



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

Palace of Westminster,

London, United Kingdom

8 and 9 December 2010



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2010

0830 – 0900 Registration of participants

OPENING SESSION – SETTING THE SCENE

0930 – 1000

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

INTRODUCTORY/WELCOME REMARKS

Do young people participate enough? Is there a general downward trend of youth interest in politics? Are there too many competing interests for their attention? Are there trends or regional differences around Europe or other factors such as poverty or ethnic background?

SESSION I – WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE YOUNG PEOPLE

1000 – 1215

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Today's youth is tomorrow's government.

If young people reject politics, what is the alternative? Violence?

Outline the positive effects of greater youth participation in politics/society:

On a global scale: the UN World Programme for Youth and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and The Climate Revolution.

At a local level: Eradication of crime and anti social behavior, Promote intercultural dialogue and thereby decrease discrimination, promote better communication and negotiation skills in young people which leads to the ability to resolve conflict through peaceful dialogue

LUNCH

1230-1400

Informal Buffet lunch in the IPU and Jubilee Rooms

Host: TBC

SESSION II –YOUTH PARTICIPATION AROUND EUROPE

1430-1700

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Consider region by region (north, south, east, west) and include the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

RECEPTION

1830-2000

Delegates are invited to attend a reception at Lancaster House

Host: TBC

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2010

SESSION III – THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE – BY YOUNG PEOPLE!

0930 – 1100

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Invite members of the Youth Parliament/Youth Council and other Youth organisations to come in and either discuss the issues that affect them – or else we could put together some sort of debate scenario...

SESSION IV – HOW TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

1130 – 1230

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

The need for younger, more modern, more accessible parliaments. Change the voting age to 16? Focus on education and include politics, democracy and civics in the national curriculum. Discuss the importance of ICT (Facebook, Twitter etc....). Develop youth information strategies and web-based information for young people. Why are young people unwilling or unable to participate using traditional ways?

LUNCH

1230 – 1430

Delegates are at leisure

SESSION IV *continued* – HOW TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

1430 – 1600

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

The need for younger, more modern and more accessible parliaments. Change the voting age to 16? Focus on education and include politics, democracy and civics in the national curriculum. Discuss the importance of ICT (Facebook, Twitter etc....). Develop youth information strategies and web-based information for young people. Why are young people unwilling or unable to participate using traditional ways?

CLOSING SESSION – WHAT CAN YOU AS PARLIAMENTARIANS DO TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH PARTICIPATION?

IPU Room/Jubilee Room

1600–1730

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

Final conclusions by the Chair

Refreshments offered