

Youth Arts Open Fund Case Studies



Young Women's Movement



YouthLink
Scotland



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Young Women's Movement

About us:

Our vision is a fairer Scotland for all self-identifying young women and girls: a Scotland where young women are meaningfully heard, valued and supported to lead collective action and enact transformational change throughout society, systems and structures. We work to build a movement embedded in safe spaces and wellbeing for young women and girls to come together and access resources, networks and platforms to collectively challenge inequality, lead radical social change and re-imagine our world.

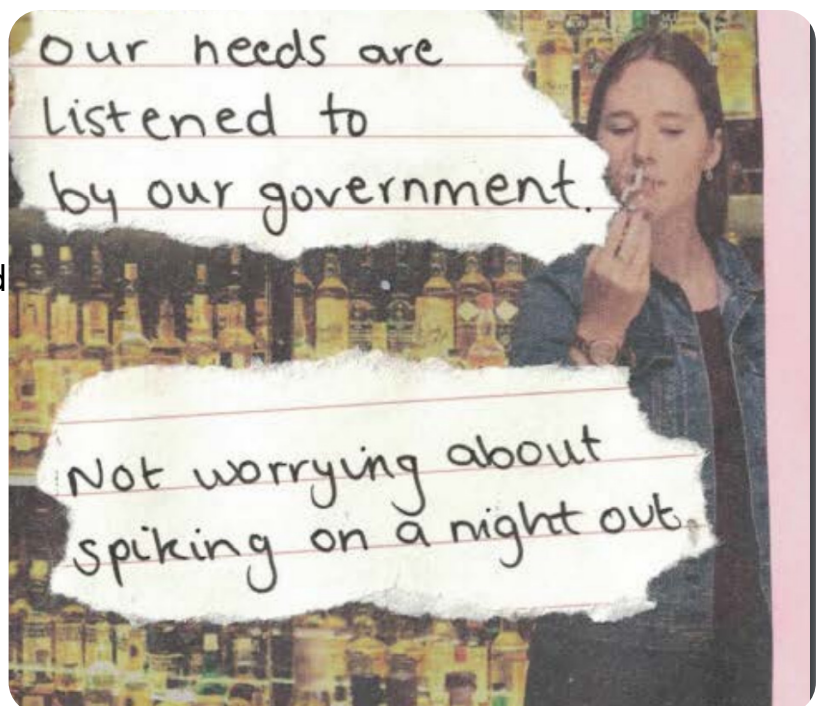
Our Project:

Exploring the connection between art and activism

We ran collaborative workshops with young women and girls across Scotland to explore how the arts can be used to engage with social justice movements.

There were three main strands to the project facilitated by three young women artists.

1. We worked with young women across Scotland in a digital space to create a Zine that highlighted the importance of community, neurodiversity, an inclusive and diverse Scotland, equal access to services, space to thrive as young women and feminist city planning. The Zine reflects how young women experience Scotland, and how they can use creative activism to make the changes that they want to see.



The Zine can be accessed [here](#)

2. We worked in Renfrewshire with the YMCA Paisley STEM Girls group. We explored creative actions for social justice and gender equality with the group, and how these shifted and evolved across generations in the room.

The group studied a range of activist artworks covering migration, LGBTQIA+ rights, climate emergency, and feminism to open conversations about what change we want to see in the world, and how these conversations may be prompted through our artworks.

The group created a stop motion, animated short highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, young women and girls. They also created LED message boards and programmed them with important and powerful words that they want to highlight as issues for them as young women - "protect women and children", "equal rights for women", "make feminism happen."



3. We also worked in Clydebank Library with pupils from Clydebank High School. The group created a photographic account of how they experience Scotland as young women, and the changes they would like to see. Together they explored how photography can be used as an agent of change in relation to visual representations of women and girls.

In response to a range of feminist issues discussed within the sessions, participants made protest signs re-imagining a fairer Scotland for young women and girls, as well as exploring how their own words and bodies could be used to create powerful messages of activism and resistance. Acting as both photographer and subject, the girls were able to take control of their own representation, defining their sense of self and their community.

The final creative outputs highlighted the diversity of the participants lived experiences as young women. The artwork was displayed at The Young Women's Movement at our 100-year birthday | Edinburgh's City Chambers and is currently exhibited in community spaces – Clydebank Library and YMCA Paisley. The work displayed at Clydebank Library will find its final home in Clydebank High School. The work is a call to action for what still needs to be changed to achieve gender equality.

Impact:

The project supported 47 young women facing additional barriers to access artistic and creative activities. They all reported the following outcomes:

- Feeling empowered through their involvement in youth-led arts activities and that their voices are amplified.
- Feeling better able to express themselves through involvement in arts activities.
- Feeling better connected to their peers and communities.

