



**EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 00:01AM**

**The Scottish Youth Parliament launches consultation to address the most pressing issues impacting young people's lives**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) launches their latest manifesto consultation, [\*From Scotland's Young People\*](#), which will shape the direction of their political work for a five-year period.

As the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people, SYP's policy comes directly from the concerns raised by 12-25 year olds across Scotland. This mass consultation phase, which lasts until September 2020, will enable Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) to work constructively with decision-makers to ensure young people's needs are being met. It will also assist the organisation to influence Scotland's political parties' manifestos, ahead of the 2021 elections.

*From Scotland's Young People* asks young people about the most pressing issues impacting their lives. From climate change to the age of criminal responsibility, the consultation also addresses the impact of COVID-19 on young people's futures.

SYP's previous manifesto consultation, [\*Lead the Way\*](#), paved the way for the organisation to change Scotland for the better. Their previous manifesto led to a successful campaign which, in partnership with children's rights charities, persuaded the Scottish Government to incorporate the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child into Scots Law.

Chair of SYP, Jack Dudgeon MSYP (aged 21), said:

"I'm extremely proud to launch *From Scotland's Young People*. In these rapidly changing and precarious times, young people's right to have their views listened to on all matters impacting them is more important than ever. Amongst a wide range of issues, this is young people's opportunity to have their say on what provisions the Scottish Government should be putting in place to protect their futures in the aftermath of COVID-19. We need reassurance that our life opportunities are not at risk, and we need this to be reflected in the manifestoes of Scotland's political parties.

MSYPs are determined that this huge consultation will provide the organisation with a strong democratic mandate to advocate on behalf of Scotland's young people. We look forward to working with decision-makers to ensure their right to be listened to is enshrined in Scots Law."

**ENDS**

## Notes to Editor

1. The [Scottish Youth Parliament](#) (SYP) is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. Their vision for Scotland is of a nation that actively listens to and values the meaningful participation of its children and young people. SYP is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly Article 12, which lays out young people's right to be listened to on the issues that affect them, and for their views to be given weight.
2. To arrange an interview with Jack Dudgeon MSYP, SYP's Chair, contact Rachel Ashenden, SYP's Communications Officer, on [rachel.a@syp.org.uk](mailto:rachel.a@syp.org.uk).