

Lena Höglund

Helsinki, Finland • +358 (0)50 581 4858 • limhoglund@gmail.com • www.facebook.com/LenaHoeglund

Svensk
Ungdom^{rf}

Letter of Motivation

Dear fellow liberals, dear members of the European Liberal Youth LYMEC,

Europe stands at a crossroads and I want to be part of leading LYMEC - the European Liberal Youth - in the right direction. Please accept my candidacy for the 2016-2018 LYMEC Bureau.

At the face of change, we liberals need to remain Europe's most staunch defenders of human rights, democracy and transparency. With a refugee crisis at hand, liberal values matter - and are more needed than ever. Populist and fragmentized voices prey on the collective insecurity, undermining the liberal values Europe was built on, limiting our economic and individual freedoms. This comes with a strong gender dimension - women's rights are used to legitimize populist xenophobia, whereas ongoing discrimination and violence against women is neglected. Europe can't afford - neither economically nor morally - gender-based and structural discrimination on the labor market, violence and abuse that affect half of the population in a disproportionate manner. No true liberalism can prevail without equal opportunities for all genders.

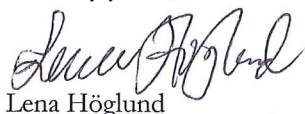
We have a fundamental choice to make - to lead global change or fall behind. We, the young generation need to accept change and get to work on creating a renewed European Union. We need to make the EU popular again and show that European cooperation is univocal to the future and can be even more successful. I want the loans on our future to be paid back in proper job opportunities in the present. Otherwise we, the young generation, face further deteriorating attitudes towards diversity and equality during the years to come. We need to redefine the meaning of work, based on the spread of micro-entrepreneurship, consulting jobs and short-term contracts that our generation is facing as a new normal. Working life means and requires new approaches and skills today, as liberals we need to be at the forefront of turning change into policy.

I want to use my experience in events organizing and non-formal education to strengthen LYMEC member organizations on how to be open to diversity and be firm on our shared values. I am a champion for financial support for youth organizations' election visits in the Nordic Council and I want lobby for the same opportunities on the European level. I want to support LYMEC in campaigning for increased investments in jobs for the young generation and a shared policy on the labor market. I want to build a shared database on shared practices, so that we can join forces in a more smooth way and support our shared agenda. Also, I want to connect LYMEC to interest groups that lie close to our objectives on entrepreneurship, innovation, equality, freedom of speech, free media and democracy. LYMEC needs to build more partnerships and clear natural affiliations through shared campaigns. I want to do for LYMEC what I do best - create learning events and develop partnerships.

After living in Asia and Africa, my belief in and support for the liberal values have grown even stronger. It's clear to me that we have to take the lead on defending human rights and equal opportunities on behalf of the global society. With the global outlook being as relevant as ever, I want to step up and take the lead on defending the liberal and European way of life as a Bureau Member of LYMEC. I am a political scientist, a Master of Business, an experienced project and event manager. I've lead student groups in India and Finland, I've lead teams of volunteers in Kenya, I'm now leading a prestigious Nordic Youth league and I want to take part in leading the way ahead for LYMEC during the coming two years.

I hope I can count on your support in my candidacy for the LYMEC Bureau 2016-2018.

Liberally yours,



Lena Höglund

Candidate for the LYMEC Bureau 2016-2018