

B8

Motion

Proposer: Isaac Short (Durham Green Party)

Title: Supporting a Social Media Ban for Children

Motion text

1 **The Young Greens Note:**

- 2 • Social media has done irreparable harm to millions of young people across
3 the globe.

- 4 • Social media has had some positive impacts on young people.

- 5 • As of writing, the current Labour government are thinking of consulting on
6 a ban for social media for children under 16, similar to that in
7 Australia.

- 8 • The social media ban in Australia restricts access to creating accounts on
9 social media. It does not stop children from accessing content.

- 10 • It is social media companies who are punished for a breach, not
11 individuals.

- 12 • Bans for children is a form of regulation that is used for many harmful
13 substances and services.

- 14 • A ban on social media would be a restriction of liberties for children.

- 15 • Social media has been proven to be as addictive as things like gambling,
16 alcohol and drugs.

17 **The Young Greens Believe:**

- 18 • The positive impacts of social media on are vastly outweighed by the
19 impact on young people's mental health, and the resulting effects.

- 20 • Any benefits of social media are not worth the harm it causes to people's
21 lives, the people around them, and the lives that are lost due to it.

- 22 • In regulations on harmful substances and services that are addictive, such
23 as gambling, alcohol and drugs. As social media is both harmful and
24 addictive, similar regulations should apply.

- 25 • A ban on social media would be effective on minimising its harm on
26 children.

- 27 • A ban on social media should restrict access to creating accounts and
28 associated actions, such as posting, liking and commenting. It should not
29 restrict access to content.

- 30 • Any breaches of a ban should be the responsibility of social media
31 companies and not individuals, and punishments should be given
32 accordingly.

- 33 • Past attempts and other methods to try and make social media safer for
34 children have failed. While a ban is not an ideal solution, it is
35 necessary to minimise the harm caused to children by social media.

36 **The Young Greens Resolve:**

- 37 • To call for a ban on social media for children under 16, similar to that
38 in Australia, following the beliefs this motion outlines.

- 39 • To work with the Green Party of England and Wales to develop their
40 policies around social media to include a ban on social media for children
41 under 16.

- 42 • To support legislation in parliament that outlines a ban on social media
43 that follows the beliefs in this motion.

Supporters

Lyla Nellist (London Green Party), Louis Appleyard (Leeds Green Party)