

**Candidate
Manifestos:**

Hackney South





I believe I am able to make a positive change to the lives of young people living in Hackney. I would like to break down the negative stereotypes that portray young people as less able to achieve and less deserving.

Over the past five years, I have worked with diverse groups of young people, supporting them with challenging issues and personal concerns.

Additionally, my involvement as a spokesperson for a youth organisation has given me the opportunity to represent young people across the UK, France and U.S.

As a Youth Parliament member, I would like to work with Hackney Councillors to ensure my commitments to you can be achieved through multi-agency partnerships. Hopefully, I will have an influence on the Youth Parliament, which will allow the Youth Parliament to have a greater impact on the lives of young people.”



Emmanuel

Akin



**Omari
Benson**



I'm a confident person and I'm not scared to speak up for young people. I want to be able to hear from young people and talk about what they want and how it will help Hackney.

I go to youth clubs in Hackney and I have a great experience. The staff are friendly and there are loads of activities, including trips outdoors, sports and arts. They are totally free. I want to try and make Hackney safer for young people, so they can go to youth clubs. I want there to be events for young people in Hackney.

Make Hackney a Better Place!"



I am running for youth parliament to give young people the opportunity to explore and express their talents.

Hackney is a place where people are becoming increasingly stereotyped due to where they live; where black boys are being linked to gangs; and young girls are being drawn into situations created by expectations pinned on them by society.

I believe that every young person should have the right to paint their own future and should be allowed to add detail and finishing touches as they grow.

I am simply running for Youth Parliament to give every young person a chance to do that.”



**Nyah
Buffong**



**Jamie
Darke**



Young people are facing lots of problems: stress from exam pressure, fear of gang violence, difficulties accessing counselling and other support, lack of work opportunities and problems finding affordable housing. But young people have so much to offer: creativity, imagination, original thinking, positive ideas. We should be part of the solution instead of being seen as part of the problem.

We should try fun, new ways to get involved in the important discussions affecting our lives, especially using social media. We should campaign to be able to vote at 16. We should have had the right to vote in the EU referendum – it is our future after all.

I want to make sure that your worries, ideas and hopes for the future are heard and that politicians make the changes you want to see happen.”



I like Hackney because we have so many events. But if we do events at a youth club, it would be nice for more people to come from different areas. I would like young people to feel they can go anywhere in Hackney, without thinking about safety. I want young people to come up with ideas for events. I want to make sure that young people have things to do for many years to come.

Vote for me, because we can change it.”



Sophie

Douglas



**Khadesha
Hibbert**



Hackney is sometimes looked upon as ‘dangerous’. However, there have been so many successes here that have not been highlighted. For example, the 2012 Olympics; the new businesses supported through the Hackney Business Award; improvements in recycling; and the creation of the Youth Hubs.

Youth hubs empower many young people to put forward their talent in arts and crafts, music and performing arts.

I would like to encourage young people to become more interested and a lot more proactive. The Youth Parliament would give me a chance to help Hackney to get a new name – one that reveals the real truth of Hackney.”



I want young people to know more about the opportunities out there. I would like to make people understand there is more than just chilling on the road and to understand it's never too late to change what people think about you. I would like more social events for young people, organised by young people.

I can make this happen. Vote for me and you'll see the changes.”



Femi

Ijelu



**Rose
Ilunga**



We as young people, we will be the future. Yet we are here, left silenced, unheard. I want to be the cause of a voice. The voice of the black girl who avoids a job because she isn't white; the voice of the young woman starving herself to fit the figure that society expects, the voice of the young male who falls into gender stereotypes, the voice of our youth, afraid to be their talented selves.

I'm Rose Ilunga, and I want to restore the beauty of Hackney. We live in a beautiful borough of diversity and colour – I believe I can make our borough the best it can possibly be.”



I would like to be part of Hackney Youth Parliament, to get our generation educated, involved, and to take action on the issues that bother us most.

I will be the bridge between knowing and understanding, the door between chat and change, the voice of our young society.”



Mafio

Ison



Nia

John



I want young people to use youth clubs to develop their talents and see the potential they have. It is easier and better to do this in a youth club, because they will be working with their peers and they would make friends, gain social skills and confidence. I'm a people person: vote for me!"



I believe it's important students aged 16-18 should leave further education with skills that will set them up for the world of work. Though employers rate young people, many say school leavers lack relevant experience. Young people are more likely to be recruited into low-wage, low-skilled jobs, where the pathways for career progression are unclear.

More could be done to make sure work experience is relevant and more employers could be recruited to allow students a better choice of work placements. Schools and educational institutions could introduce mandatory courses to provide the basic skills needed in the work environment. We need better careers advice so we know what skills are needed so we can advance in the job market.”



Maryam

Mohamed



**Maria
Nikolova**



If elected, I believe I can make a difference.

Young people in Hackney seem to be misrepresented - even today, some are stereotyped as being in gangs, involved in drugs, ignorant about the world around them.

I don't think it's acceptable for such a stigma to be associated with young people in Hackney – or anywhere, especially as this borough is constantly improving.

I believe we have a voice and if we're led in the right direction we can prove that we're both street-smart and book-smart.”



I am a committed, dedicated, all-round team player who listens to everyone, and then forms ideas based on what I have heard.

At school I have started to play sports such as football and rugby and I have an understanding of how important sport is, and how it plays a big role in our lives. Extra activities such as youth clubs and sports will not only make children happy and fit, but help teach them important values of life. More accessible activities can make children happier and reassure parents that their child is at a safe place with a responsible adult, reducing crime and child misery. Extra activities will improve the mental and social wellbeing of children, improving their quality of life.”



Charmaine

Nyarkoh



Kayra

Ozsezer



If I was elected I would like to empower young people to think out of the box, and not feel they are trapped in any way. There should be more jobs and apprenticeships for young people. There should be music events, where not only do you catch a vibe, but you get a feel for people's journeys. There should be fewer exclusions from school."



Hi, my name is Ryan. I've been a Youth Parliament member for two years.

I want to make life better for disabled people in Hackney, especially young people with a disability. I would like to improve Hackney road crossings. I would like there to be a pedestrian countdown clock on all of the busiest roads so people can cross safely.”



Ryan

Praag



Kairi

Weekes-Sanderson



I want young people to understand how important they are to society – that young people are unified, not separated and that we are able to work together for change. I want to help change the housing situation, bring down the rising cost of uni fees, and make sure there are many more opportunities to be vocal – through poetry, dance, you name it.

Vote for me, because I am one of you.”



I want to focus on the needs of young people in Hackney. There are many overlooked opportunities for teenagers and children in the borough. Young people are sometimes accused of being lazy – I want to eradicate this. I hope to create a mentality that means young people will want to reach their potential as a creative, outgoing generation.”



Kamani

Williams



**Zakir
Williams**



I will focus on getting the youth involved. I will look to set up free events across Hackney. My message is simple – to get young people to spend more of their daily hours outdoors and to interact with others. I hope this will lead to a better generation.”



I like Hackney because of our community: everyone is together. There are lots of opportunities; there is space to be yourself and there's support from family and friends.

Without being together, we will only know division between races and ethnic groups, families and ages. In school you only learn so much about differences. I will work for young people in Hackney, so we have the chance to come together and keep our community strong. I will make sure young people know about youth clubs and the opportunities available to them.

Without a community, who are we?"



Kayrena

Williamson