



Hackney Youth Parliament

Elections 2018

Candidate Manifesto Booklet



Your Hackney, Your Future, Your Right
Feel the change, Make it happen

Foreword by Councillor Anntoinette Bramble



Welcome to the candidate booklet for the **Hackney Youth Parliament elections 2018**.

The Youth Parliament elections are your chance to influence how we do things here in Hackney.

The people who get your vote will represent young people and feedback your opinions, concerns

and ideas on a local, national and even global level.

This isn't about just a name or a title; the current Youth Parliament has made a valuable contribution to life in Hackney.

They've been involved in shaping the delivery of mental health services for young people in the borough, and also worked with the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board to create a campaign to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation, producing a film which was shared on social media and through the Young Hackney website.

They also took part in the national UK Youth Parliament #Makeyourmark campaign to help young people get prepared for life, taking part in a youth led debate in the Houses of Parliament on subjects voted by over 968,000 other young people across the UK.

As a council, we know that involving young people in decision-making brings a perspective that benefits all of our residents, but it's not an easy task; they are required to give up some of their free time to work on these issues and they work hard to make a real difference.

Whether it's meeting with councillors, talking to you, their constituents, or taking part in debates and feeding back ideas to council officers – it's a real commitment.

For those candidates who have put themselves up for election this year, the hard work has already begun and I know that a lot of time and energy went into writing the manifestos in this booklet.

Once elected, your Members of Hackney Youth Parliament will be trained so they have the skills, knowledge and confidence to carry out their responsibilities, so I'd encourage you to get in touch with your local members, tell them what you think or any concerns you might have.

Of course it's not too late to get involved yourself; if you want to help shape the future of Hackney, visit www.younghackney.org to find out about the opportunities available for all young people who live, work or go to school in our exciting borough.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all the candidates well in the upcoming elections!

Councillor Anntoinette Bramble
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services



HYP Elections 2018 - 2020 General Info FAQs

Your vote for young people in Hackney

If you are aged 11–19 (or up to 25 if you consider yourself disabled) and live, work, study or attend a youth club in the borough you can vote in the Hackney Youth Parliament elections. Voting takes place in schools, colleges and youth clubs between the 26th September to the 16th October 2018. By voting, you can make a difference to the lives of young people in Hackney.

Frequently asked questions

What is the Hackney Youth Parliament (HYP)?

HYP aims to represent the views of young people in Hackney to decision-makers in the council and in public services such as the Police, health services and housing providers.

Who decides who will be part of the HYP?

You do! By voting in this election you will make sure that young people's views are heard in Hackney.

There will be 16 young people elected members of Youth Parliament, as well as four co-opted members from the Children in Care Council, Young Carers' and the Disabled Young People's Forum. This means the Parliament represents all young people in Hackney.

How can I vote?

Voting by ballot will take place at secondary schools, colleges and youth clubs between the **26th September to the 16th October 2018**. You can vote for up to 5 candidates.

If you do not attend school in Hackney but wish to vote, you can vote at your local youth club or youth forum.

How can I find out more?

If you would like more information call anyone on the Elections team:

akina.okoye@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 7431
yasser.hussain@hackney.gov.uk 020 8356 6236

How will results be announced?

The results of the election will be announced on **19th October** at a special event at Hackney Town Hall, please feel free to come along.



Candidate Manifestos



Abdullahi
Yussuf

Age: 18

Three Priorities:

1. Raising awareness of young people with disabilities

2. Empowering and motivating young people

3. Increase youth opportunities



I have Cerebral Palsy and even with this disability, I am planning to go to SOAS University in September to study Social Anthropology.

Hackney is a place close to my heart. I want to join Hackney Youth Parliament because I am passionate about empowering and motivating people, joining the Youth Parliament will allow me to do this.

Moreover, I want to go into a career of motivational speaking and having this Youth Parliament experience is a great first step of me achieving my dreams.

I would make an ideal member of the Youth Parliament because I am determined to help make Hackney a better place for young people.

I am a unique, strong-willed and an ambitious individual. I am ready to take on a new challenge, I have always had a natural flair for inspiring people; to be able to be my authentic self and educate others through joining Hackney Youth Parliament, will be both a delight and a dream come true for me.

The three qualities that has been mentioned earlier, has led to me experiencing different successes in my life; for instance, in 2015 I participated in a competition called 'Tower Hamlets public speak out challenge.

From here I moved on to participate in a film called 'Cerebral People' with teenagers with cerebral palsy,

a well-known teenagers' film where I developed my dream of motivational speaking further. I took part in the National Citizen Service Programme in summer 2017 for 4 weeks where I was in a team with different people from Tower Hamlets.

I was able to develop my communication skills even further because an organisation called Speaking Trust gave a lecture on what to do before, during and after giving a speech.

After a couple of hours writing and practising my speech, I presented the speech to my team and the 'Tower Hamlets' wave on the NCS programme.

My speech was on 'Youth Opportunities' - how youth should be given more opportunities.

So having these three amazing experiences with me means that this is a chance for me to show young people and myself that I am capable of helping people voice their opinions.

Additionally, having these three experiences implies that I can bring a lot to the parliament.

I can't begin to describe how exciting this is for me to have the opportunity to join Hackney Youth Parliament.

I am curious, open-minded, strong-willed, free-spirited and most of all hardworking and determined to succeed in helping young people - I will give my all to see that this happens."



**Akram
Haque**

Age: **15**

Three Priorities:

1. Gangs and youth violence

2. Increased work experience opportunities

3. Mental Health



My connection with the borough of Hackney is rather strong as I have lived here my entire life while also attending school here.

I am running for Hackney Youth Parliament because I am certain that I possess the necessary attributes and traits to carry out this role successfully and to an optimum standard.

I'm passionate for any cause and have a tenacious attitude which is most likely what gives me the drive and motivation to pursue any challenges I face.

However, most importantly I consider myself as diligent which enhances my devotion to the community as it is a major part of this role.

Previously in primary school I was part of the student parliament which gave me some experience and a look in as to what being an MP would consist of.

Additionally, in secondary school I have taken part in many debating schemes which have aided my confidence and my public speaking skills and I could use this opportunity (being part of the youth parliament) as an outlet to express my feelings towards certain situations within the borough of Hackney and how to improve etc.

One topic which I may want to discuss would be how we can make society a less threatening environment for civilians as in recent months the debate about youth violence has increased.

This may potentially affect people psychologically and so as a team we can come up with strategies to help reduce the fear within society.

This can be done by moving young people away from crime depending if they are exposed to those environments and focus them on more engaging and productive activities which may be held by young Hackney.

Now I know that this example would be harder for the youth parliament to have a large influence. However, small improvements can be made all round in order to refine the bigger picture.

Another issue which affects the youth is that many do not really have much of an idea of what they want to pursue once they finish secondary education.

My aim would be to guide them as to what they could do and what they feel comfortable doing.

This can be achieved through workshops in which they experience different career paths and which would suit them most.

I feel like I should get your vote because although I'm young, I think my ideas can really help the community and the youth. "



**Aleigha
Reeves**

Age: 16

Three Priorities:

1. Education

**2. Increased
youth provision**

**3. Job opportunities
and work experience**



I am running as candidate for Hackney Youth Parliament as it is in my greatest interests to participate more within my community and believe that becoming a member of the youth parliament is a great step in achieving this.

If elected I will campaign about youth development. Youth development is an important issue to me as it is this process that prepares young people to meet the challenges of adulthood and achieve their full potential.

It is important that schools, charities and local councils offer more schemes to help young people develop their skills through their particular interests such as music and sports in order to target smaller groups of people who may not have thought about participating in these types of programmes before.

Similarly, I would like to get more local businesses to integrate more with schools and offer a range of workshops, work experience and even job opportunities for young people to prepare them for later life.

Furthermore, to help emphasise the necessity for youth development, changes need to be made to the education system.

I believe that subjects such as citizenship and life skills should be made compulsory in schools so young people are able to develop a practical understanding of what it means to be a citizen today whilst acquiring the knowledge and skills to think critically and play a positive role in public life.

If young people are able to understand society and the way in which it works they may feel more confident to vote in the future helping to remove the widespread apathy amongst some young people.

I hope to achieve these aims by gaining public support, gathering information to show how youth development programmes benefit young people and taking direct action to put pressure on local authorities to introduce more youth development programmes inside and outside of schools. Please consider voting for me. “



Ali

Qasimi

Age: 16

Three Priorities:

1. Equality and Diversity

2. Voice of young people

3. Improve outcomes for young people in the care system



I am originally from Afghanistan. It's been 2 years since I began living in London.

I have lived in the boroughs of Bexley, Barnet and Hackney all with in the fostering system. I have faced many challenges throughout my journey and also since arriving in London.

I am currently a member of Hackney Youth Care Council, which is an important outlet for me to express my opinion of experiences living in care. It is also important for me to know that I am able to help other looked after children to be heard.

I have enjoyed living in Hackney because of its multicultural community, which is a uniquely positive quality when compared to the other places that I have both lived and travelled through.

I would like to share my experiences and further develop my skills by contributing my voice to the Hackney Youth Parliament.

If I am elected to be a member of HYP, I will apply my broad experience in representing the diverse youth of Hackney and ensuring their voice is being heard. I believe I can bring some positive changes in the community because I am a citizen of the world and London is a global city. “



Berenice
Vigo

Age: 13

Three Priorities:

1. Raising awareness of LGBTQ issues

2. The environment

3. Housing



I have been living in Hackney for the past 11 years and I am proud to call this borough my home.

I want to be elected into Hackney Youth Parliament because it will enable me to give power to the powerless and be a voice for the voiceless.

I am a very sociable person and I enjoy being among people from different backgrounds. Therefore if I was elected into Hackney Youth Parliament I will ensure that I voice the diverse views of the people who live in the area.

If I was elected into Hackney Youth Parliament there would be two things that I would work on. I would like to raise awareness for the LGBTQ+ community and encourage people to be more environmentally friendly.

Over the past 100 years society has become more inclusive. Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities now live amongst white people. Women have gained the right to vote and work. However, despite this progression there is not enough awareness about the LGBTQ+ community in society today.

Thus, if I was elected into Hackney Youth Parliament I will push schools to teach students more about the LGBTQ+, what different terminology means and I will also challenge the dress codes in school so that the transgender community can feel included in society.

I believe that raising awareness for the LGBTQ+ community is very important as it helps to maintain acceptance and tolerance in society today.

I believe that the beliefs that young people learn in school today we stick with them forever.

I want to see a world where young people feel accepted, acknowledged and loved regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, ethnic background or religion.

Therefore raising awareness for the LGBTQ+ community in schools will help me to shape a world that I desperately desire to see.

Imagine if you lived in a world where you frequently caused the death of something. That would be crazy right? Well this is what you are currently doing in our world. Millions of sea animals are dying and we are the cause of their death because some people refuse to recycle.

By not reducing, reusing, and recycling, we are destroying our natural habitats. As it is, our earth cannot cope with the current rate of destruction.

Landfills are taking up space that could be used to create sustainable homes that could reduce the housing shortage in Hackney.

Therefore, if I was elected into Hackney Youth Parliament I would encourage young people to make decisions that would benefit the environment such as using reusable bottles and recycling.

A vote for me would be a vote for a more tolerant and greener Hackney.”



**Bevereley
Tetteh**

Age: 18

Three Priorities:

1. Equality and Diversity

2. Mental Health

3. Challenging negative stereotypes of young people in Hackney



Change, defined by our dear good friend, Google, is an act or process through which something becomes different.

How can something become different, if all we do is follow the same rules and procedures?

How can we ask for change when we, ourselves, are unable to be altered?

I will not persuade you to believe in false, pointless statements but rather allow you to delve deep into my vision of change for OUR Hackney.

I can put to play all the persuasion techniques I've learnt in GCSE English and show you all the aimless promises I can make within a blink of an eye or I can present practical applications for change through strategic teamwork, time and dedication as a member of the Hackney Youth Parliament.

Going forward, I wish to address different issues that are facing the youth of Hackney as well as other members within the community.

I wish to bridge an understanding between all different individuals from diverse backgrounds and enable a

sense of acceptance and restoration of Hackney's unique identity.

Furthermore, I'd wish to eliminate the negative stigma attached to Hackney's youth and aspire to not only be a voice for young people but a safe haven onto which their trust lies.

I also aspire to recognise the serious yet hidden difficulties that many of today's youth face including mental health, poverty and bullying.

Once we recognise these issues, we can work collectively to solve them and liaise to create accessible institutions accordingly. So, like an objective, scientific experiment, I do not just state claims for the fun of it, but I have actual evidence to back myself up.

As an active member of another youth organisation, the Legacy Youth Voice, I have been able to let my voice be heard, over and over.

I do not stop at a 'promise on paper' but will always make sure that plans and proposals are fully exercised for the benefit of all – mostly young people.

Allow me to stand for change – allow US to stand for **RECOGNITION!**"



**Blessing
Udeme**

Age: 14

Three Priorities:

1. Challenging stereotypes

2. The voice of young people

3. “Curriculum for life”



I have lived in Hackney my whole life and have attended schools in the local area.

I am running for the Youth Parliament as I want to challenge the negative stereotypes of young people in Hackney.

We are sometimes seen as lazy and threatening to adults. Hackney at times gets bad press coverage about gang violence and this creates a negative image about us all.

I want to show that most young people in Hackney are hardworking and want to achieve in life. I want to ensure that young people have a voice in the borough and they receive the opportunities they deserve.

I would look to increase the amount of work experience that is open to young people so that they gain practical skills which I believe are not always available in school.

I would also encourage school to offer a “curriculum for life” as subjects currently don’t prepare us for adulthood.

I am very passionate about giving young people a voice and given the opportunity by you I would promote a positive image of all young people in our borough.”



Clive

Kandza

Age: 17

Three Priorities:

1. Increase awareness of SEND issues

2. Mental Health

3. Peer mentoring



I was born and raised in Hackney and I want to make a difference.

I want to help reduce teen depression and teen knife crime.

I want to improve teenage wellbeing through a peer mentor programme to be made available in schools and colleges.

I feel it is important for me to represent young people with additional needs.

Let's make Hackney safe together!"



**Eesa
Sayed**

Age: 13

Three Priorities:

1. Gentrification

2. Improved street lighting

3. Equality and Diversity



I have lived in Hackney for all of my life (13 years).

Having been in the HYP since the end of last year I have realised that here your opinion can be voiced.

I am trying to become elected to make an impact. I believe this is a great chance for me to help young people prepare for the future. This is due to the fact of the future being 100 % ours.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that young people’s opinion is the most impactful because it will be them representing Hackney.

Voting for me will ensure your beliefs being discussed and brought up in meetings. My passion of being involved in this election has been stimulated by the spreading problems in Hackney.

Previously, I have been in a community centre, played for school sports teams and play for a team out of school which provides evidence of commitment. If elected, I would strive to keep our loved, amazing and diverse community together by creating a border for the city.

With the city expanding rapidly and more businesses created, the city will surely drive itself into Hackney if no one stands up and puts an end to this pricing the locals out of their community.

If nobody will vote then how can the issues be resolved? The most important thing to achieve our goal is to stay together.

If, in unity, we can come together and hold events to broaden the governments views success will be granted.

I believe that I am fit for this role as I am brazen in expressing my beliefs.

Voting for me is no strenuous task; it surely is not a mistake. Voting for me will benefit none other than yourselves.

Another issue in Hackney which needs to be addressed is the poor lighting in Hackney. By this I mean that the amount of streetlamps is not widely spread out across the borough. This problem is affecting all ages. The issue is significant because nobody deserves to be apprehensive about a journey.

Gangs are responsible for this fear. If police forces increase as well as streetlamps I am adamant this problem will be defeated.

A vote for me will help everyone. A vote will make a change. Your vote is a gift. You have the power to choose your official.

Vote for me because I will make the right changes. Vote for me if you want a brighter future full of joy. I believe that if given the opportunity, I can help better Hackney.

We can better Hackney.

Vote for me because I am you: a young person. Only together, changes will be made and issues addressed.”



**Evelyn
Dumbleton**

Age: **15**

Three Priorities:

1. Mental Health

**2. Education
“Curriculum for life”**

**3. Help address
obesity amongst
younger children**



You deserve to be heard.

Teenagers are often ignored and their views are not represented in community decisions; however, as the younger generation, we are the voice of future and deserve the opportunity to help initiate positive change.

I want to listen to the young people of Hackney and represent their opinions in the Hackney Youth Parliament.

I would like to do this by addressing some of the stigmas effecting the youth of Hackney.

I want to help to make our borough an even more inclusive place to live.

There are lots of pressures on young people today and I believe we need more awareness on how to deal with these struggles so that they don't affect our life negatively.

As someone who is a youth athlete I would highlight how the life skills gained from physical activity can help cope with stress and reduce childhood obesity, something I would like to help change.

My dedication to sport means that I am hardworking, disciplined and determined - all of which are transferable skills and could be used in HYP.

I believe that Hackney has many great opportunities however they are not publicised enough.

I want to make sure everyone knows what is happening in Hackney and how they can get involved, through school, youth clubs and Hackney youth parliament.

However, I believe there is a lack of opportunities to learn about the 'real world' during secondary school.

We are taught about circle theorems and trigonometry but know nothing about how to pay taxes.

I believe that there needs to be more engaging opportunities for teenagers to learn about necessary life skills during our time at secondary school.”



**Mateenah
Adeleke**

Age: 14

Three Priorities:

1. Cuts to local authority budgets (austerity)

2. Lack of employment opportunities for young people

3. Improvements to streets and homes in the borough



I have lived in Hackney and gone to school in Hackney for quite a while meaning that I am accustomed to the way of life in this borough.

I am running for the position of a member of the Hackney Youth Parliament.

I decided to run for this position because I believe it is essential for me to voice my opinions on the conditions in Hackney at present which we; the leaders of tomorrow must live through.

Previously I was involved in a research activity in which we collected people's opinions of what needed to be changed in Hackney, this was turned into a report which we launched in the town hall. I am confident and approachable meaning I would be able to express my views without holding back.

If I was elected I would hope to raise awareness on budget cutting in schools which disable schoolkids from accessing the necessary pleasures of the education system.

For example trips, school meals etc , lack of employment for adolescents that disallow them from finding jobs at young ages of 16,18 or even after graduating, mental health problems as there are a lot of teenagers suffering in silence with no reliable person to turn to, lack of safe places to go in the borough and other pressing concerns.

Apart from raising awareness on these matters, I would also put pressure on the council to improve the conditions in schools, homes, the street and the borough as a whole.

Vote for me today, vote for a better tomorrow."



**Jodine
Clarke**

Age: **17**

Three Priorities:

1. Tackling Poverty

2. The use of stop and search by the police

3. Gentrification



Have you been given the opportunity to change your life for the better?

I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to go to Gambia through Duke of Edinburgh (DofE).

This is where I helped those who are less fortunate than me, though providing them with bikes to get to school on time and efficiently.

My trip to Gambia meant I witnessed some of the worst poverty you could imagine and it has pushed me to want to help those suffering from poverty and mistreatment.

Although such experiences have positively impacted my life, it's important to acknowledge that a lot of young people in Hackney haven't been exposed to these types of opportunities.

I am running for Hackney Youth Parliament because I am passionate about helping young men and women who have been caught up by their past, focusing on those who have been affected by Stop and Search and simple arrest charges.

Also, as someone who has been born and educated in Hackney, I believe as a young person myself it's important not to be pushed out by the gentrification we face today.

It is crucial, more now than ever, that we pull together as a community to support all those affected by the recent tragic events in Hackney.

If elected I want to give everyone a chance to be the best person they can be despite some wrong decisions.

A vote for me is a chance to give someone an opportunity who has been burdened by their past a chance to have a fair shot at life and all the opportunities it has to offer."

Jubreel

Ali-Arowosekila

Age: 12

Three Priorities:

1. Gangs and youth violence

2. Increased work experience

3. Housing



I've lived and attended school in Hackney my whole life and I've seen the changes to Hackney which I feel have been positive but there is still room for improvement.

The skills that I possess are good communication, self-motivation, leadership and listening skills.

I believe I am an intelligent young man and that young people today have so much untapped potential.

I am also good at English, I act with integrity and I've always been honest and I feel that this is something missing from politics.

Vision:

The changes I would want for Hackney are to greatly reduce all the violence and gangs that have been covering the area.

I feel strongly about equal opportunities and although there are a lot of opportunities for young people in Hackney there are still barriers facing young people being able to access these.

The key priorities of the Hackney Mayor are for the Council to double the number of council homes built from 2018, for Hackney to become the first borough in London to build 500 Living Rent homes, along with improvements to employment, skills and education.

A big thing for the Mayor is supporting schools.

Ensuring that young people are helped into careers and that all residents, whatever their age have the skills and support they need in order to get into employment, return to work or start a business."



**Kofi
Atase**

Age: **12**

Three Priorities:

1. Raise awareness of LGBTQ issues

2. Rubbish and Litter

3. Positive outcomes for single parent households



I have lived in Hackney my whole life, 12 years and I love it. I go to a school called Bridge Academy.

I am running for Hackney Youth Parliament because I believe that young people, who are one of the biggest demographics in Hackney, are quite underrepresented and don't normally get a chance to express their emotions. Changes in life affect them too.

Obviously when I heard about Hackney Youth Parliament I jumped at the chance to make a change in the community.

It is my duty and my right to make sure we all aid in making Hackney a better place for our young people.

We all want to grow up in a healthy environment. I have frequently been involved in volunteering projects and similar opportunities which were mostly presented to me by my mother because she also works in a related field.

Some of my most notable work would be my cooperation with Hackney Community Voluntary Services postal service for over two hours. I also had my own segment at Hackney's literature festival (Hackney lit fest).

If I am elected for H.Y.P, the subject I would first tackle would be to clear the rubbish and litter from

Hackney's streets. In some areas the foul odour is so repulsive that it's almost uninhabitable. My main priority is for people to live in a safe environment and I believe we can start going along that path if you elect me to Hackney Youth Parliament.

The second issue I would like to address is about homosexuality.

I have known, and still know friends who have been too scared to talk to counsellors or even their parents about their sexual orientation; which upsets me because I am the least qualified person to talk to about such a sensitive matter.

My point is I believe that similar to ChildLine there should be gatherings where people can talk about matters that have been stressing them and start to realise that they are not alone.

Another concern that I and other young people face today is single-parent households.

I would like to improve the outcomes for young people who grow up in single parent households.

I know there are some children that thrive in single parent households but I believe this is not generally the case.

I hope you understand what I am trying to achieve and would be very grateful if you chose to vote for me."



**Maariyah
Patel**

Age: 13

Three Priorities:

1. Feminism

2. Mental Health

3. Street Safety



Voice has power. Words do not fade. What starts as a sound, begins as an action and ends in a movement.

Hackney is a borough of such beauty and diversity; yet we still choose to let ourselves be labelled by stereotypes and assumptions.

We still choose to be divided by who we are, our so-called 'status'.

Instead of dividing ourselves because of our differences, I want us to come together, so people are aware that we can be taken seriously. We are hardworking future ambassadors of this borough we call home.

I want to be able to aid others who aren't as fortunate as me, and help them believe and achieve in life.

Because wherever or whenever the kids of today are silenced, and are called ignorant, the most we can do

is help each other. After all, the kids of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

I was in HYP last year, and I believe we made people really aware of mental health. We broke down the stigma; and explained the difference between stereotypes and reality.

This year, I want to be able to walk on the street feeling safe. I want to live in a community without fear.

I want to have a happy, safe, environment to live in. Is that too much to ask for?

Hackney Youth Parliament presents a platform for us to progress and work towards, where we can break down barriers and achieve our goals.

And to do that we need a strong, powerful voice, who will not be afraid to speak about the current affairs of the borough.

I am your voice – but TOGETHER we can change the world."



Martha
Lucas

Age: 13

Three Priorities:

1. Feminism

2. Education

3. Raising awareness of LGBTQ issues



I've lived in Hackney for my whole life, 13 years, and love the borough and the community in it!

I know it's the best borough in London and would be proud to be a member of Hackney Youth Parliament.

For the past year, I have been a member of the UK Youth Parliament (representing Hackney) and have been working really hard to make a difference.

I have lots of experience with public speaking, debating and campaigning.

Last June I arranged a meeting with Hackney's MP, Diane Abbott, and discussed 'Votes at 16' and a Curriculum for Life (which promotes life skills in school, such as: politics, dealing with finances, battling ill mental health, cyberbullying, LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights).

I also debated at the House of Commons with other Youth MPs, covering all sorts of topics and campaigns.

I've been really inspired by my experience with UK Youth Parliament and have gained a lot of skills - and would now love to bring this knowledge to issues that affect my local community.

Through the Youth Parliament, I have already been involved with Hackney Youth Parliament meetings, been to HYP functions with the mayor, on a residential with HYP, talked at HYP launch events, written to and received responses from Theresa May and Nick Gibb, and even been out leafleting! But I want to do more!

With all this experience behind me, I know and understand the work of Hackney Youth Parliament and would love to be a member.

If I were elected, I would pursue my main passion: Feminism. I have been really inspired by the #MeToo campaign, and know these issues affect Hackney too.

Young women in our borough face many types of sexism each day - and we need to talk about it, because things need to change.

Is it right that young women walk the streets of Hackney, afraid? Is it right that girls have to pull down their skirts at school, in case "the boys get distracted"?

Is it right that there aren't girls' rugby teams or boys' netball teams in school?

Is it right that how much you earn, the opportunities you will get and how you will be treated in life are decided at your birth?

No. It is not right.

So, if I were elected I would love to launch a big event for International Women's Day, and get young people talking about their experiences of everyday sexism.

I would hold feminist workshops in schools and I would campaign for equal rights for everyone.

I would also strive for schools to learn a curriculum for life - school shouldn't just be about exams, they should equip us for the real world."



**Omari
Benson**

Age: 14

Three Priorities:

1. Challenging negative stereotypes of young people

2. Increased opportunities for young people

3. Increase in youth provisions



I strongly believe that young people in Hackney need more opportunities, no matter where they are from.

I have lived in Hackney for my whole life, so I have a really good understanding of how this borough works.

If elected, I would like to change the image of Young People as we seem to be misrepresented with a lot of negativity.

From my own experience I know that youth clubs, fun competitions and events would benefit young people as they would be participating in positive activities and learning skills.

Personally I have taken part in a lot of activities and they have helped to boost my own confidence and self esteem.

Please vote for me as I would like to make Hackney a safer and better place.”



**Raivene
Walters**

Age: 16

Three Priorities:

1. Challenging negative stereotypes of young people

2. Unnecessary Exclusion

3. Increased work experience opportunities



I am running for Young Hackney to give young people the opportunity to have their voice heard no matter their gender, ethnicity, disability or family situation.

I am running because I would be a very good asset to the team and I am proud to say I come from Hackney.

I bring many qualities to projects and teams and have gained experience through my volunteering. I have gained many skills such as creativity, determination, focus, good time keeping.

The clubs I belong to require energy and the need to build good team spirit. These qualities I believe are essential for any group to become successful. I am also a ranked police cadet with experience of leading a team to success. I can also research ideas and follow through ideas while working to deadlines, commitments, and support to others.

If I am elected I will campaign on the following things, more opportunities for all young people. I will challenge stereotypes about the youth of Hackney and how this negatively impacts them. My aim is to address some of the unnecessary exclusions from schools of young people.

I hope to raise awareness of the stereotypes that negatively impacts young people in Hackney.

Young people need to be seen as individuals rather than grouping young people together and seeing them as untrustworthy, or involved in gangs, involved in drugs, unwilling to help society and reckless.

I recognize that there needs to be a focus on improving outcomes for young people that have been excluded and are in the criminal justice system. Being excluded puts a label and tag on a young person and can impact them, their name and response to others and opportunities later in life.

I am not saying that exclusions shouldn't be allowed however there are some pointless and unnecessary exclusions.

There needs to be early help for those young people who are at risk of getting excluded from their school and of entering the criminal justice system. I will achieve this by raising the awareness's of these stereotypes and unnecessary exclusions and speak with those young people who have been excluded.

I would hold events to get the message out to all of the community and ensure young people's voices are heard.

Furthermore, I believe there should be more opportunities for young people as lack of opportunities will then lead to young people feeling that they are unable to pay for university making them have bad jobs and not having the fulfilled opportunity to be the best they can in their career.

There needs to be more work experience for young people in gender neutral jobs while we are at a secondary school.

Voting for me means that I can pitch your points and make it heard as our voices need to be heard! Please consider voting for me in October."



Rhianna
Facey

Age: **14**

Three Priorities:

1. Increase awareness of SEND issues

2. Equality and diversity

3. Positive role models



I am running for youth parliament because I believe I can contribute great ideas.

As a young person with dyslexia I am aware of the issues and difficulties young people could possibly face with having an additional need.

Therefore I would like to use the role of being a member of Hackney Youth Parliament to advocate, support and be a voice for young people who need additional support.

I believe this role would support me further in developing my personal confidence, social skills and be a great opportunity to network with other like-minded young people.

Being a member of my local youth club has helped me understand my peers.

And also the great work of other young people and youth workers.

As a young black female teenager living in Hackney I feel I would be a good representation of the diverse community I live in and I believe going for this role would be a great platform to advocate and champion not only the special diversity In Hackney but also Equality.

I would like to be a positive role model for myself for my community, for my peers. “



**Sherri
Dunbar**

Age: **21**

Three Priorities:

1. Improving outcomes for young people in the care system

2. Gangs and youth violence

3. Gentrification



I am a member of the Hackney Youth Care Council, which is an organisation based solely on the needs of Children and Young people in care and also those who have left and are referred to as care leavers.

We have monthly meetings and brainstorm ways that we can improve services for vulnerable young people amongst other things such as attending the European Youth Conference in Strasbourg France, where we learned just how important youth are in contributing to a better tomorrow.

Joining the Hackney Youth Parliament to me isn't just a process. It's an honour and a great one that. Having spent most of my childhood in Hackney I have bared witness to the changes and developments that this neighbourhood has made.

It's fair to say we've come along way, but we aren't quite there yet. There are still things that need to change, things that I am passionate about, things that affect the youth of Hackney.

You're sons, brothers, sisters, nieces and Daughters.

Gang violence is something that is still plaguing our streets. Innocent lives of young men especially, are being lost by senseless acts of violence.

Violent offences are the second leading convictions in Hackney behind theft.

The youth of Hackney need to be safeguarded now more than ever. 30,446 crimes were recorded in the borough last year and more than 45% were as a result of violence. I believe that as a community we can come together and fight in the war against gangs, knife and gun crime.

It's not enough to ignore it because this time it wasn't your child who suffered at the hands of someone carrying a weapon.

When lives are lost we should all feel it and be outraged. Yes, gentrification has happened and we all walk the streets with more ease than we did in 2002, but we are far from perfect and its time we admit that.

There are still young people in need of guidance and who need an outlet to channel their creativity and use their time.

One that doesn't involve hanging on street corners out of boredom and the need for excitement.

If I am elected to be a member of the Hackney Youth Parliament, I won't be silent in my protest for justice and for us as human beings to do what's right and not only what's convenient.

Mahatma Gandhi once said "You must be the change you want to see in the world" and that's exactly what I plan to do.

Thank you for reading. "



Taniesha
Laima

Age: **14**

Three Priorities:

1. The voice of young people

2. Equality and diversity

3. Education



I've lived in Hackney all my life. I am running for parliament to get my points heard.

If I am elected I will campaign on the following things: schools and problems in Hackney such as e.g equality.

These issues are important because there is a lot of things people want to say and I can hear those people's opinions and share it in parliament such as the issues they face today and so on.

I also think young people deserve to have a voice because we are the next generation.

Thank you for reading."



**Tapiwa
Cronin**

Age: **15**

Three Priorities:

**1. Equality and
Diversity**

**2. Youth violence
and Gangs**

**3. The voice of
young people**



I don't believe Hackney needs to change but simply, evolve. Hackney as it stands, is a diverse borough so rich in culture and history.

What I ask of you is to join me in continuing this prospering culture of acceptance and community.

To put an end to the cyclical violence exhibited in our borough, to challenge and conquer a counter culture that threatens the very ethos of Hackney. Because it isn't Hackney.

Yet it's responsible for the stigma attached to our borough. Join me in the reclamation of our borough, our home and most importantly- ourselves.

Elected, I would not only campaign to end youth violence but the factors which allow it to thrive.

As a debater and a police cadet, I feel as though I would be the relentless voice of the youth which would yell into a megaphone and equally engage in formal discussion. But either way I'd remain loyal to those I represent: young people.

A vote for me isn't a vote for just me but us the adults of tomorrow; the future."

Zita

Salman

Age: 15

Three Priorities:

1. Increased work experience for young people

2. Equality and diversity

3. Increase in youth provisions



As a young person born and raised in Hackney, one thing I notice is that young people like myself lack opportunities regardless the background, ethnicity or behaviour, etc.

If I am elected for Hackney Youth Parliament I want to be able to provide the life changing opportunities such as:

- Help schools to provide work experience
- More CV writing courses for young people
- Find companies that could invest in schools and youth clubs to help support our leaders of tomorrow
- Get more youth workers to support schools in Hackney
- Provide more sporting events and opportunities for all pupils at school
- More work experience at youth clubs

These are future goals that I want to achieve as a member of Hackney Youth Parliament. Please give me the opportunity to do so.”

Your vote

for young people in Hackney

If you are **aged 11–19** (or up to 25 if you consider yourself disabled) and live, work, study or attend a youth club in the borough you can vote in the Hackney Youth Parliament elections. Voting takes place in **schools, colleges and youth clubs**. By voting, you can make a difference to the lives of young people in Hackney.

The window to vote opens and lasts from
26 September to 16 October 2018!



Have a look at the
full manifesto booklet
on the Young Hackney
website:

www.younghackney.org

