TOMORROW: OFOC ORGANISES 150 YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER COMMONS LOBBY

Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC), a national youth movement for a People's Vote, has organised 150 young people to take over the Commons lobby midday tomorrow.

The young people, between the ages of 16 and 28, have travelled from as far away as Scotland and Northern Ireland to demand a meeting with their MPs and express their desire for a public vote on the final deal. More than 30 have successfully obtained appointments, but the rest will seek to be heard in person.

At the preceding photocall in Smith Square, the 150 OFOC activists will gather in front of OFOC's campaign battle bus (photo attached). They will hold up a banner stating that 'This deal wrecks our futures. Don't do this.' Every activist will sign their name to the battle bus in permanent marker.

OFOC co-president Will Dry said: 'Dozens and dozens of people are travelling to Parliament from across the length and breadth of the UK. No matter where young people come from or what political party they belong to, we are angry at this botched Brexit deal. 150 young people are gathering in the Commons lobby because we aren't buying the false choice between this bad deal and no deal."

"We know that the best deal is the one we already have - as an EU member with a voice at the table. Young people won't be sidelined in this debate, and that's why we are coming to Parliament en masse to demand to be heard by our elected representatives."

Note to eds.:

The attached op note details the logistical timings for the photocall and the event itself.

For further details, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: <u>alastair@ofoc.co.uk</u>. Phone: 0749 2647250.

For immediate release

Young People Throng to Brussels on OFOC Campaign Bus -- Rally and Stunt to Follow

Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC), a national youth movement for a People's Vote, is bringing its <u>battle bus</u> to Brussels on Saturday to protest Theresa May signing away the futures of an entire generation of British youth.

The day after, Sunday 25th of November, there will be a rally with speakers including Alastair Campbell, Lord Adonis, and OFOC's own Femi Oluwole and Lara Spirit. Also on Sunday, OFOC and more than 30 of its activists will ritually destroy dozens of copies of the deal at a stunt which will happen at a location in Brussels TBC.

The battle bus carries the message "Dear MPs, 77% of young people don't want Brexit. Stand up for our Future! Signed, Young People" and will carry over 30 activists. Speakers for the rally will also travel on the bus. Press are invited to contact OFOC (details below) for seats on the bus.

OFOC activists will congregate to ride the battle bus at the Tate Britain at 12.30 on Saturday, November 24th, departing from the Tate at 13.00. OFOC then will arrive in Brussels at 21.00 on Saturday.

The rally on Sunday, 25th November begins at 10.00am at the Rue de la Roi, between Rond-Point Schuman and Cinquantenaire Park, 1000 Brussel, Belgium.

OFOC co-president Will Dry said: "Dozens and dozens of young people have signed up to travel to Brussels with OFOC to protest and rally against the PM's bad Brexit deal. We know better than to accept the official line that it's this deal or no deal. Young people know that the best deal with the EU is the one we have right now, and that's why we are travelling to Brussels to rally."

Journalists are especially encouraged to attend OFOC's stunt in Brussels on Sunday. As Prime Minister Theresa May prepares to sign a botched Brexit deal which will curtail the opportunities of British youth for decades, OFOC's activists will destroy dozens of copies of the deal with the backdrop of their campaign battle bus

Prop axes, blowtorches, shredders, and numerous other spectacular methods of eviscerating the deal will express the anger British youth feel about the disrespect shown towards their futures.

OFOC co-president Lara Spirit said: "My generation is disappointed in our current politics but we aren't standing idly by. We are channeling frustration into action - and tearing up this Brexit deal. We urge parliamentarians to do the same thing in the votes on December 10."

Note to eds.:

For further details about OFOC's stunt or to travel on the battle bus, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: alastair@ofoc.co.uk. Phone: 0749 2647250. A photo of the battlebus is attached.

If you would like to request an interview with any of the speakers please email <u>ludo@bestforbritain.org</u> or call 07545 142327.

For immediate release

FIFTY OFOC ACTIVISTS 'DESTROY THE DEAL' IN BRUSSELS

Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC), a national UK youth movement for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, is bringing together fifty young British people to creatively destroy dozens of copies of the PM's Brexit deal.

The activists are convening in the backdrop of the special EU Council summit coordinated to sign off the withdrawal agreement, and will use mallets, blowtorches, shears, fire extinguishers, spray paint, and other spectacular methods of destruction to show the anger that young people in the UK feel about the Brexit deal.

The OFOC campaign battle bus (photo attached) will run over a giant seven-foot tall copy of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The fifty young activists will destroy the deal at a location to be determined within the European Quarter. An op note closer to the time (a preceding rally ends at 11:30 am) will confirm the staging grounds for the stunt.

OFOC chief strategist Hugo Lucas said: "OFOC brought fifty young people to Brussels to show that our generation is not buying it. We're going to 'destroy' the deal with every means available to us - even our

campaign battle bus is getting in on the action. Rather than being throwing under the bus, we're putting the deal there instead."

"Our generation is angry, and politicians need to start listening. Either MPs listen to reason and their consciences and vote down this bad Brexit deal, or we will make them pay for their failures at the ballot box for decades to come. This botched Brexit is a disaster for British youth. That's why we demand a People's Vote.

Note to eds.:

For further details, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: alastair@ofoc.co.uk. Phone: 0749 2647250.

EMBARGOED UNTIL 22:00 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

John Major and Will Hutton Endorse OFOC Report -- Brexit to cost every young person three times more than tuition fees

The groundbreaking report 'Young People and Brexit' released by Our Future, Our Choice, the largest group of young people campaigning for a People's Vote, empirically demonstrates the severe and disproportionate consequences of Brexit for young people in Britain.

Former Prime Minister John Major endorsed the report's conclusions in a foreword. He wrote "I would urge every Parliamentarian to read and absorb the findings of this report", pointing out that Brexit "was never the choice of the young - who voted overwhelmingly to 'remain' in the EU, while their elders voted to Leave."

"Our Future, Our Choice sets out with great clarity the implications for young people, and I commend it warmly."

The stark costs of a hard WTO-style Brexit are modelled at a worst case of up to £108,000 in lost earnings for young people by 2050, with the likely cost amounting to £76,000 in lost wages. A hard Brexit will cost young people three times more than tuition fees, and amounts to more than double the deposit first time buyers need to buy a house.

OFOC commissioned the economic research from Thomas Peto, an economic researcher based at the University of Oxford. The civil service analysis underlying the Cross Whitehall Briefing supplies the framework for a research-backed forecast of the price of Brexit for young people.

Other variants of Brexit have a spectrum of negative consequences for young people. The range for projected income losses to young people under an FTA-style Brexit is from £30,000 - £72,000, with the most likely cost falling around £51,000. Even an EEA-style Brexit would stand to cost young people between £7,000 and £32,000, and most likely around £20,000.

Esteemed Oxford political economist Will Hutton said: 'This careful analysis shows just how badly young people -already disadvantaged by the breakdown of career structures and high housing costs - will be further hit by Brexit. They are surely right to protest in such numbers that their future is being profoundly compromised.'

The report also includes novel findings on how Brexit will affect an outward-looking generation of young British people who are inclined towards Europe. Research on how Brexit will affect the transfer of personal and commercial data, child policy, and legislation protecting part-time and temporary workers has never before been undertaken on a large scale with regard to young people.

OFOC chief spokesperson Femi Oluwole said: 'This report shows that young people will lose the most from any Brexit deal. We are a generation who don't want to live with Brexit, yet it will cost us three times more than tuition fees, or double the average deposit needed for a house in lost wages and earnings.'

'Now that the implications for our generation have become clear, we need a People's Vote on the government's Brexit deal.'

Note to eds.:

For further details, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: alastair@ofoc.co.uk. Phone: 0749 2647250.

For immediate release

FOUR NORTHERN IRISH COLLEGES TO STAGE SCHOOL WALKOUT FOR PEOPLE'S VOTE

Four Northern Irish colleges are staging a joint walkout on Monday to protest the unwillingness of politicians in Westminster to address the grave concerns young people have about the Prime Minister's Brexit deal.

More than 200 students from Northern Irish colleges including Lagan College, Wellington College, Methody College and St Patrick's Knock are expected to take part in the protest at noon on November 19.

The event is part of a campaign waged across the four home nations of the United Kingdom on November 19 by Our Future, Our Choice (OFOC), a movement of young people campaigning for a People's Vote, to draw attention to the outrage felt by young people about this bad Brexit deal.

The walkout campaign is branded #WalkForOurFuture. The series of OFOC interventions is called #DayofOutrage. More major protests planned across the UK can only be revealed nearer Monday. The campaign was coordinated by organisers with Our Future, Our Choice NI, a group of young people in Northern Ireland campaigning for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, and students at Lagan College.

The Lagan College walkout organising committee said: "Us politics students at Lagan College have become frustrated with how the politicians in our country and the rest of the UK have ignored the opinions and views of young people regarding the issues of Brexit and other political issues.

We didn't get the chance to vote on the outcome of our future, so we want to take this final opportunity to express ourselves and our views.

In order to achieve this, we have decided to hold a Walk Out For Our Future from school for year 13/14 students on Monday November 19th at 12PM. We invite all sixth-year students, staff and schools from across Belfast and Northern Ireland to join us in this movement to have our voices heard!"

OFOC NI worked with student activists from all four of the colleges involved in the planned walkout to coordinate the pressure campaign.

OFOC NI issued this statement: "We are a group of young people from across Northern Ireland who been campaigning since the end of August towards getting a People's vote on the final Brexit deal." "We have grown as a movement and throughout our time working we have been encouraging young Northern Irish people to become involved in politics and allowed them to have a voice. We are delighted to have been able to inspire and support the school students who are involved in this event. They are an inspiring selection of students and we hope that others will be inspired by their actions."

Note to eds.:

For further details, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: <u>alastair@ofoc.co.uk</u>. Phone: 0749 2647250.

For immediate release

OFOC Buries Brexit (Feat. Cameo Appearance by Jacob Rees-Mogg)

Our Future, Our Choice, the largest youth group campaigning with the People's Vote campaign, today successfully buried Brexit in a stunt outside the Conservative Party Conference in the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. The group was pleased to be joined by Mr. Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP for Somerset, who was there for the burial of his pet political project.

The funeral rites included a hearse and coffin, pallbearers, a gravestone, and finally a eulogy for the two year-old idea. Mr. Rees-Mogg's attendance was the cherry on the cake of a sober interment of the broken promises of leading Leave figures like himself, whose grand visions could never quite materialise into realistic proposals.

OFOC spokesperson Cathleen Clarke, who delivered the eulogy, said: "I laid Brexit to rest. Little did I know that one of this project's forefathers would be stopping by to see the funeral rites of his political progeny."

"Credit to Jacob Rees-Mogg - he did the decent thing. It was nice of him to stop by as his brainchild, Brexit, passed on into the political afterlife."

OFOC will shortly release video of Femi's five minute conversation with Mr. Rees-Mogg about how he feels about the dead duck project's ascendance into the realm of the tried and failed.

OFOC co-president Lara Spirit said: "It was great to see Mr. Rees-Mogg have to face up to the facts of Brexit's mortality. Brexit's two years of life were nasty, brutish, and short, and finally it has expired as a political idea. My generation realised this a long time ago. Hopefully with today's intervention, Mr. Rees-Mogg will begin realising it too."

"Today we have buried Brexit. Absent Mr. Rees-Mogg and Mr. Farage's voodoo politics, we won't raise this woebegone idea from the crypt. Sunlit uplands are ahead, but they won't include Brexit, and it's time our leaders woke up to that fact."

Note to eds.:

For further details, contact Alastair Pearson, communications director at Our Future, Our Choice. Email: <u>alastair@ofoc.co.uk</u>. Phone: 0749 2647250.