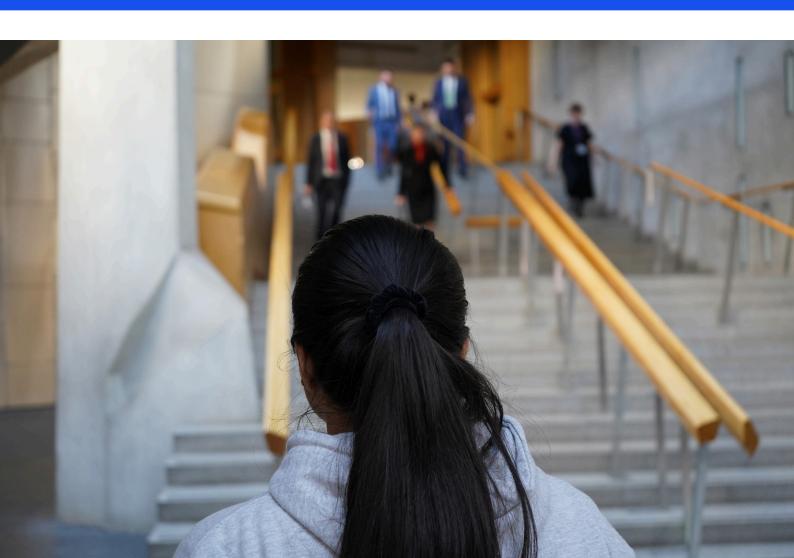


## Youth Work and Civic Engagement: International Policy Perspectives

#YouthLinkPolicyCon





#### Foreword from our CEO

YouthLink Scotland advocates for the youth work sector so that all young people can access highquality youth work. I am proud to represent a sector that is improving the lives of young people every day.

We are keen to continue working with the government and other partners to recognise youth work and promote international friendship, learning, and collaboration. That's why this year's Policy Convention is international in flavour and focused on Youth Work and its Role in Civic Engagement. This is the fourth of its kind, following "A Right to Youth Work" in 2021, "Youthwork is Human Rights Work" in 2022, and "A Right to a Critical Education and the Role of Youth Work" in 2023.

The convention focuses on policy and influence and connects with cross-sectoral leaders. The insights gained help keep us informed and responsive to the sector's temperature on critical issues affecting them. It helps complement sector-led policy responses, informs position statements and briefings on relevant policy consultations, and builds the movement to protect, resource, and grow youth work services across Scotland.

This year, we welcome policy professionals, elected representatives, and youth workers from Scotland, Iceland, Nigeria, India, and Finland! We hope you enjoy the day as we work to maintain and grow international opportunities and relationships through our existing groupings and create new and important connections as we build the global movement.

1. M. Frew

CEO, YouthLink Scotland

#YouthLinkPolicyCon

## Schedule

09.45	Youth work video input
09.50	Welcome: Kevin Kane Policy & Reserach Manager, YouthLink Scotland
10:00	Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, Angus Robertson MSP
10:05	Martin Whitfield, Scottish Labour MSP and Shadow Spokesperson for Children, Young People & Lifelong Learning Followed by Q&A
10:35	Break
10:45	Olalekan Oshunkoya, Executive Director of Citizen Commons International and Benita Ezumezu, Programme Lead for Citizen Commons., Nigeria
11:05	Together (SACR), Policy Lead, Sarah McDermott
11:25	Pooja Jain and Kanika Sinha Co-Leads, Communications and Visibility CoMmutiny, India
11:45	Break
12:00	Youth work video input
12:05	Lemmy Koivunen and Virpi Roponen, Children of the Station, Helsinki, Finland
12:35	Morgan Moore, Planet Youth Delivery Lead from Winning Scotland, Ellysse from YSortIt, Magga & Iryna from Planet Youth Iceland
13:10	Isla Grant MSYP and Beth MacKay MSYP Scottish Youth Parliament Q&A
13:30	Closing remarks Tim Frew, CEO, YouthLink Scotland
13:35	Polling and close

#### Overview

#### Youth work and civic engagement: International Policy Perspectives

YouthLink Scotland continues to work with our diverse membership, government and other partners to recognise youth work and promote international friendship, learning, and collaboration.

We are delighted that this year's Policy Convention is international in flavour. and focusing on Youth Work and its Role in Civic Engagement. It is the fourth of policy convention in as many years, following "A Right to Youth Work" in 2021, "Youthwork is Human Rights Work" in 2022, and "A Right to a Critical Education and the Role of Youth Work" in 2023.

#### Youth work and civic engagement

Youth workers educate in partnership with young people about civic responsibilities, rights, and the importance of participation in democratic processes. They provide information on how government works, the significance of voting, and ways to get involved in community issues.

Practitioners equip young people with the skills needed for civic engagement, such as critical thinking, public speaking, leadership, and organisational skills. These competencies enable young individuals to effectively participate in civic life and advocate in the best interests of themselves and their communities.

Through youth work, young people create networks relationships, fostering trust, essential components of engaging with and building social capital. These networks enhance collective action, bring communities together, further promoting civic engagement and igniting causes driven by young people.

Youth workers in local authority and third sector settings often encourage young people to get involved in political processes by voting, campaigning, or facilitating representation in local and national politics. This involvement helps to ensure that the perspectives and needs of young people are represented in political arenas.

Youth workers support young people in advocacy and activism efforts. They help them to identify issues they are passionate about, develop campaigns, and engage in activism to drive social change.

#### Learning from the policy convention

The shared learning and insights garnered from the policy convention will help keep us informed and responsive to the sector's temperature on critical issues affecting them. It helps complement sector-led policy responses, informs position statements and briefings on relevant policy consultations, and builds the movement to protect, resource, and grow youth work services across Scotland.

This year, we welcome policy professionals, elected representatives, and youth workers from Scotland, Finland, Nigeria, India, and Finland! We hope you will join us on the day as we work to maintain and advance international opportunities and relationships through our existing groupings and create new and vital connections as we build the global movement for progressive policies with youth work at its core.



### **Speakers**



Kevin Kane,
Policy and Research Manager
YouthLink Scotland.

Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture.



# Pooja Jain, Communications and Visibility Co-Lead, Pravah and ComMutiny - The Youth Collective.

5

Kanika Sinha,

Convener, ComMutiny - The Youth Collective Anchor, The vartaLeap Coalition.



Benita Ezumezu,
Programme lead for
Citizen Commons.

Olalekan Oshunkoya, Executive Director of Citizen Commons International.





Lemmy Koivunen Children of the Station, Helsinki, Finland.

Virpi Roponen Children of the Station, Helsinki, Finland.





Martin Whitfield MSP
Scottish Labour Shadow
Spokesperson for Children
and Young People, Lifelong
Learning and Youth
Unemployment.

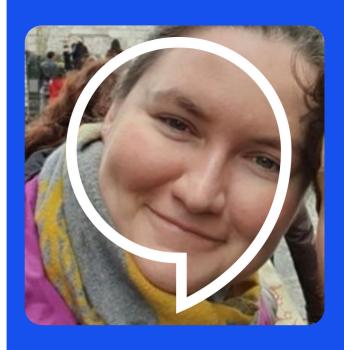
**Beth MacKay MSYP**Scottish Youth Parliament







Development Manager, Together (SACR), working with members to support the implementation of the UNCRC





## #YouthLinkPolicyCon

YouthLink Scotland, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning St. Edinburgh, EH3 8EG
T: 0131 202 8050 E: info@youthlink.scot W: www.youthlink.scot
YouthLink Scotland is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in Scotland No: 164547. Charity Ref: SC003923















