

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL

YOUTH WORK IRELAND

NATIONAL CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

THE GIBSON HOTEL, DUBLIN NOVEMBER 4TH, 2024

WELCOME

Youth Work Ireland's Consensus Conferences initiate collective campaigns important to our members. Youth Work for All is our campaign to ensure that youth work welcomes and is accessible to all young people, whomever they are. Thus, strengthening an equality and rights agenda while developing policy and service innovations that will better connect targeted and universal provision.

It's not just about 'universal youth work.' Youth Work for All is our approach to all youth work; our principles, values and approach are the same regardless of the funding programme or target group. All young people are universally given positive regard, resulting in better outcomes.

The purpose of the day is for participants to come to a consensus on what needs to be done to support youth work for all and launch a campaign to realise Youth Work for All. In the morning plenary you will hear about the policy and service challenges and opportunities that gave rise to this campaign. You will hear real, meaningful stories of what those challenges look like during our past present future montage. You will hear our proposed next steps when we present Youth Work Ireland's view on what Youth Work for All Demands.

The afternoon will offer an opportunity to consider all these ideas and identify together a path forward for Youth Work for All.

MORNING SESSION

9:30 - 10:00

Musical Act
Tea, Coffee and Registration

10:00 - 10:15

Introduction and Housekeeping
Danielle Gayson,
President Elect Youth Work Ireland

10:15- 10:20

Youth Work for All Demands and Proclamation
Leo Galvin
Aisling Moloney

10:20 - 10:35

Context and Challenges in Youth Work Ireland and Youth Sector
Dr Patrick Burke
CEO Youth Work Ireland

10:35 - 10:50

Context in Irish Policy
Brian Coleman
DCEDIY

10:50 - 11:05

KEYNOTE: Youth Work for all: The European Dimension and 4th European Youth Work Convention of the EU and the Council of Europe.
Dr Tobias Flessenkemper, Council of Europe
Head of Youth

11:05 - 11:15

The Rights Basis of Youth Work
Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon

11:15 - 11:45

Q&A

11:45 - 12:00

COFFEE BREAK

MORNING SESSION CONT.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF YOUTH WORK FOR ALL IN YOUTH WORK IRELAND

12:00 - 12:10

MONTAGE SESSION

Chair: Lorraine Thompson,
CEO, Donegal Youth Service

12:10 - 12:20

Kilnaboy Youth Club - Let's get back there!

Sean Roche, Volunteer, Kilnaboy Youth Club, Clare Youth Service

12:20 - 12:30

The Impact of Youth Work for All on Equality

Lee Anna Warde, Volunteer, Youth Work Ireland Galway

12:30 - 12:40

TAG Meath Autism Group

Ger Cullen, Volunteer, Youth Work Ireland Meath

12:40 - 12:50

The challenges for Clubs and Voluntary Youth Work

Brian McManus, Senior Manager, Clubs and YDPs, Clare Youth Service

12:50 - 12:55

The limitations of targeting and Youth Work for All in Youth Services

Gareth Gibson, Senior Manager, Youth Information, Donegal Youth Service

12:55 - 13:00

Launch of Erasmus+ funded Virtual Youth Work Project to Build a Virtual Youth Space

This innovative project will use new technologies to provide Youth Work for All

Dr Tobias Flessenkemper, Celine Martin, Léargas and Paul Keating, TUS

13:00 - 14:00

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00 - 14:40

THEMATIC YOUTH WORK WORKSHOPS

These 'town hall' style workshops will feature short inputs followed by facilitated Q&A and group discussions

Workshop 1: Technology and Youth Work for All

Chair: Donal Kelly

Location: Stratocaster A

Workshop 2: Research and Youth Work for All

Chair: Gareth Gibson

Location: Stratocaster B

Workshop 3: International Perspectives on Youth Work for All

Chair: Gareth Harteveld

Location: Stratocaster C

Workshop 4: Equality, Inclusion and Youth Work for All

Chair: Gina Halpin

Location: Alahambra Suite

14:45 - 15:45

CONSENSUS WORKSHOPS

Integrating Youth Work and Broader Connections with Universal Youth Work - Education, Sport and Culture

• Liz Canavan, Assistant Sec Gen Dept of Taoiseach

Chair: Fiona O'Grady, CEO Limerick Youth Service

Location: Stratocaster A

14:45 - 15:45

Targeted Services and Universal Youth Work

- Deaglán Ó Briain, Principle, Department of Justice
- Eifion Williams, Service Director for Commissioning, Tusla
- Cormac Quinlan, Assistant National Director for Practice Reform, Tusla
- Dr Seán Redmond, Adjunct Professor of Youth Justice, University of Limerick.

Chair Tom Dunne, CEO In Sync Youth & Family Services
Location: Stratocaster B

Setting Out A Rights Agenda in Universal Youth Work

- Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman, Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Chair: Berni Smyth, CEO KDYS
Location: Stratocaster C

Supporting Voluntary Youth Work

- Ruth Griffin, Youth Support Services Manager, ETBI
- Brian Coleman, Assistant Principle Officer, DCEDIY

Chair: Geraldine Lacey, CEO Youth Work Ireland Midlands
Location: Alahambra Suite

15:45 - 16:00

COFFEE BREAK

16:00: 16:30

A Consensus Statement on Youth Work for All

Young rapporteurs will present key points of consensus.

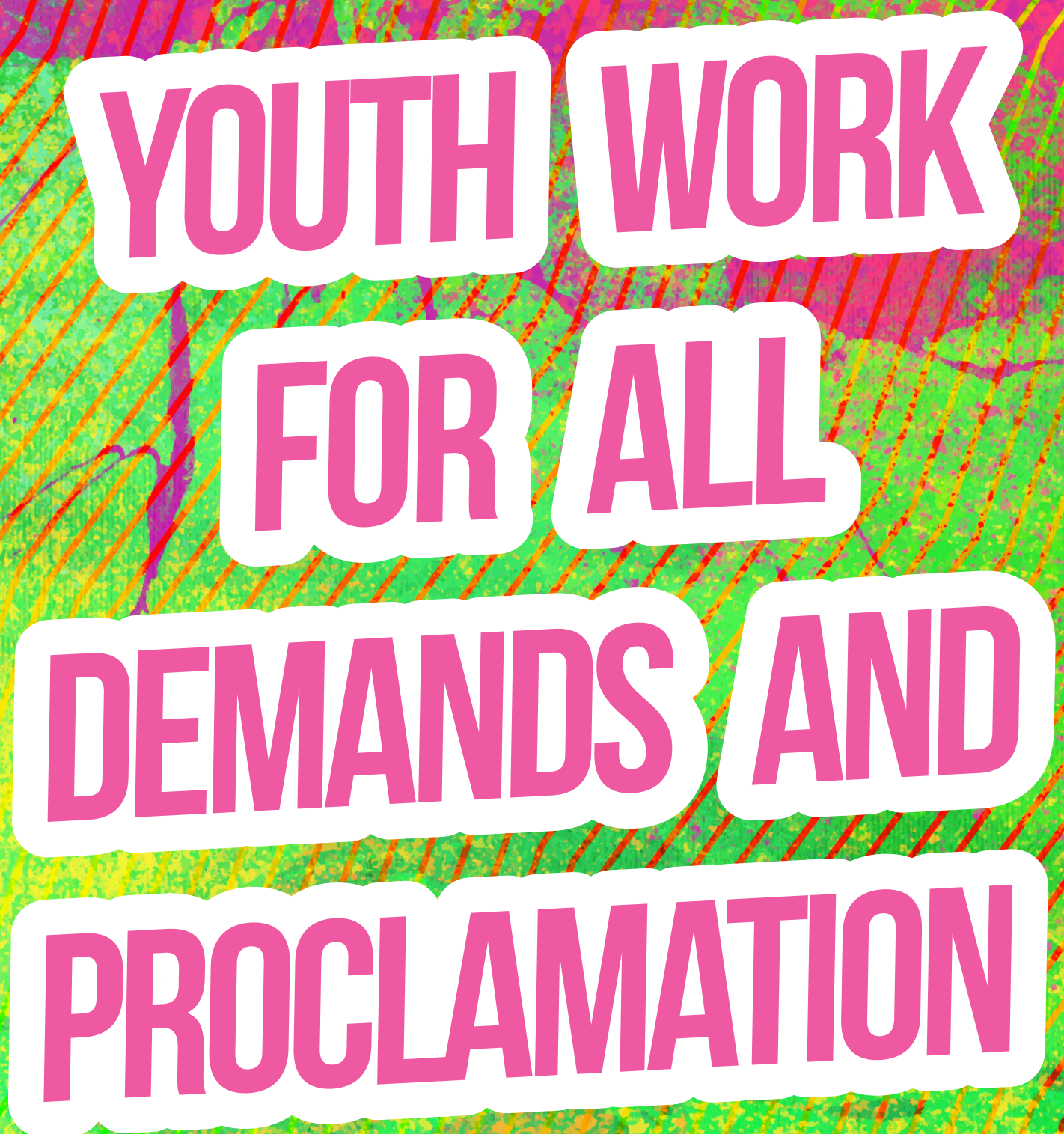
- Aisling Moloney, National Youth Action Group, Youth Work Ireland
- Leo Galvin, National Youth Action Group, Youth Work Ireland

Response and Closing Thoughts

Liz Canavan, Assistant Secretary General Department of the Taoiseach

Thanks and Official Close

Dr Patrick Burke
CEO Youth Work Ireland



**YOUTH WORK
FOR ALL
DEMANDS AND
PROCLAMATION**



YOUTH WORK FOR ALL DEMANDS

By youth work we understand: A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations. (Youth Work Act 2001)

Today, 4th November 2024, Youth Work Ireland proclaims that access to youth work is a right for all young people in our country. To this end we assert that:

- The state has a duty to fully and adequately fund youth services in every part of the country.
- Young people in every community have a right to a youth friendly dedicated space.
- Every community can expect youth work to be supported and delivered by youth workers (voluntary or paid) to their young people.
- Youth work as an enabler of rights, informs young people of their economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights and provides them with the tools to assert those rights.
- Youth work is delivered by voluntary organisations nationally and within local communities.
- Youth work welcomes all young people without exception.
- Youth work and youth services are youth led.
- Youth work as a practice is a social good in its own right and not merely a tool to direct individual behavioural change.
- Youth work provides pathways for young people on their personal and civic journey.
- Specialist youth information worker provide quality information to young people which they can trust.
- The values underpinning the practice of youth work include voluntary participation, quality, inclusion, social justice and empowerment.



YOUTH WORK FOR ALL PROCLAMATION

RIGHTS BASIS FOR YOUTH WORK FOR ALL

Rights Basis and Youth Work for All

This means: We practice youth work as an enabler of rights. Young people are discriminated against and face barriers to realising their rights. As youth work enable rights, it must be provided without discrimination.

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL seeks to ensure that youth work welcomes, supports and is accessible to all young people without discrimination, with the purpose of achieving equality of outcomes.

VOLUNTARY BASIS AND YOUTH WORK FOR ALL

Voluntary Basis and Youth Work for All

This means: Youth Work for All is fundamentally entwined with volunteering and civil society so requires strong voluntary services. Making youth work accessible to all young people requires voluntary clubs. Legislation recognises civil society as the primary youth work provider. Youth work builds civil society through communities of citizens young and old collectively working for a greater good.

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL requires recognition and support of volunteers and strong, voluntary youth services and a strong, democratic, society.

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL SEES AND ACCEPTS YOUNG PEOPLE HOLISTICALLY

Youth Work for All sees and accepts young people holistically.

This means: We provide integrated services, as such there is no wrong door. There aren't mainstream or targeted youth workers, or LGBTQI+ youth workers, this is a myth. There are youth workers who create any space or open any door needed. Working with young people holistically starts with unconditional positive regard, recognition and esteem for young people, in every way they identify themselves. We take a youth centered focus addressing needs and aspirations, not focusing solely on labels or identity groups. Integration comes from working together not in isolated groups. When support and recognition of individual identities is needed, we give it readily and holistically.

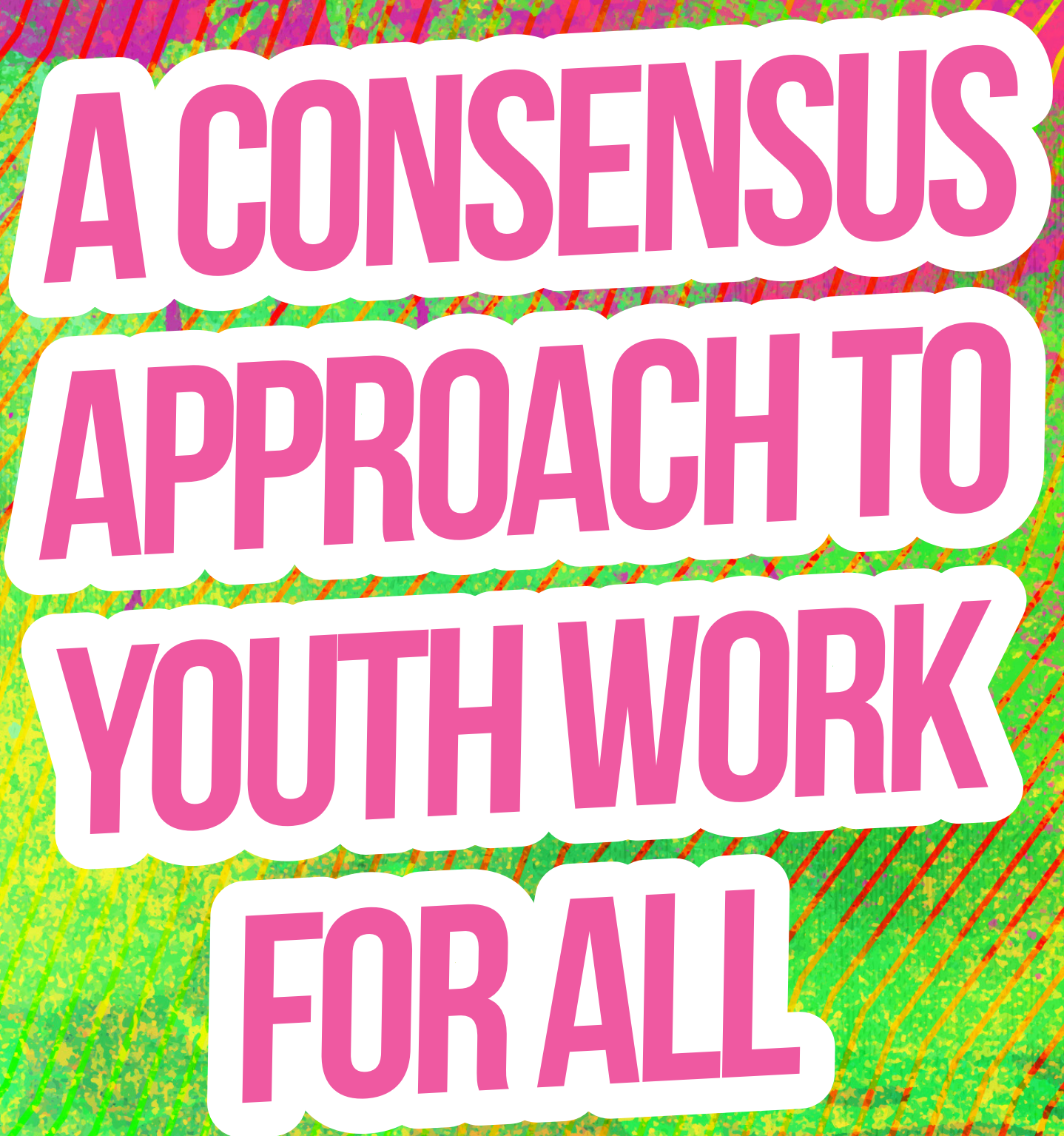
YOUTH WORK FOR ALL requires that both policy and funding support integrated, holistic working.

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL IS OUR APPROACH TO ALL YOUTH WORK - TARGETED OR UNIVERSAL

Youth Work for All is our approach to all youth work whether it is targeted or universal.

THIS MEANS: We don't do "universal youth work" or "targeted work" we do youth work. Our principles, values and approach are the same regardless of the funding programme or target group. Youth work in Youth Work Ireland, is embedded in a culture of kindness, empathy and using youth work methods in everything we do. The organisation's culture, the ethos, the people delivering it, the principles they espouse are all aligned to these principles. Unconditional positive regard is central to this. Our values and approach is the same whether working with young people, staff, communities, funders or policy makers.

YOUTH WORK FOR ALL requires building relationships based on mutual respect, not just because we believe in this, but because it is what works.



A CONSENSUS APPROACH TO YOUTH WORK FOR ALL

A VISUAL DEPICTION OF YOUTH WORK FOR ALL

During the summer of 2024 Youth Work Ireland engaged with hundreds of its stakeholders across Ireland to develop a deeper understanding of what Youth Work for All means. We met with youth workers, young people and volunteers and asked them to describe what youth work for all meant to them, and what they felt were the issues facing youth work provision in Ireland today.

The themes that emerged from interviews, chats and consultations were collated, themed and have now been graphically depicted by artist @xkee. Each image has been carefully created to draw attention to the central theme without fully framing every element. This stylistic appearance adds energy and immediacy to the composition.

These once off illustrations capture the stories, concerns and aspirations from young people, youth workers and volunteers and provide a striking visual representation of the values, outcomes, challenges and impact of youth work in local communities.



YOUTH WORK FOR ALL





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National Consensus Conference 2024

www.youthworkireland.ie