

## **Resolutions and Declarations Bureau Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria 13-15 April 2018**

### **4) YES to Encourage the Political Activity of Young Parents**

*Signed by SONK Finland, SDY Finland, DSU Denmark*

YES is the biggest european party political youth organization and it's member organizations have hundreds of thousands of members aged from teenagers up to those in their thirties.

We address and fight for multiple different topics in all layers of society. Economical inequalities must be tackled, women\*s' rights promoted and minorities rights guaranteed. We promote our political positions in the form of policy advocacy but as likely it has been our tradition to practice like we preach, at least to a possible extent.

During recent years YES has discussed and debated about many fields of the life of young europeans, yet one subject has been left almost completely untouched - policies that define the life of young families.

The average age for a woman\* to give birth to her\* first child varies between 23 and 31 in european countries. The european average of children born per woman\* is around 1,6. Single parenthood is on the rise with no signs for this development to change. Single parenting is likely to lead to poverty and social as well as political exclusion of both the parent and the child, though the form of the family should never define anyones future or well-being.

Parenting is also a question of equality between all genders. Only a diminishing minority of single parents are men\*, whereas single mothers\* form more than 90% of the single parents in most european countries.

Single fathers\*, on average, have higher incomes than single mothers and are far less likely to be living at or below the poverty line. Single mothers\* are younger, less educated and more likely to be living in poverty than fathers\* who are raising children without a spouse or partner in the household.

The european young parents, single or with partners, are members of YES member organizations. Therefore it is our duty to ensure the equal participation of all young people, no matter their family situation and no matter the number of childs they have. Who is going to speak for the young families if not YES?

#### **Therefore YES...**

- Commits to promote policies to abolish the poverty of young families and to promote the position of young parents as active citizens and political actors.

- Commits to encourage it's member organizations to give equal possibilities for young parents to engage to the YES international activities. To ensure the equal rights of young parents, YES commits to reimburse the travel, food and accommodation costs of a child travelling with a young participant according to the normal Organizational Rules and Regulations, when organizationally possible.