Greens Organise is a bridge

22/11/26

Greens Organise // info@greensorganise.org // @greensorganise

---

Our proposal is uncomplicated and unsurprising: we can't afford to deprioritise electoral politics. Our moment demands a party. The Greens are currently the best option, and Greens Organise (GO) has a plan to transform it, so join. We know a great many comrades have yet to do this, both anecdotally and because the numbers show it. Skeptical about the underlying analysis, saddened by the horizon it may imply, doubtful of the seriousness of the politics, and, perhaps, a little optimistic about the alternatives: it is to these comrades, for whose critiques we remain wholeheartedly grateful and with whom in many cases we concur, that we make this appeal.

We can't deprioritise electoral politics

No other type of institution in British political life is presently capable of rivalling an electoral party for its ability to unify and direct masses of popular activity in a manner that can facilitate major and lasting change in society. Even despite its limitations and diminishing legitimacy, electoral politics remains the dominant mode of conscious political expression for the vast majority of people in Britain. We don't have to like this fact, or even to think it is particularly conducive to our aims. We have only to judge if we have a better chance of working in spite of the contradictions it imposes, or of rejecting them and instead trying to persuade these millions of people to abandon the institutions and rituals that have constituted their collective political life for many decades, and to seek change by other means. Given there is plenty of precedent to suggest the limitations of the latter approach when not properly supplemented by electoral strategy, we are inclined to the former view. XR and JSO achieved very little concretely despite their scale. The Palestine movement, which continually innovates external levers of influence, has nonetheless been unable to stop Britain's complicity in the genocide and, in any case, found arguably its most powerful lever in the threat from the 'Gaza MPs' and a newly vocal, pro-Palestinian Green Party under Zack Polanksi. Probably the only non-party formation in modern British history to really test the state are the trade unions, and they

built the Labour Party in part because even at the height of industrial militancy, they did not have enough leverage to properly advance their interests. For better or worse, elections are where most people consider themselves to be doing politics. Accepting this does not mean rejecting the necessity, and perhaps even the eventual primacy, of non-electoral movements in bringing about adequate change. On the contrary, it is to take seriously the question of how we can elevate and expand political life in this country given its present state of atrophy.

Success in electoral politics is necessary for success outside it

The transformative potential of electoralism as an end in itself in our society is certainly questionable, but that is not our concern here. Our claim is that, at the moment at least, a sufficient degree of success is a prerequisite for other means of transformation, for which the party may be the midwife. Achieving sufficient size, credibility and organisational capacity for this is not feasible for a party ignoring the electoral sphere (unless anyone has reason to expect a seismic shift in the British left's capacity to coordinate at scale, or a wholesale reorganisation of British political life in general - please do let us know if that's imminent). The essential requirement is relevance, and relevance is obtainable predominantly, though not exclusively, through strategically sought electoral victories. For example, it remains to be seen if Zionism is Racism will prove a useful dividing line in a 'strategy of conflict', designed to heighten contradictions in our opponents and our difference from them. We think this may be a valid approach for the Greens in general, albeit not self-evidently true in this instance. But we must consider what conditions make such a strategy viable even in theory. Did the Scottish Green Party's 'Motion 2', calling for Hamas to be removed from the list of terrorist organisations, full BDS, the repeal of Israel's Law of Return, declaring Zionism a racist ideology, and much else besides, produce generative conflict when it passed in 2025? Had you even heard about it? Does the Socialist Worker's Party's position that Zionism is racism stoke similar national conversation? No? Why not? Because they are not electorally relevant entities, and to a great extent their positioning is therefore inconsequential to the increase or decrease of political antagonism in society. We cannot on the one hand claim the Green Party's use is in helping to fragment British political norms, while on the other

claim its electoral prospects are not important. The former depends, for now, on the latter. As a member of GO's Steering Group wrote in Tribune, a party's ability to function as a machine to raise political consciousness, reveal contradictions, offer new and expansive social relations, all rest on, and indeed are oftentimes in friction with, its ability to penetrate British political life as it is actually lived by millions. Mediated by hostile media, certainly. Curtailed by flawed systems, usually. Participating in discredited conventions, probably. It is a dirty and undignified business.

The Greens are our best option, we must get over it

Accepting the unappetising claim that electoral politics does matter greatly, we suggest the Greens are our best bet. Does it need saying that, for comrades in search of a political home that will justify and deepen their commitment to struggle, the party possesses many undesirable qualities? Alas, we may wish many aspects of our present condition were otherwise; look around and take your pick. Yet a serious assessment can only conclude that the Greens are in a position of historic opportunity. No other mainstream party has both the requisite operational potential and a strategically beneficial position in the field to make possible adequate electoral success from the left. Adequate, that is, in the first instance to increase the pressure on the crumbling status quo and actively induce the irruption of new, less predictable fronts (LFI are currently demonstrating this capacity in France), and adequate in the second instance to secure material gains that will save and improve lives and mitigate the erasure of those remaining institutions and laws that sustain and protect us.

In any case, the Greens have much to recommend them for such a purpose. Over 170,000 people joined the party since Zack Polanski started making vaguely socialist noises; it is a democratic institution; it does not contain a seasoned cadre of right-wing gutter fighters guarding its apparatus; it has some genuine anti-establishment radicalism streaked throughout its ideological and cultural DNA; the left inside the party are in ascendency, and its liberal factions are waning. We submit - and submitted at the TWT25 assembly - that for many socialists allergic to the bourgeois character of the Greens, dismissal of these facts requires a concrete analysis that is not forthcoming. Rebuttal seems generally to go only so far as pointing out the limitations, as we do here, but with no accounting for our capacity to overcome or mitigate them, nor their proper weighting relative to the

alternatives. To be sure, in the Greens there is a culture of liberal anti-politics in sections of the old guard and the bureaucracy, made scarcely less bewildering by an understanding of its ideological basis . There are leading figures who think and speak in terms that make the blood run cold, because they do so as representatives of a project to which you're now publicly committed. But comrades, will we say we refused to engage with the opportunities we inherited because we found aspects of it embarrassing? Because we were unwilling to tolerate the frustration of waging struggle alongside liberal elements? The immediate requirement for comrades harbouring these objections is to be honest about their choices. Organised class politics in Britain is very obviously in crisis. Prospects for a new party have been maimed, many unions have capitulated, working class associational life is all but eradicated. From a meagre line-up of imperfect options, we select and build based on potential in the immediate and medium term. The conjuncture does not offer us much confidence that it is worth over determining the long term.

Greens Organise have a vision

There is a reason war time adversaries are forever blowing up one another's bridges. If you want any amount of coordination and movement across large and varied terrains, bridges are hard to do without. Greens Organise intends to be a bridge. It seeks to connect the party and the movements, and to enable their perpetual interrelation. The party will only continue to grow and take the space to the left of Labour if we can expedite and make comprehensive its transformation into a mass ecosocialist party. This manoeuvre requires continuous input and resupply across the 'bridge' in the form of experience, political acumen and commitment from comrades in the wider left ecology. And likewise, actors in that ecology will only reap the benefits from the party's transformation if their strategies and targets are congruent and synergetic with it. Traffic on the bridge must keep moving both ways.

How do we make this bridge? They say you make a road by walking, so let us mix metaphors and make a bridge by crossing. GO's strategy is to inwardly and outwardly push the party on to more assertive and robust political ground. Some means are obvious: interventions into internal structures and machinery, currently spearheaded by our Organising for Democracy initiative, which will see us directly coordinate or support a

slew of member-recommended measures to transform the party's structures, and insulate it from reactionary elements following the ZiR motion. Candidate selections: a roster of inspiring socialists to supplement Zack's hitherto virtually one-man ecosocialist platform in the run up to and after the next GE, with the first wave of endorsements and attendant DSA-style media and political support inbound very soon. Party-wide programme development and comms interventions: to ensure we are offering the best socialist ideas, and that they're embedded in the national conversation by the time Burnham's honeymoon is curtailed by the incoming economic and social shocks. Less obviously, our growing network of regional groups provide base building and political education nodes independent of direct electoral or party concerns. These are onramps for regional movement groups and campaigns to influence and integrate with their local party, and in turn to discover in GO a site of national coordination with others. We want to fill the party with socialist militants, but not because we want all those comrades to down tools and start door knocking or become party bureaucrats - though it will be necessary for some to do this. Rather, we want them to make the bridge by moving back and forth across it. We want material and political solidarity to flow into the movement from the party, and into the party from the movement; we want Greens on every picket line, in every antifascist bloc, eviction resistance, Palestine demo; and we want militants in every local party, every conference, every committee, every vote; GO is how they get there.

We need a party: join GO and help us build it

We think movements are necessary for electoral success; we think elections are necessary for movement success. But it bears spelling out the particular vulnerabilities of movement groups that a party could help to mitigate, in the context of our increasingly deinstitutionalised and decoordinated ecology. Without representation in and through a party, individual groups and their activists can be like fish driven from the shoal by sharks, prone to exhaustion, political isolation, and authoritarian suppression. The capacity to unify, to be the shoal, is our central concern. As we discussed above, in contesting elections, an electoral party fights on the primary site of overt political conflict in this country, and thereby makes of individuated struggles a programme of national and transnational significance. But more importantly, a party (electoral or not), is the only

collective organ we have that seeks *general* power in society. A party makes a claim to authority that, by definition, cannot be subordinated to any higher demand, nor restricted by any prior rule or convention. In practice, the only thing that describes its limits are political and material circumstances, which in any case it generally seeks to alter. Regardless of its particular ideological character, a party understood in these terms (rather than narrowly electoral terms) is a purely political entity in a way other types of organisation are not and cannot be. It generalises its constituent struggles in a self-evidencing, self-legitimating claim as to their desirability or necessity. This unifying, synthesising and intrinsically political function is a party's defining feature, and is the basis for our view that one is urgently required at this time. GO is the organ to accelerate and coordinate this function in the Greens.

Unity between the party and key movement demands is thus essential - both in the sense of 'necessary' and of 'the essence of the thing'. The main fronts of an ecosocialist platform - rent controls, food price caps, public ownership of utilities, all-out assault on the billionaires, halting AI, accelerated transition to renewables, stopping the march to war - are derived from, steered by, advanced through, this interrelation. GO is the bridge that enables it. There are many forms of activity already enabled by our democratic structures that foster this unity, and there will be more to come. But for now the priority is to win key positions and changes to the structures of the party, cultivate layers of leadership so we are as fit as can be for the coming storm, and grow our membership so we have more leverage and resources for these ends. To a party that cries out for it, we can provide political leadership; to a country facing dark times, we must offer clarity of purpose and adequate ambition.