



APPLICATION FORM

Your application details:

What is your name?	Gabriela Ferguson
Which role are you applying for?	Representative to the Federal International Relations Committee

Please tell us more about yourself:

Why did you join the Liberal Democrats?	I joined the Liberal Democrats because I believe deeply in the principles of liberty, fairness and international cooperation that define our movement. At a time when divisive and populist politics were gaining ground, I was drawn to the Liberal Democrats' steadfast defence of democratic values, human rights and evidence-based policymaking. The party's pro-European outlook and commitment to open, outward-looking politics reflect my conviction that our future depends on collaboration across borders. I have always believed that liberalism offers the most constructive path to tackling global challenges, from climate change to threats to democracy, through shared responsibility and respect for diversity. Joining the Liberal Democrats has allowed me to put these beliefs into action: contributing to policy development in Wales, engaging with members at Party Conferences, joining the UK delegation to ALDE Congress and helping to strengthen liberal democracy both locally and internationally. It is the only party that truly reflects my values and my vision for a fairer, freer and more internationally engaged society.
Why are you interested in running the Welsh Liberal Democrats?	I am standing to represent the Welsh Liberal Democrats because I believe Wales has a vital role to play in shaping the international and European outlook of our party. Wales is a proudly pro-European nation, with strong historic, cultural and economic ties across the continent. I

	want to ensure that Welsh Liberal voices are fully represented within the UK's international engagement, and that the lessons of devolution, community empowerment and inclusive politics contribute meaningfully to our global liberal network. Through my work on the Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Development Committee, I have seen how thoughtful, collaborative policymaking can help us connect local priorities with broader international values. Wales's experience in building devolved institutions, protecting minority languages and promoting sustainability provides a model that can inspire our liberal partners abroad. I am passionate about strengthening the party's international ties, particularly through ALDE and Liberal International and ensuring that our Welsh members have opportunities to engage with these networks. Running for this role is a natural extension of my commitment to international liberalism: to connect Wales to Europe and the wider liberal family, to learn from others and to ensure that Welsh Liberal Democrats are recognised as a confident, outward-looking part of our global movement.
Why do you think you are suitable for this role?	I believe I am well suited to serve as a Representative to the Federal International Relations Committee because I bring a combination of international experience, policy expertise and strong commitment to liberal democratic values. As a member of the Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Development Committee, I have developed a better understanding of how UK-wide and international policy frameworks interact with the specific needs and aspirations of Wales. My role has involved collaboration and consultation, skills directly relevant to FIRC's remit of coordination, policy review and international liaison. I also bring practical international experience and connections. I maintain active links with the USR (Save Romania Union), a sister liberal party within ALDE and I am multilingual, speaking Romanian, conversational Italian

	and French. These linguistic and cultural skills enable me to engage effectively with European partners, understand diverse perspectives, and represent our party's interests in a cooperative and diplomatic manner. My professional career as teacher of Mathematics and the work I do in the voluntary sector, through the community projects that I lead has developed my ability to synthesise information, communicate clearly across cultures and build consensus in diverse teams. I am passionate about democracy promotion, European cooperation and the defence of liberal values globally, which are important areas at the heart of FIRC's work. As a Welsh Liberal Democrat, I would also bring a devolved and regional perspective to the Committee, ensuring that the voices of all parts of our federal family are heard in international decision-making. I would work constructively with colleagues from across the UK to strengthen our engagement with ALDE, Liberal International and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Above all, I would approach this role with professionalism, enthusiasm and a collaborative spirit, dedicated to advancing the Liberal Democrats' mission to promote liberal democracy, human rights and global cooperation.
What do you aim to achieve if elected to this role?	If elected as the Welsh Liberal Democrats' representative to the Federal International Relations Committee, my aim would be to strengthen the party's international engagement while ensuring that Wales's distinct perspective contributes meaningfully to our collective liberal agenda. My key priorities would include: 1. Raising the international profile of the Welsh Liberal Democrats. I would work to ensure that the ideas, policies, and experiences of the Welsh party are reflected in the Liberal Democrats' international outreach, promoting Wales as an example of progressive governance, sustainability and cultural inclusivity.

	2. Deepening European and regional partnerships. I would foster connections between Wales and European liberal parties through ALDE, especially with regions that share our focus on devolved governance, environmental responsibility, and linguistic diversity. 3. Championing internationalism and European re-engagement. Wales has consistently expressed a pro-European outlook. I would support FIRC in exploring ways to rebuild cooperation with European institutions and networks, particularly in education, research and youth mobility. 4. Supporting democracy and liberal values globally. I would contribute to the party's work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Liberal International, promoting initiatives that strengthen democratic participation, women's rights and rule of law worldwide. 5. Making international liberalism accessible to members. I would help create opportunities for Welsh members to engage with global liberal debates through events, briefings and partnerships, to make international politics a living, participatory part of our party's culture. Through this role, I aim to ensure that the Liberal Democrats continue to embody the principles of liberal internationalism in practice: open, forward-looking and rooted in partnership. I would work constructively with colleagues from across the UK to build a strong, coherent international voice, one that reflects the diversity and dynamism of our federal party.
What's your biggest achievement that's relevant to this role?	My most relevant achievement relates to my work as a teacher and my involvement with the Save Romania Union (USR), a sister liberal party within the ALDE family. During the COVID-19 pandemic, I contributed to the party's education policy working group, helping to develop and refine policies designed to support teachers, pupils and families through an unprecedented disruption. This work required analysing international best practice,

	understanding the practical realities faced by schools and proposing realistic, evidence-based solutions. I focused particularly on issues such as digital learning access, teacher support and educational equity, ensuring that policy proposals were both ambitious and grounded in classroom experience. On a different level, I helped and supported aid distribution during the crisis in Ukraine, through voluntary initiatives and community engagement. That experience deepened my conviction that effective liberal policy must always combine principle with practicality and that cross-border cooperation within the liberal family helps us all respond better to global challenges. My recent involvement with the Welsh Liberal Democrat Policy Development Committee has allowed me to bring this same evidence-led, international perspective to our committee work in Wales. These experiences reflect the skills I would bring to FIRC: analytical rigour, collaboration and a commitment to strengthening liberal democracy through informed and compassionate policymaking. I deeply believe that liberal democracy is best advanced through collaboration, respect for diversity and a shared commitment to openness. My past experiences have developed my ability to build bridges between national and international perspectives, precisely the kind of bridge-building FIRC was established to achieve. I would bring this same energy and strategic focus to the Committee: connecting people, sharing ideas and ensuring that our liberal values continue to inspire action both in Wales and across the world.
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If party members have questions about your application, how can they contact you?

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