

Candidates and statements

Global Justice Now council elections 2024

Following the close of nominations twelve valid nominations were received for twelve places on council. All the quotas being met from within this group, the twelve candidates were deemed elected. The candidates submitted the following election statements:

Victor Anderson

I have been a member of Global Justice Now since 2016. I have supported its campaigns through sending emails, signing petitions, etc, and now want to move on to become far more actively involved.

I am now mainly retired, with more free time, though with a one day a week job as a researcher for a backbench Labour MP, keeping me engaged with the political process. In this work I have promoted GJN amendments and Parliamentary Questions.

I have previously had full-time roles as a House of Commons researcher (8 years), elected member of the London Assembly (3 years), economist at the World Wildlife Fund (3 years), and at the Sustainable Development Commission in Whitehall (3 years). I have written two books for the New Economics Foundation, been a member of the London Development Agency Board, and longer ago used to teach Economics in further education colleges. I am a member of the Unitarian Social Justice Network.

In my recent work for a Member of Parliament, I have focused on trade policy and energy/climate, and would like to continue to pursue these key areas through the Global Justice Now Council.

Nick Anim

I have long been an ardent supporter of Global Justice Now. I am an academic researcher and activist with a background in international law, international politics, international relations and global economic systems. My research over the past twelve years has centred on environment and sustainable development planning and administration. Related to that, I have carried out field research in various parts of the world, including Peru, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, and here in the UK. More recently, my research has focused on contemporary social movements and their perennial challenges of building solidarity across differences. In that context, I have been an activist with several social justice and environmental movements for many years. Based on my research interests and experiences, I am also an advisor to many movements, organisations and institutes.

I am standing for Council primarily because I strongly believe in and support the work that Global Justice Now does to challenge powerful governments and corporations in order to address both systemic and systematic forms of injustice. I also hope that my extensive research knowledge and experience, coupled with my involvement with various movements and organisations will help make some valuable contributions to the critical analysis and evolution of future campaigns.

Sally Brooks

I have been involved with Global Justice Now for several years as an activist with the York group and as a member of Council (2021-4) and strategy working group (2021). I am standing

again as I hope to continue to contribute to GJN as an important and independent voice for global solidarity and social, economic and environmental justice. I bring experience as a local campaigner, especially on trade issues, and as a retired development practitioner turned academic. I have worked with various groups and NGOs in the past, on issues from rural development to peacebuilding. Though retired I am still engaged in academic research and writing: on how the global development 'industry' is changing, especially with respect to interventions in smallholder agriculture, and the influence of elite foundations.

Ludovico Caminati Engström

I am standing for council as I am strongly committed to GJN's values and aims. I am thrilled at the possibility of becoming a council member and working hard to foster the longevity of the organisation and help steer the ship in the bold and radical direction we need. The past five years as a campaigner for GJN have been truly enriching and I want more young people to engage with our campaigns and have the same opportunity; that is something I promise to work toward if elected. I believe I am a great fit for this role as I am very familiar with the campaigns and workings of the organisations, I have worked closely with the activism team and the Scottish office and I think I would integrate quickly in the council. My academic background in International Politics and Political Communication, my experience as founder of the youth group Global Justice Stirling, coupled with my strong commitment to eradicating injustice and inequality will make me an asset to the council. Therefore I hope I can count on your vote to start this journey. If you want a radical, young, committed voice in the council, vote for me!

Aisha Dodwell

I am standing for Council as I believe GJN's work is of vital importance. With right-wing narratives dominating public discourse, and corporate greed and financial interests shaping politics, we need bold radical voices - and action - more than ever. Having worked in Parliament and in the international development sector, I have seen how effectively GJN plays this role, punching well above its weight, and I would like to actively support GJN continue this crucial work.

If elected, I would bring significant experience to the Council. I was Political Advisor on International Development to the Labour Shadow Cabinet during the Corbyn years, having previously worked at GJN as Campaigns Manager specialising in aid and migration. I now work as Head of UK Advocacy, Policy & Campaigns for CAFOD, and have previous experience as a trustee for Womankind Worldwide. I've also worked as a lecturer in global politics at Kingston University and for 7 years with the humanitarian agency, Médecins Sans Frontières. In addition to my professional experience, I'm an activist and have been involved in numerous grassroots groups, campaigns and actions so bring a deep appreciation for the role of GJN's local groups and activists network.

Mohammed Elnaiem

I'm based in Leeds and I'm the director of a new organisation called the Decolonial Centre, which is a political education project of the Pluto Educational Trust. We raise awareness on current issues from an anti-colonial and decolonial lens. I've been attracted to the work of GJN because of its uncompromising internationalism, and its commitment to fight in the belly of the beast. We face dangerous times. On the one side, we are facing an unprecedented wave of criminalisation, and we can only expect things to get worse. On the other, we are seeing an inspiring mass movement that has built on the energy of mass racial justice movements, and

climate justice movements, fighting for a better world. I'm sure you've all, like me, watched in horror as activists struggling against the genocide in Gaza have been on the receiving end of extreme violence by police in Europe and Britain. I was involved in the struggle for democracy in Sudan, and I do not exaggerate when I say that images I've seen coming out of Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States remind me of the genocidal militia that was sent by the Sudanese military to attack us, and empty our peaceful sit-in on June 3rd 2019 in Khartoum.

But I have also, never in my lifetime, seen such an explosion of political passion here in Britain. These are like the stories we used to hear about the mobilisations to stop the war in Iraq. The public, in their millions, have stood up against the genocide in Gaza. We will stop this genocide, and when we do, many will be looking for an anti-colonial movement. GJN can be a home for them. I hope to be there for them as a member of this council. We are not only an internationalist organisation. We are an anti-colonial organisation. We always have been.

Natalia Guidorzi

I am an experienced grants fundraiser, and have worked with campaigning and human rights organizations including War on Want, Global Witness and the Fund for Global Human Rights. I have contributed to raising funds for global grassroots activism, as well as national and international campaigns and events, including the COP26 People's Summit in Glasgow and national mobilization. I have good understanding of the current climate, human rights and economic justice funding landscape in the UK, EU and US and after having served my first term on Council I look forward to continuing to support Global Justice Now with my fundraising knowledge and skills.

Steven Jackson

I've been an active member of GJN's Youth Network since 2019. GJN has provided me with so many fantastic experiences and connections, and I've learnt so much through being a part of GJN spaces. I'd love to further contribute to the organisation, and continue ensuring young voices are front and centre in our work.

I've been part of the London and Brighton groups and worked with GJN staff and members across the country on a number of national events, campaigns, and projects. My day job is working full-time as an elected student officer at the University of Sussex Students' Union, where I also currently serve as the Chair of the Union's board of Trustees, and a director of its trading company.

Before this role I spent three years studying International Development at Sussex, and before that I worked in the charity sector for three years, running youth programmes in the UK and internationally. I'm an active and passionate campaigner and activist with a background in the third sector and experience at board level. I think I can be an asset to GJN's council and I hope you agree!

Maggie Mason

I am currently on GJN council, nearing the end of my first three year term, and would like to stand again. A lot of council members have to leave this year, either for personal reasons or because they have served a long time, and some continuity would be very helpful for the organisation. I joined the World Development Movement in the 1970s and have been in local groups for most of that time, most recently in Cumbria. I believe GJN has an important place in the struggle for justice and a liveable planet, but our systems and staff need consistent support

in these difficult years. Please support me to stay on council for another term so that we can keep this unique organisation on the road.

Naveed Somani

My commitment to radical politics and challenging global injustice fuels my desire to continue on the GJN council. Within the council, I've leveraged my expertise in evaluation and strategy to advise on how GJN can enhance its impact. My freelance evaluation work with campaign groups such as Migrants Organise and Global Witness has expanded my knowledge of what works in campaigning. This, combined with my deep understanding of the aid sector, as demonstrated by the research I published on the government's prosperity fund for GJN, allows me to make a valuable contribution to the council.

Professionally, I've moved from Liberty Human Rights to Amnesty International UK, where I advise on enhancing campaign impact for issues like Gaza and climate change. My activism with Lesbians and Gays Support the Migrants, and Fossil-Free Pride highlights my commitment to collective action for achieving social justice. I believe strongly in the power of networks and political education, and I'm eager to leverage my experience (including my time with the World Transformed steering group) for GJN's benefit. My history as a trustee demonstrates my dedication to sound non-profit governance. I enthusiastically offer my skills and experience on the GJN council for another term, ready to contribute to building a more just world.

Mary Steiner

I am an active member of Global Justice Nottingham, including being the secretary and group contact, and was previously a member of three other local WDM/GJN groups. I convened and chaired the Notts Climate Justice Coalition which organised the Nottingham climate justice actions for COP26, COP27 and COP28, working with a range of other groups. I was a WDM/GJN Area Rep for some years, and was on Council for 6 years up to 2021. I feel I therefore have the experience to contribute effectively to Council, including ensuring that the perspective of local groups is represented.

Christine Thompson

- Lived and taught in the majority world for 15 years – Africa and the South Pacific
- Campaigned in the UK for 25 years. Jubilee 2000, Trade Justice Movement, Make Poverty History, Climate Change
- Worked at Christian Aid for 9 years
- Committee member of London Jubilee 2000 (quarter of Majority world debt to the developed world was cancelled.)
- Ran a Fairtrade stall and gave talks on Fairtrade.
- Member of GJN Kingston and Richmond group
- United Reformed Church Southern Synod Advocate for Commitment for Life (their global justice programme that supports Christian Aid and GJN)
- Coordinator for Kingston U3A Climate Emergency Group
- Lobby my local MP (Ed Davey, Lib Dem leader). Recently on the Energy Charter Treaty. Our group took several GJN staff members to meet him.
- Background in Science and Economics

I believe in GJN's well researched 'challenging the powerful' approach. GJN (then WDM) was set up to campaign for change and political action when charities were not allowed to campaign. It was unique. Now many organisations are doing this.

I believe GJN needs to

- Differentiate itself from but cooperate with other campaigning organisations
- Ensure its financial future
- Encourage different generations to work together.
- Educate on the causes and effects of unequal development.