



Young People's Rights Review

Derry Moore MSYP - Empowering Rights Awareness

Hello everyone, my name is Derry Moore and I am an MSYP for the Dumfriesshire constituency within Dumfries and Galloway. Today I would like to speak about how Rights are experienced by young people across an often-overlooked region in South Scotland.

Over the last few weeks, I have been out engaging with young people to find out more about what is taught and understood surrounding 'rights'.

Over 250 young people have been consulted on this topic through online surveys and focus groups. The most common theme that has emerged is that over 60% were entirely unaware that they have rights that impact their every-day lives.

For most, basic fundamental rights such as the right to shelter and food were known however the entitlements that relate to youth voice, involvement in decision making, culture, and leisure were unknown by the majority.

It is no secret that D&G is an incredibly rural part of Scotland. Barriers to participation including suitable facilities, availability of broadband and regular and affordable public transport present a genuine and unavoidable challenge for many.

At the minute, Education Scotland provides an elective module focussed on recognising and realising children's rights for professionals.

Within the Experiences and Outcomes outlined under the curriculum for excellence, the two areas that reference rights and citizenship based learning are; social studies and health and well-being.

I would like to pose these questions to you;

How can we expect young people to know and effectively be taught about their rights when there is no requirement for educators to have this knowledge themselves?

How can it be expected that young people realise their rights in all aspects of life when we do not have a universal approach to rights based education that cross-cuts all subjects within the curriculum?

Ask anyone who has ever been to school, how much did they learn about life and the world through their Social Education classes?

Although I commend the inclusion of an action to raise awareness of rights amongst children and young people themselves in the draft plan. **I further recommend that children and young people's rights education be made mandatory, including teacher training, as per the UNCRC's recommendation in 2016, paragraph 73.**

Furthermore, this education must be about the rights beyond the UNCRC, Human Rights Act and the ECHR to empower us to be human rights defenders.

I am asking you to commit to driving forward a change, *Right Here, Right Now*. The right to Human Rights Education is a fundamental right, and we can do more.

Thankyou.