



Briefing

YouthLink Scotland's approach to supporting the rights of young people

YouthLink Scotland is the National Agency for Youth Work in Scotland. We play a crucial role in promoting the rights and well-being of young people. Our organisation advocates for young people's rights and ensures that their voices are heard in policy-making and decision-making.

YouthLink Scotland does this in the following ways:

Advocacy

- **UNCRC Implementation:** YouthLink Scotland is committed to fully implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Scotland and supports our members in ensuring these rights are upheld.
- **The Promise** – organisation and sector recommitment to its delivery.
- **Policy and Influence:** The organisation actively engages with policymakers, government bodies, and other stakeholders to influence policies and legislation that affect young people. By doing so, we ensure that young people's rights are considered and respected.

Empowerment/Participation

- **Youth Participation:** YouthLink Scotland promotes young people's participation in decisions that affect them. This includes supporting initiatives and programs that empower young people to take an active role in their communities and society.
- **Youth Voice:** Through our membership, we create platforms for young people to express their views, ensuring their perspectives are heard and valued. This includes facilitating direct involvement in consultations, advisory groups, and youth councils.

Education and Campaigns

- **Rights Education:** YouthLink Scotland provides resources and training to youth workers, educators, and young people about their rights, helping them understand their rights and how to advocate for themselves and others.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** We run campaigns (examples upon request) to raise awareness of rights issues to inform the public and influence societal attitudes towards young people.

Support for Youth Work

- **Youth Work Sector Support:** As the national agency for youth work, we support the youth work sector in delivering services that respect and promote the rights of young people. This includes providing funding, resources, and training for youth workers and the young people they support.
- **Quality Standards:** The organisation promotes high standards in youth work, ensuring that services provided to young people are of high quality and aligned with the principles of respecting and upholding young people's rights. This is enshrined through our National Youth Work Outcomes and Skills Framework.

Equality and Diversity

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** YouthLink Scotland promotes equality and diversity. It works to ensure that all young people, regardless of their background or circumstances, have equal access to opportunities and support. We offer support via bespoke networks like United Voices and our Equality and Diversity Network.
- **Anti-Discrimination:** The organisation actively opposes discrimination and works to create inclusive environments where all young people feel valued and respected.

Research and Evidence

- **Data and Research:** YouthLink Scotland conducts and supports research on issues affecting young people, providing evidence to inform policy and practice and ensuring that interventions are responsive to their needs.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** We collaborate with the youth work sector to disseminate research findings and best practices, helping to build knowledge and supporting young people's rights and well-being.

Summary

YouthLink Scotland's commitment to young people's rights is evident in its comprehensive approach to advocacy, policy, education, support, inclusion, and research.

By championing young people's rights and working to create an environment where their voices are heard and respected, YouthLink Scotland plays a crucial role in promoting a fairer, more inclusive society for all young people in Scotland.

ENDS

Contact kkane@youthlink.scot