of solidarity and inclusivity. Everything I was able to achieve is all due to the trust you and your MO placed in me at the 2022 Karlsruhe General Assembly. But this journey is far from over. As we head into an exciting and uncertain period next year, now more than ever must solidarity be at the heart of this Federation – solidarity with Ukraine, solidarity with our other CEE and non-EU MOs and partners, solidarity with oppressed and marginalised peoples, communities of colour and the Global South, solidarity with youth, and solidarity together. I can't wait to keep expanding the work I've been doing for an inclusive Federation for all. To do so, I ask once again for you to place your trust in me, and to support my candidacy for the coming 23-24 EC mandate.

For you, for us, for FYEG,



Srishagon Abraham

Not me, us.

A vision of solidarity and inclusivity for all.

**Europe FYEG and the Greens must confront our Whiteness:
a vision with decoloniality at its core.**

As we head into EU24, we have the opportunity to redefine the dominant political narrative of the White European. But we cannot talk about #BrusselsSoWhite before first looking at ourselves. FYEG has a White privilege problem – we must confront it. We must not just focus on diversity, but on making our spaces truly inclusive for young greens of colour and to make racial justice a core principle of FYEG. Organisationally, together with the Office, the Racial Justice Task Force, and you, our MOs, we will be renewing our Inclusion Plan with a focus on the inclusion of racialised persons, and persons of ethnic, cultural, national, and religious minorities. Politically, I want FYEG to make racial justice a core underlying part in the intersectional framework in which we frame our EU24 campaign, and to radically push FYEG to become the first mainstream political organisation to adopt a radical approach to decoloniality. I also intend to keep advancing a postcolonial beyond growth agenda, one that prioritises not just the people but knowledges and understandings from the Global South, as I coordinate the Beyond Growth Platform. Going further, I want to expand our collaboration with other racial justice CSOs, and possibly broaden our cooperation with the European Network Against Racism.

**Solidarity with Ukraine, now and always:
a vision where our Ukrainian friends feel not just heard, but listened to.**

It is undeniable: solidarity with Ukraine must be of utmost priority as we head into EU24. It is vital that we always remember that there is no future for Europe without a free Ukraine by our side. Having drafted and worked on the proposal for the Common Study Session 2023 with CDN, I plan to continue coordinating this on behalf of FYEG with our partners in CDN and to prioritise giving a platform to our MO the Green Youth of Ukraine and our partners in Ukraine in the planning of this Study Session. Realising the smooth success of this Study Session will be a high priority. Alongside that, I plan to keep working with Tilt, CDN, and Ecoaction on the divestment from Russia campaign.

**Social media, our biggest weapon heading into EU24:
a vision on making our loud online presence louder.**

Our social media presence, particularly on Instagram, has been growing steadily. Posts are, compared to previous years, reaching a much larger audience. The median amount of likes of the 114 posts since the start of this mandate as of the time of writing is ~180. Commendably, nine of our most liked posts are all from this mandate, two of which at 1.3k and 1.9k likes. I drafted more than a third (7) of our top 20 posts this year, and drafted or helped draft at least a third (~30-40) of our 114 posts overall. Heading into EU24, social media will be our biggest weapon to vocalise on key issues, mobilise young greens, and realise support for the Greens. I intend to further amplify our Instagram presence and push for stronger, more radical, and inclusive narratives. If possible, I hope to look into expanding our reach on TikTok (as a necessary evil), and creating more 'trendy' and 'viralable' content and memes.

**Ohana means family, and family means no one gets left behind:
a vision embracing our members, EU and non-EU.**

As we increasingly focus on EU24, we must not forget that the FYEG family goes beyond the EU. We especially need to lift up, support, and listen to our CEE and Mediterranean MOs, EU and non-EU. I intend to continue coordinating the Young Greens Decentralised Trainings which will prioritise the CEE region, and to look at other knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives that we could start.

Let us keep striving for a Federation of solidarity, inclusivity, diversity, and intersectionality in all aspects, together.

For you, for us, for FYEG,



Srishagon Abraham



Srishagon Abraham

Date of birth: 21 May 2000

Nationality: Malaysian

CONTACT

srishagon@outlook.com

<https://srishagon.com>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/srishagon/>

<https://www.instagram.com/srishagon/>

<https://wa.me/31682186954> (WhatsApp)

Srishagon (Telegram)

ABOUT ME

A driven law student, I have dedicated my time and passion into various political and social causes from representing Malaysia in UNICEF for child rights, to leading diverse efforts striving for the rights of marginalised groups in society and their inclusion in every association I'm involved in. I now spend my time developing the (Young) Green movement in the Netherlands and Europe.

WORK EXPERIENCE

29 MAY 2022 – CURRENT Brussels, Belgium

Executive Committee Member Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)

1. EC Coordinator of the Mental Health Working Group;
2. Founder and EC Coordinator of the Racial Justice Task Force;
3. Founder and EC Coordinator of the Beyond Growth Platform.

Email srishagon.abraham@fyeg.org | Website <https://fyeg.org>

11 DEC 2021 – CURRENT Haarlem, Netherlands

Vice-Chair and General Board Member, GroenLinks North Holland Chapter GroenLinks

1. Coordinating the local chapters and overall provincial chapter, including the organisational side of our fraction in the States-Provincial;
2. Oversaw the coordination of the campaign, programme and candidates (and the responsible committees) for the 2023 Provincial Elections.

Email vicevoorzitter.groenlinksnoordholland@outlook.com | Website <https://noordholland.groenlinks.nl>

30 JUN 2021 – 31 JUL 2022 Utrecht, Netherlands

International Secretary DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren

1. Responsible for all international affairs and politics of the organisation.
2. Led the representation of DWARS in the Federation of the Young European Greens and Global Young Greens.

Email srishagon@dwars.org | Website <https://dwars.org>

MAY 2018 – AUG 2018 WP Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Legal Firm Intern Pathi & Associates

1. Trained for case research.
2. Translation of legal documentation from Malay to English and vice versa.
3. Secretarial work: Typing legal documents, filling court forms, etc.

Address Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

31 AUG 2019 – CURRENT Amsterdam, Netherlands

LL.B. Rechtsgeleerdheid (Law) Universiteit van Amsterdam

Relevant courses followed: European Law, Fundamental Rights, Legal Research, International Public Law, Legal Philosophy

Minored in: Global Migration, Law and Justice in the European Union, International Development Studies, International Conflict Studies

Erasmus: Università degli Studi Di Firenze, Florence, Italy in International Human Rights Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Social Citizenship

Address Amsterdam, Netherlands | Website <https://www.uva.nl> | Level in EQF EQF level 6 | National classification WO, NLQF-niveau 6 | Type of credits EC | Number of credits 180

LANGUAGE SKILLS

MOTHER TONGUE(S): English | Malay

Other language(s):

Dutch

Listening
C1

Reading
C1

Spoken
production
C1

Spoken
interaction
C1

Writing
C1

DIGITAL SKILLS

MICROSOFT OFFICE

Microsoft Word | Microsoft Powerpoint | Microsoft Excel | Microsoft Publisher | Outlook

GOOGLE SUITE, OTHERS

Google Docs | Google Drive | Canva | WordPress | Miro

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Networks and memberships

AUG 2019 – CURRENT

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren

1. National organisation:

- Programme Committee member**, Nov 2022 - ongoing.
- DWARS International Rep. Team founder and chair**, Jun - Dec 2022, **member**, ongoing.

2. Amsterdam Chapter:

- Board Member of International Affairs**, Jun 2020 - Jun 2021
- International Committee founder and chair**, Sep 2020 - Jun 2021
- Diversity Committee member**, Feb 2020 - Jun 2021

AUG 2019 – CURRENT

Amsterdamse Studentenvereniging Gay (A.S.V.Gay), the LGBTQIA+ Student Association of Amsterdam

- Diversity Working Group founder and chair**, Aug 2020 - Sep 2021; **member**, Dec 2022 - ongoing.
- Statutes Working Group member**, Oct 2022 - ongoing.
- Current Affairs Committee member**, Oct 2019 - Sep 2021.
- Trusted Advisers Committee member**, Oct 2019 - Sep 2021.

AUG 2019 – SEP 2022

ASDV Bonaparte, the Amsterdam Student Debate Association

- Secretary and vice-chair**, 06/2020 - 06/2021
- Amsterdam Open 2020 Organising Committee**: largest international debate tournament in NL.

MAR 2018 – AUG 2019

Taylor's Performing Arts Society (SPART)

- Shorties 6.0 Head of Guest Relations**, 18-20 Oct 2018: Yearly performing arts exhibition.

AUG 2016 – DEC 2018

AFS Intercultural Programmes

- Intercultural Learning facilitator** of AFS orientations for exchange students arriving and leaving Malaysia;
- AFS roadshows 2017 organising committee** for the state of Selangor, Malaysia.

Honours and awards

14 MAY 2021 European Horizons

Amsterdam Policy Prize 2021, Second

25 APR 2017 Cambridge International Education

Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award as a High Achiever in Development Studies

Social and political activities

MAR 2017 – AUG 2017

Taylor's Rotaract Stepping Stones Initiative Project Leader Project to tutor less-fortunate children.

DEC 2016

Society of the Blind in Malaysia (SBM) Inclusive Community Challenge Organising Committee Project to analyse public perceptions towards those who were visually impaired.

SEP 2016 – OCT 2016

Gift of Sight Project Member Project to prepare exam and study material for students who were visually impaired.

Hobbies and interests

Poetry and culture My love for spoken word poetry started in the spoken word scene in Kuala Lumpur in 2018. The openness of the community there is what I try to cultivate in all I do. My love for my Indian and Malaysian culture prominently shapes my efforts on interculturalism and inclusion.

Recommendations

References available on request.

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren
Sint-Jacobsstraat 12
3511 BS Utrecht
The Netherlands

Federation of Young European Greens
34 Rue du Taciturne
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Utrecht, 12 April 2023

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SRISHAGON ABRAHAM. CANDIDATE-BOARD MEMBER

Dear Federation of Young European Greens,

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren fully endorses the candidacy of Srishagon Abraham as member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Young European Greens.

In a short period Srishagon has climbed up from the board of DWARS Amsterdam, to the national board of DWARS, to becoming a member of the Executive Committee of FYEG. Srishagon knows what he wants and is willing to fight for his ideals. Within DWARS, Srishagon has always worked on the accessibility of DWARS for internationals and continues to do so, for example through the DWARS International Representatives' Team. At the moment of writing, a large group of enthusiastic DWARS members is preparing the resolutions for the GA meeting. Whereas this was previously done by a few board members, Srishagon has ensured that as many people are involved with DWARS' international relations. Although there have been some disagreements, he remains active on behalf of DWARS within both DWARS and FYEG.

Srishagon has set up many projects within FYEG during the last year. One includes being the coordinator of the Mental Health Working Group. This was a large project, which was visible through a campaign, the organisation of the Mental Health Lab, leading a panel and finally submitting a resolution to the European Green Party. This undertaking has shown his leadership abilities.

Srishagon is solution-oriented, characterised by his ability to spot a gap and dedicate himself to fill this. Examples include the formation of the DWARS International Representatives' Team, the Racial Justice Task Force within FYEG and his work on mental health.

While Srishagon has achieved lots in the last year, he has not finished his work for FYEG. In the coming year he strives to expand and intensify his work on solidarity, intersectionality and inclusivity. Especially in an election year for the European Parliament, these ideals should be prioritised. We believe Srishagon sees this priority and will do his ultimate best to transfer his ideals through FYEG and towards the European Greens.

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren sees in Srishagon a passionate candidate-board member and we are therefore glad to support his candidacy.

In green solidarity,

The National Board of DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren.