

National Young Conservatives

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PRESS RELEASE:

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Statement by Iain Picton, National Young Conservative Chairman.

As National Chairman of the Young Conservatives, I feel that I must clarify the position of some people who have recently defected to the Social Democrat Party. The Conservative Party has two Youth Organisations - the Young Conservative Movement and the Federation of Conservative Students. The eight young people who recently changed their allegiance to the SDP are former officers and activists of the Federation of Conservative Students and have little or no connection with the Young Conservatives. The Young Conservatives are committed to the Conservative Party and all YC Officers will continue to work on that basis.

I sincerely regret this decision by people who were my friends and colleagues when we fought to develop the Federation of Conservative Students in the mid and late '70s. Like many of us on the youth side of the Conservative Party, they have put in tremendous work not only for the Party, but also for the "One Nation" philosophy which so many Conservatives share. I believe they have made a mistake in joining a party with a very vague political platform, which has some members who cannot sit easily with Conservatives or former Conservatives.

There is a wide spectrum of belief within the Conservative Party and both Youth Organisations offer the chance for all views to be heard and all ideas to be developed. The Young Conservatives will increase the amount of debate on policy and will continue to put forward our own independent ideas on the ills which affect our country. I am very sorry that these individuals did not see fit to join with us in developing policies and ideas to combat unemployment, racism, inner-city deprivation, poverty, unilateral disarmament and the other major issues which afflict our society. As the largest Political Youth Organisation in the UK we will continue to use our access to the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet to put the Youth voice on all issues.
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