

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
01 November 2019

“Young People’s Rights to Inclusive Sex Education and Information not Being Met” Major Youth Conference in Dublin Hears

Hundreds of young people will gather in Dublin’s Mansion House today to develop better policies and approaches to sexual health for young people and to debate young people’s right to inclusive, holistic and accurate sex education and information. The event organised by Youth Work Ireland with the support of the [Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#) will examine issues like consent, sex education, pornography, and disability. The event mc-ed by young people will feature keynote speakers, interactive workshops, panel discussion and arts-based sessions and will provide a space for young people to have their voices heard on sexual health rights. The conference and youth summit will open and build on a national dialogue to share learning between young people and decision makers on the issue of sexual health and the rights of young people. A new programme will also be launched at the event. The YES Project (Youth Empowerment in SRE) is a new programme aimed at supporting youth workers to educate young people on sexual health. The programme focuses on sexual identity, consent & decision making

“It is clear that there are serious issues around how we are talking to young people about relationships and sexuality in schools and more generally. Young people themselves have told us they want to see change and the NCCA is indicating it is listening in its current review of the subject. However, progress is extremely slow. We welcome the fact that young people from around the country in our organisation want to move things along much faster. They are particularly frustrated that the idea of a school’s ethos can impact on such an important area. They want to see this changed and are now campaigning on that issue. This is the type of youth led advocacy that youth services are facilitating today responding to real issues that young people raise, in a timely fashion to make an impact on decision makers” Said Deborah Fakeye (18) from Youth Work Ireland

“The urgent need for inclusive sex education has emerged as a key issue for young people recently. Youth Work Ireland’s Positive Sexual Health Campaign has revealed that young people’s opinion of current Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is that it is inadequate, not fit for purpose and does not reflect or address the needs of young people growing up in Ireland today. Ireland has changed in the last decades, it has become a more inclusive, equal and progressive society and sex education in Irish schools must reflect this. The Positive Sexual Health Campaign we launched with a resource for youth workers designed specifically to address the thorny issue of sex education has shown the need for much more work in this area and today’s conference advances that” Added Joshua Elluh (17)

ENDS

<https://www.youthworkireland.ie/conference>

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