

What is the Scottish Youth Parliament?



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the basis for our vision, mission and values.

In particular, the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) embodies Article 12 of the UNCRC, which states that young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them. As a completely youth-led charity, the words and sentiment of Article 12 have profound importance for our work.

Our vision

SYP is the democratic voice of Scotland's young people.

Our vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its young people.

Our goal is to make this vision a reality, in order to ensure young people in Scotland grow up loved, safe and respected, and able to realise their full potential.

Our mission

SYP is a rights-based charity, with members supported by all of Scotland's 32 local authorities and 11 National Voluntary Organisations.

SYP's mission is to provide a national platform for young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, and campaign for changes to the nation that they live in. We support our members in their work by training them, supporting their personal development and empowering them, using a youth work ethos.

Our democratically elected members listen to and recognise the issues that are most important to young people in every community across the country and ensure that decision-makers listen to their voices.

Our values

1) Democracy

We are youth-led and accountable to young people aged 14 to 25. Our democratic structure and the scale of our engagement across Scotland gives us a mandate that sets us apart from other organisations.

2) Rights

We are a rights-based organisation. We are passionate about making young people aware of their rights, and ensuring that local and national governments uphold their rights.

3) Inclusion and Diversity

SYP is committed to being truly inclusive and works tirelessly to ensure the voices of every young person from every community and background in Scotland are heard.

4) Political impartiality

We are independent from all political parties. By working with all stakeholders, groups, and individuals who share our values, we deliver the policies that are most important to young people.

