



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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Leading Provider of LGBTI Youth Projects Echoes Garda Call on Safety – Youth Projects Can Support LGBTI Young People Particularly in Remote Areas

Youth Work Ireland today echoed and supported calls by the Gardai for people to pay particular attention to safety and security protocols relating to online dating and meeting people in person based on online contact. The organisation, whose members run LGBTI+ Youth Projects around Ireland, has emphasized that support is available to young LGBTI+ people in all parts of the country at this time in relation to online safety or any other concerns they may have. The organisation says support is particularly important in remote areas.

“The Gardaí have provided important advice to everyone who engages in online dating and related activity which we would support and echo. We would very much like to let people know that there are a network of LGBTI Youth Support and Ally Projects around the country and many of these are in smaller towns and can be accessed from remote areas. Any young people with concerns or worries at this time should feel free to make contact with these for any advice or support they may need. These are free and confidential services” said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

"LGBTI+ Youth Groups are spaces for young people to feel safe and protected, our youth workers provide this space for young people to grow and develop and also give them a sense of belonging. We listen to stories of exclusion every day and we embrace the needs of the young people to make a difference in their lives, every young person deserves the right to be heard, respected, and included" Added Clive Davis, Regional Director from Youth Work Ireland Laois

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About Youth Work Ireland:

- Youth Work Ireland is the largest youth organisation in Ireland, aimed at improving the lives and futures of young people. The organisation works on developing various innovative services, supports and programmes, including LGBTI+ youth work, mental health supports, resilience building, anxiety programmes, drug and alcohol supports, music and creative industry programmes club development, employability programmes, counselling services, rural outreach, and fun safe spaces for young people to gather.
- Youth Work Ireland and its Member Youth Services places in-person engagement with young people at the core of its work through a network of youth clubs throughout Ireland. With over 250 youth clubs in Ireland, 726 staff and 3,331 trained and Garda Vetted volunteers, Youth Work Ireland engages with over 76,000 young people every week.