

CS6 Srishagon Abraham

Agenda item: 1. Candidates for Co-Spokesperson

Introduction

My beloved Member Organisations,

Srishagon here (he/him). After months of discussions and deliberations with many of you, I have decided to run for co-spokesperson.

This was not an easy decision to make, but I am motivated by your trust in me and in our shared mission for solidarity, justice, and inclusion. This coming period, I hope to co-lead an Executive Committee that puts racial justice, inclusion, and international solidarity at the heart of this Federation. A Federation where we never forget that the personal is political, where 'our personal visions help lay the groundwork for political action.'

In all my efforts, I do this for and with you. Together we can create spaces for racialised and ethnicised young greens and for all marginalised youth. A green, just, and solidary Europe and world is one we fight for, together. Not me, us.

For you, for us, for FYEG,

Srishagon Abraham

Supporters

Salih Tuna (Genç Yeşiller); Ellen De Wit (Jong Groen); Iason Paschalidis-Gerostergiou (Νέοι Πράσινοι); Louise Jeanne (écolo j (Belgium); Mariia Patrul (Green youth of Ukraine); Axel Grima (Kollettiv Žgħažagħ EkoXellugin)



Member Organisation:
DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren -
Netherlands

The personal is political

My beloved Member Organisations,

It's official. I have decided to run for co-spokesperson of FYEG.

This was not an easy decision to make. I recognise that the past period has not been easy, and my position within FYEG has been complicated. After several months of deliberation and over 40 calls and discussions with many of those dear to me within FYEG and beyond – Member Organisations, active FYEGers, former co-spokespersons, fellow candidates, and friends of FYEG – it is clear to me that my vision is not of one, but of many. It has reinforced my belief that FYEG needs change, and it is this change I want to push for, together.

A politics of difference as a politics of inclusion

When I first became involved in politics in Europe in 2019 upon moving here, I was often harshly reminded that people like me, racialised and ethnicised communities, do not belong, and that European politics was and continues to be a space of exclusion. Even within progressive spaces, claims of inclusion and intersectionality were not backed by practice. We witness this exclusion across marginalised identities and power imbalances, from the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community, to voices of Southern and Eastern Europe and Balkan communities, to voices of the disabled community.

In finding my role in politics, I was often confronted with Audre Lorde's critique that the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. Is my being here complicity in systems of oppression?

I deepened my knowledge of decoloniality, of justice, of inclusion, and confronted my own positionality, where the personal as the political could illuminate all my choices. DWARS and later FYEG quickly became a home, as I saw and believed in its potential to change and to become a community for marginalised peoples. Where these spaces and practices were absent, I sought to disrupt and to confront us with our exclusionary realities – our Whiteness, our Westernness, our Eurocentrism – in order to create them.

For 'community must not mean a shedding of our differences, nor the pathetic pretense that these differences do not exist.' For there is no equality, no inclusion, no true community, without the deepest of commitments to embracing difference. This is only possible if we challenge our spaces, confront our realities, and dismantle and recreate our thinkings and practices into one that centralises the differences of marginalised identities as strengths. Only then can we be inclusive and create a community for all.

A period of reflection: real change?

This process is not easy, and I am not in this alone. However, I had to confront it at its harshest this past year, as the genocide of Palestinians unfolded, facing a reality where racialised and ethnicised peoples are *tolerated* so long as it's within European terms.

I no longer saw European politics as a space where a community including racialised and ethnicised peoples was possible, and was forced to confront an entire shift in my own reality and long-term direction in life.

However, I have also spent a lot of this past period reflecting, learning, and growing, and in that time reflecting on what my involvement in FYEG means and what it should be. There were two stories shared with me that moved me deeply: one on how my criticism of exclusion in Europe and the need for racial justice at the Young Greens Decentralised Trainings inspired someone to write a book on antiracism that sold out; another on how my work on solidarity, justice, and inclusion inspired an MO to believe in change again.

They made me realise the value of my work in bringing forth necessary change, FYEG's potential to still be a home for all, that I get shit done, and that my fight is not over.

They also made me realise our urgent need for creating spaces and dialogues to recognise and understand these different identities, positionalities, and lived experiences in order to embrace them and truly foster community.


The personal is political

I am fighting for a Europe where 'our personal visions help lay the groundwork for political action.' An FYEG where we deeply realise that the personal is political.

I am running for my community and people like me across Europe. I am running for racialised and ethnicised communities everywhere; for young people from the Global South; for Palestinians, Ukrainians, Armenians, Belarusians, Sudanese, Congolese, the Uyghurs, Rohingya, Kurdish and the Roma, and those fighting and disrupting across the globe.

For we cannot build communities where we don't meaningfully include the many. We have more work to be done and I'm not done yet. Let's fight this fight together and work for a politics for all. Let's get shit done. Not me, us.

For you, for us, for FYEG,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Srishagon Abraham

Ours is not the struggle of one day

My dear Member Organisations,

I run for co-spokesperson on **five key priorities** that reflect the many calls and discussions I had over the past months to listen to and understand your concerns and our mission for **solidarity, justice, and inclusion** you elected me upon two years ago:

- 1. The Inclusion Plan: racial justice from words into action.**
- 2. Politics of care: nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan.**
- 3. Politics of solidarity: building an international movement.**
- 4. A truly pan-European Federation: expanding capacity-sharing.**
- 5. Avenues for dialogue: revisiting internal structures.**

I am proud of the work we've done and I've pushed for since 2022. Even despite my difficult position this past period, I am proud to have organised our MO trainings and an amazingly successful Study Session with CDN. In coordinating the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) and Beyond Growth Platform (BGP), we have achieved much this past year, but most importantly, I have seen the importance of creating spaces for dialogue and community.

There's so much more to be done as we strive to become a Federation for all, one that centralises the voices and embraces the differences of youth from marginalised communities. An FYEG where we deeply realise that the personal is political.

The words of John Lewis remind us, racialised and ethnicised youth, LGBTQIA+ youth, disabled youth, youth of the Global South and of Southern and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, youth across marginalised identities and intersections – fellow disruptors, fighters, and changemakers, that change takes time.

'Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year... Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part. And if we believe in the change we seek, then it is easy to commit to doing all we can, because the responsibility is ours alone to build a better society and a more peaceful world.'

These priorities may be ambitious, but we must dream to change, because we care, because we love, because we give a damn. They will not all be achieved in these nine short months, many are an ever ongoing process, so we need an Executive Committee that puts solidarity, justice, and inclusion at the heart of the Federation and ensures their continuance. And I hope you put your trust in me to (co-)lead that push.

The vision summarised

1. The Inclusion Plan: racial justice from words into action

- Effectively implementing the Inclusion Plan.
- Prioritising a racialised perspective.
- Expanding spaces for racialised and ethnicised youth.
- Centralising decoloniality.

2. Politics of care: nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan

- Consulting, as much as possible within our capacities, the most affected communities in issues concerning them.
- Strengthening partnerships with civil society partners and networks.
- Centralising intersectionality.

3. Politics of solidarity: building an international movement

- Furthering political communications and education on global crises.
- Learning from and working closely with CDN.
- Expanding collaborations with non-European partners.

4. A truly pan-European Federation: expanding capacity-sharing

- Centralising Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans in our politics.
- Facilitating the involvement of underrepresented Member Organisations in our capacity-sharing initiatives.
- Expanding (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives.

5. Avenues for dialogue: revisiting internal structures

- Exploring avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration with MOs.
- Co-leading spaces for dialogue within the EC.
- Identifying areas of improvement in internal communications between FYEG bodies.

Until the General Assembly, I am readily available for a call or a chat if you have any questions or concerns! Send me a message via [Telegram](#), [Instagram](#), or [email](#) whenever necessary. I look forward to meeting all of you in person soon, and to continuing this mission for **solidarity, justice, and inclusion**. Where we never forget that the personal is political.

For you, for us, for FYEG,



Srishagon Abraham

1. The Inclusion Plan

Racial justice from words into action

- Effectively implementing the Inclusion Plan.**
- Prioritising a racialised perspective.**
- Expanding spaces for racialised and ethnicised youth.**
- Centralising decoloniality.**

As potentially the first non-European racialised and migrantised co-spokesperson, I continue to experience firsthand how exclusionary Europe and European politics are. It has been my highest priority since first being elected to disrupt and confront ourselves with our exclusionary realities – our Whiteness, our Westernness, our Eurocentrism – in order to create spaces and practices for racialised and ethnicised youth. Youth like us deserve to have our voices heard, building our own seat at the table if we have to.

Racialised and ethnicised youth must be able to look at this Federation and find a home. A space where we all actively do our part for inclusion.

Over the past year the RJTF did not just create a strong community and brave space for racialised and ethnicised youth to find support given the challenging times, but we worked hard on an Inclusion Plan to comprehensively address the steps necessary towards a Federation with racial justice at its heart.

As coordinator of the RJTF and someone deeply involved in the drafting process this past year, I am strongly familiar with the plan. Drawing from this familiarity and my own lived experiences, I will prioritise the effective implementation of the Plan this coming period.

Politically, drawing from my academic and personal expertise, I want to further develop our political education and action on decoloniality, continuing where we left off in our first decoloniality resolution.

2. Politics of care

Nothing about us without us as an ethos, not a slogan.

- ❑ **Consulting, as much as possible within our capacities, the most affected communities in issues concerning them.**
- ❑ **Strengthening partnerships with civil society partners and networks.**
- ❑ **Centralising intersectionality.**

As we move towards a post-EU elections landscape with redefined capacities, we must, within the best of our capacities, centralise a politics of care. One that isn't just reactive, but proactive and inclusive of the communities most affected by the issues we work on.

This means, for example, including migrants when working on migration, racialised communities when working on racial justice issues, and Eastern Europe when working on Eastern European concerns. This starts from within our broad FYEG family: through the Member Organisations, CDN, the RJTF and BGP, and the Green Base.

We must further actively work towards discussions, planning, and decision-making with intersectionality at its core.

FYEG can further greatly benefit from the expertise of our civil society partners and their already-established networks. The RJTF discussed with the European Network Against Racism possible strategic areas of (long-term) collaboration, and the BGP proposes our involvement in and membership of the International Degrowth Network this coming term. Such partnerships must be explored and pursued further to connect us directly with affected communities in the politics we're doing.

3. Politics of solidarity

Building an international movement.

- Furthering political communications and education on global crises.**
- Learning from and working closely with CDN.**
- Expanding collaborations with non-European partners.**

With the adoption of the resolutions on Palestine, Ukraine, European imperialism, and degrowth, FYEG will have a strong, (re)invigorated mandate to tackle the global crises we face and European complicity in them.

We must therefore keep being vocal and proactive on Palestine and Ukraine, strengthening these efforts as much as we can in light of the ongoing genocides that wages on. We must stand steadfast with the people of Palestine and Ukraine and be loud defenders of international law.

Alongside this, we must realise that European politics impacts the world. FYEG can play a crucial role in educating a young demographic on the crises occurring across the world, and Europe's complicity in them. We need a strong and proactive approach towards political education on, for example, the genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh, the civil war in Sudan, the conflict in Congo and Western Sahara, and Europe's role in them.

We also must strengthen our international cooperation, learning from CDN as a key example. Drawing from the seminars CDN has organised with international partners like the Global Young Greens and Taiwanese Young Greens, and the guests they had of young greens from Africa and Latin America, we too must follow in these footsteps. Through collaborations with such partners, we can learn from and share learnings with them, bring their lived experiences and expertise into our Federation, and build a truly solidary international movement.

4. A truly pan-European Federation

Expanding capacity-sharing

- ❑ **Centralising Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans in our politics.**
- ❑ **Facilitating the involvement of underrepresented Member Organisations in our capacity-sharing initiatives.**
- ❑ **Expanding (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives.**

As co-spokesperson, it is crucial to me that *all* Member Organisations are equitably represented and their concerns heard, not just the most-established ones. Many of our Member Organisations, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans, have expressed a sense of being neglected or unheard. We must double our efforts to change this.

This includes our political focus, as outlined above, increasing efforts to raise awareness within this Federation and beyond of the issues faced by Member Organisations in underrepresented regions like Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cyprus, Georgia, and Ukraine.

This also includes capacity- and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Our underrepresented Member Organisations are faced with limited capacities, and can benefit most from such support and sharing initiatives from FYEG. I had the opportunity of helping coordinate our first two MO Trainings, and I am familiar with the issues these trainings faced and my own failures to implement long-term support and follow-up. The Inclusion Plan further includes FYEG-MO and MO-MO knowledge-sharing and support facilitation. Such initiatives and improvements to our trainings must be pursued, with the aim of including underrepresented Member Organisations as much as possible.

Where possible, we should also direct capacities towards organising or setting up for future organisation of (informal) knowledge-sharing and resource-compiling initiatives, such as the online seminars CDN organises and the events of the Green Base, with a focus on organisational support as well.

5. Avenues of dialogue

Revisiting internal structures

- Exploring avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration with MOs.**
- Co-leading spaces for dialogue within the EC.**
- Identifying areas of improvement in internal communications between FYEG bodies.**

In the many calls and discussions I have had with Member Organisations, it is clear that many, particularly those in Central and Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans, have expressed a sense of being neglected or unheard. Currently, our only major point of input for Member Organisations is once a year at the General Assembly. Consequently, past General Assemblies have been highly tense and mentally-draining. At the same time, we must be aware of the limited capacities of Member Organisations throughout the year for various reasons, and the constantly evolving and changing political priorities of our Member Organisations.

As such, we need to explore ways to effectively communicate to and engage with Member Organisations on political and organisational issues that may be of concern to them. We should explore avenues of dialogue, input-sharing, and collaboration within our capacities – whether one-on-one or in facilitated spaces, and where necessary revisiting the regional calls. Connected to this, Member Organisations need to be able to provide input, have a say, and even criticise the Executive Committee where necessary to facilitate reflection of our work, and to do so they need to be effectively informed of our work.

Within the Executive Committee, the co-spokespersons play a crucial role in working together to foster a space for dialogue. If faced with a similar conflict situation over the coming term, based on the reflections and learnings from the past period individually and as an organisation, I hope to work closely with my fellow co-spokespersons to facilitate a space where we first establish and acknowledge our different positionalities and lived experiences before engaging in sensitive discussions.

The Executive Committee should also (continue to) ensure smooth communication structures between itself and the other bodies of the Federation. As co-spokesperson, I want to devote effort towards identifying areas of improvement in internal communications, not just with Member Organisations, but with the Office, Working Groups, and other FYEG bodies.



Srishagon Abraham

Date of birth: 21 May 2000 | **Nationality:** Malaysian | **Email address:** srishagon@outlook.com |

Website: <https://srishagon.com> | **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/srishagon/> |

Telegram: @srishagon

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 and their inclusion in every association I am 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)

Founder and coordinator of the Racial Justice Task Force and Beyond Growth Platform.

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

11 DEC 2021 – 25 NOV 2023 Haarlem, Netherlands

VICE-CHAIR AND GENERAL BOARD MEMBER, GROENLINKS NORTH HOLLAND CHAPTER GROENLINKS

As a board, responsible for the coordination of the local chapters and overall provincial chapter, including the organisational side of our fraction in the States-Provincial. Our board also oversaw the coordination of the campaign, programme and candidates (and the responsible committees) for the 2023 Provincial Elections.

Website <https://noordholland.groenlinks.nl>

30 JUN 2021 – 31 JUL 2022 Utrecht, Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY DWARS, GROENLINKSE JONGEREN

Responsible for all international affairs and politics of the organisation, and led the representation of DWARS in the Federation of the Young European Greens and Global Young Greens.

Website <https://dwars.org>

MAY 2018 – AUG 2018 WP Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

LEGAL FIRM INTERN PATHI & ASSOCIATES

Trained in legal research, secretarial work, and translation of legal documents between Malay and English.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

25 SEP 2023 – 31 AUG 2024 Portugal

LL.M. LAW IN A EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL CONTEXT Católica Global School of Law

Minored in: EU Law and Integration, Comparative Law, Global Governance and Sustainable Development, Human Rights

31 AUG 2019 – 31 AUG 2024 Netherlands

LL.B. RECHTSGELEERDHEID (LAW) Universiteit van Amsterdam

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

Thesis Colonialism in International Law and the Need for Resistance and Pluriversal Legal Imaginaries: The colonial and imperial roots embedded in the structures of contemporary international law, and the seeds for change in TWAIL

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **ENGLISH** | **MALAY**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
DUTCH	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office

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

Google Suite and others

Google Docs | Google Drive | Gmail | WordPress

● NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

AUG 2019 – CURRENT

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

- Diversity Working Group founder and chair**, 08/2020 - 09/2021; **member**, 12/2022 - 12/2023.
- Statutes Working Group member**, 10/2022 - 12/2023.
- Current Affairs Committee secretary**, 10/2019 - 09/2020; **member**, 10/2020 - 09/2021

AUG 2019 – CURRENT

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren

- Programme Committee member**, 11/2022 - 02/2024.
- DWARS International Representatives Team founder and chair**, 06/2022 - 12/2022, **member**, 12/2022 - ongoing.

AUG 2016 – DEC 2018

AFS Intercultural Programmes

Intercultural Learning facilitator of AFS orientations for exchange students arriving and leaving Malaysia.

● HONOURS AND AWARDS

14 MAY 2021

Amsterdam Policy Prize 2021, Second – European Horizons

25 APR 2017

Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award as a High Achiever in Development Studies – Cambridge International Education

8 NOV 2016

UNICEF Third Asia Pacific High Level Meeting On Child Rights (HLM3) Youth Innovation Challenge, Finalist – UNICEF

● 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, 22 July 2024

Letter of support for Srishagon Abraham, Candidate Co-spokesperson

Dear Federation of Young European Greens,

DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren fully endorses the candidacy of Srishagon Abraham as Co-Spokesperson 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 during his national board year at DWARS. During that year he was responsible for international cooperation and accessibility of the organization. Through the DWARS International Representatives' Team, he ensured that many people are involved with DWARS' international relations. Furthermore, with his work on the program committee (a committee that writes amendments for the political program of DWARS) he ensured that DWARS has more detailed standpoints on decolonisation, inclusion, anti-racism and climate justice.

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 and Beyond Growth Platform within FYEG and his work on mental health.

Srishagon is running for co-spokesperson as he believes he is not finished with his work for FYEG. Last year was a complicated year, where he made the difficult decision to take a step back from the EC, while still fulfilling his role as EC member. He made this difficult decision since he believes the Federation should take a more active stance regarding Palestine. As DWARS we supported and continue to support his stance regarding Palestine.

In his upcoming term Srishagon wants to continue his belief in Politics of Care, where it is not politics from us to them, but with them for them. Srishagon sees the importance of having solidarity, always. All of this solidifies for us why Srishagon would be a great candidate as Co-spokesperson. As we need a co-spokesperson that promotes and prioritizes inclusion on all fronts.

Therefore, DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren sees in Srishagon a passionate co-spokesperson and we are glad to support his candidacy.

In green solidarity,

Soesha Sandker

International Secretary of DWARS, GroenLinkse Jongeren