



Your voice.  
Your future.

SYP's 2026 Manifesto Consultation

# Participant Information Sheet - focus group

You are invited to take part in a focus group organised by the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) to feed your views into SYP's 2026-2031 manifesto. Before you decide whether or not you would like to participate, you can read the information provided below to help you to understand why and how the research is being carried out and what participation will involve.

Please contact SYP using the [contact form at syp.org.uk](https://syp.org.uk) if anything is unclear or you have any questions.

## Who is conducting the research?

SYP is the democratically elected 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.

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.

## What is the purpose of the research?

This is a focus group to gather the views of young people on what policies should be included in SYP's 2026-2031 manifesto. The results will be considered alongside an online survey with young people from across Scotland.

## **What is a manifesto?**

Every five years, in line with the Scottish Parliament elections, SYP have created one. It is a document, created by young people for young people, which includes a list of ideas which young people think the next Scottish Government, and other decision-makers, need to implement to meet the needs and uphold the rights of Scotland's young people. We will be publishing our next manifesto in 2025 and using it to ask the political parties running for election to include ideas from young people in their plans.

## **How did we get to this stage?**

In 2024, SYP carried out research and consultation to find out what are the top issues that Scotland's young people care about!

The first stage of this was creating a list of issues that young people told us mattered to them. This list of issues was then given to Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to review and draft policies about.

These policies are what we want to hear your views about now!

## **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You are being asked to take part in the research as a young person in Scotland whose lived experience is impacted by the decisions taken by people in power. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) protects young people's right to have their views heard on matters that affect them and for those views to be taken seriously.

SYP want to hear from any young people in Scotland, but particularly from young people from seldom-heard groups, young people who are furthest from their rights and whose voices are too often excluded from decision-making.

## **Do I have to take part?**

No. If you would no longer like to be involved you don't need to. However, after you take part in the focus group, we will not be able to remove your inputs from the data set as all focus group responses will be anonymous.

## **What will happen if I take part?**

You will take part in the focus group, developed by SYP.

The notes taken by facilitators will not be shared with anyone outside of the SYP staff team. Analysed versions of the data will be used to inform SYP's 2026-2031 manifesto. Anonymised quotes or summaries of your views may be included in the manifesto if you give permission. All raw data will be deleted from SYP's systems 6 months after the manifesto is published.

## **Are there any risks in taking part?**

No risks have been identified for you taking part.

## **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

The most important benefit to your taking part is that it will contribute to the development of SYP's manifesto - which in turn guides SYP's National Campaigns and can have a significant impact on decision-making in Scotland. All young people who take part will also have the opportunity to get Young Scot points. There will also be a lucky dip prize for groups who take part in one of our manifesto focus group sessions!

## **Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

The information you share will be anonymised and you will not need to share your name or individual contact details. Your teacher, youth worker, or the person facilitating your session will provide their name, contact details and the name of your group for the lucky dip prize.

## **What will happen to the information I provide?**

The information you provide will be summarised by SYP staff and included in a report for MSYPs working on SYP's manifesto. Anonymised quotes or summaries of your views will be included in these reports and may be included in the manifesto if you give permission.

No names or contact details will be included in the data shared outside SYP. All raw data will be deleted from SYP's systems 6 months after the publication of SYP's manifesto.

## **Data Protection**

The personal data that will be collected and processed in this study are:

- Your school, youth group, etc.
- Your teacher, youth worker or the person running your focus group's name & contact details (only for the purposes of the prize draw).
- The number of people in your class, youth group, etc.
- The age range of people in your class, youth group, etc.



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