



The Scottish Youth Parliament

*“The democratically elected voice
of Scotland’s young people”*



Which of these
issues has the
biggest impact on
young people in
Scotland?

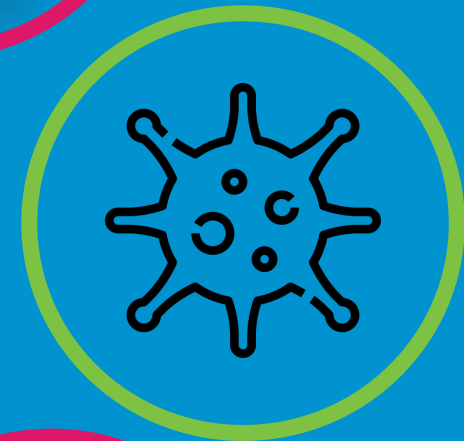
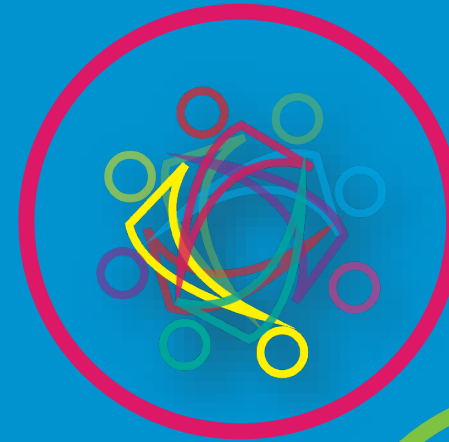
Mental Health?

Education? COVID-19?

The Environment?

Equality & Diversity?

Social media? Jobs? Poverty?





“ SYP is made up of 12 - 25 year olds from every part of Scotland, who come together to make sure that decision-makers listen to young people about the issues that impact us. ”





Our mission & values

“Young people have the right to express their views freely and have their opinions listened to in all matters affecting them” - Article 12 of the UNCRC

Democracy

Inclusion &
Diversity

Political
Impartiality

Rights

So... what have young people in Scotland been telling us recently?





The impact of COVID-19 for children & young people

Children and young people's rights should be at the forefront of decisions made during the COVID-19 crisis and recovery process.

What do you think...
Have children & young people's **rights** been impacted by the pandemic?

“Young people must be involved in decision-making about issues that effect them.”

What do you think?



Children and young people from seldom heard groups⁵ (such as immigrants and refugees, gypsy traveller communities, single parents, disabled people, Armed Forces, care experienced and justice experienced) must be listened to by policy makers on issues that affect them.

“

Disabled people are far too often an afterthought in the minds of the public and decision makers. We are still dangerously perceived as burdens and disposable. This is only exacerbated when you're a disabled young person as well.

“There must be more mental health support in schools, unis and colleges”

What do you think?

There should be mandatory training for those working in education and health care settings on how to identify mental health problems and provide support for all young people, especially those most at risk.¹⁶

“

I don't really know where I would've looked for mental health support. During the pandemic, if I needed help, I wouldn't know who to ask about it.

“

I've got a guidance teacher, and there's a 'Wellbeing' room in the school. Teachers are in there and they help. A few weeks ago I was in class and it was really noisy and I had an anxiety attack, and [...] the teachers helped me calm down.

There should be more investment in college and university welfare services, such as mental health support, pastoral care, advice services, and housing support.



“Schools should be funded so that young people & families don’t have to pay for.....”

State schools²⁵ should be financially supported by decision-makers to reduce or eliminate the costs of...

School meals:

Agree 85.4% Disagree 7.9%
Don't know 6.7%

Uniforms:

Agree 79.6% Disagree 12.9%
Don't know 7.5%

School trips:

Agree 69.4% Disagree 18.7%
Don't know 11.9%

Stationary and jotters:

Agree 82.6% Disagree 9.7%
Don't know 7.7%

Extra-curricular activities:

Agree 73.6% Disagree 13.9%
Don't know 12.5%

Applications for university:

Agree 84.3% Disagree 7.1%
Don't know 8.6%

Travel to and from school:

Agree 84.6% Disagree 7.8%
Don't know 7.5%

Attending work experience:

Agree 81.4% Disagree 8.5%
Don't know 10.1%



“Local youth work is important. It would be really bad if funding was cut”
What do you think?

Local youth work should be invested in by national and local government and protected by law from budget cuts.

“

I heard about youth work cut backs and I just think that is so sad, I had all of these opportunities when I was younger, and now kids are having these opportunities taken away.

Each year, we choose one issue in particular for our national campaign. This one was a few years ago, when we campaigned for all 16 year olds to get the vote!



In the past, we've also campaigned on issues like marriage equality, tackling poverty in Scotland, and mental health and wellbeing.





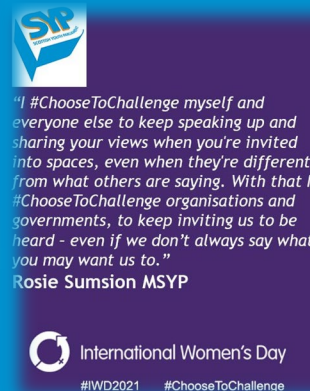
Our current campaign is called

Bounce Back

and it's all about making sure that our rights are respected as Scotland recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.



What else to we get up to?



Tackling Period Poverty in Scotland

a story of how MSYPs can contribute to change



In 2017, a couple of MSYPs wanted to know whether young people thought that period products should be free for everyone who needs them.

They conducted surveys on social media, in schools & youth groups in their area, and young people gave them a clear answer:

“Yes! Period products should be free to everyone who needs them!”



Tackling Period Poverty in Scotland

a story of how MSYPs can contribute to change

The Scottish Youth Parliament recognises that that the crux of period poverty is human dignity, and believes that access to free sanitary products should be available universally as opposed to on a means-tested basis.

Then, they proposed this motion the Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, and all members got to vote on whether they agree or disagree.

Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament voted in favour of this motion, and it became official SYP policy.

Tackling Period Poverty in Scotland

a story of how MSYPs can contribute to change



SYP were then able to contribute to campaigns on this issue as an organisation. E.g. SYP responded to Monica Lennon MSP's official bill consultation and made recommendations on how to improve the bill etc.

In 2019, MSYPs hosted a workshop at an SYP sitting in partnership with the Scottish Parliament to gather young peoples views on the bill. One MSYP presented these views to a Scottish Parliament Committee evidence session, which gained a lot of media coverage.

Tackling Period Poverty in Scotland










a story of how MSYPs can contribute to change

The Scottish Parliament has passed the Bill to provide **free period products**, including tampons and sanitary pads, **for all women in Scotland**



Subject Committees

Subject Committees are another way for MSYPs to make things happen in SYP. Depending on your interests, you could do great work in one of the following areas:

<i>Justice</i> 	<i>External Affairs, UK & International Relations</i> 	<i>Culture and Media</i> 	<i>Transport, Environment and Rural Affairs</i> 	<i>Social Security</i> 
<i>Health and Wellbeing</i> 	<i>Sport and Leisure</i> 	<i>Jobs, Economy and Fair Work</i> 	<i>Education and Lifelong Learning</i> 	<i>Equality and Human Rights</i> 



In 2021, you can
stand to become a
**Member of the Scottish
Youth Parliament**



Why get involved?



Learn brilliant new skills and build your confidence as an activist and campaigner



Why get involved?



Become part of a community of young people who support each other right across Scotland

Why get involved?



Stand up for what young
people believe in &
campaign to effect change

Why get involved?



Opportunities to meet directly
with the people who make
decisions about our lives





What are the next steps?

- **April - June 2021:** Express your interest on syp.org.uk/elections. We'll connect you with a support worker in your area who will help you through the rest of the process.
- **July - August 2021:** Come along to candidate training, and decide if you definitely want to stand to become an MSYP
- **September-November 2021:** we'll support you to run your own election campaign!
- **November 2021:** 12-25 year olds in your constituency will vote for who they want to represent their voice as MSYP



www.syp.org.uk

#Stand4SYP

Any questions? Email elections@syp.org.uk

