



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
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BREXIT and social issues dominate inaugural meeting of the British Irish Parliamentary Youth Assembly in Dublin aimed at giving young people an input to key issues in the relations on the two islands.

Young people from Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales gathered for the inaugural British Irish Parliamentary Youth Assembly in Dublin today. The meeting is ahead of the next meeting of the actual British Ireland Parliamentary Assembly in Cardiff. There the young people will meet with members of the Irish and UK parliaments and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Assemblies. BREXIT dominated the proceedings where young people were beginning to formulate their “asks” for members of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly in Cardiff at the end of the month. Six members of the youth assembly are drawn from the five youth services, Youth Work Ireland, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Scotland, UK Youth and Youth Cymru. The 30 members and youth workers from the “five nations” have been meeting in Dublin all week-end working on a range of issues impacting on young people but BREXIT has been the dominant theme. The Week-end will finish up with a visit to the Dail on Monday morning. The meeting is supported by the ERASMUS+ youth project of the European Union.

“It’s been great to welcome our colleagues and now friends from across the UK to Dublin this week-end where we’ve had fascinating discussions on a range of policy issues impacting on young people including health, education, transport and rural life but one issue has dominated and that of course is BREXIT. Young people are worried about the post BREXIT situation on the two islands. They are concerned about travel, a hard border in Ireland, the levels of social provision post BREXIT, mobility across the EU and post BREXIT environmental standards. Working together the young people are developing agreed calls to present to politicians from the two parliaments and three assemblies for the end of November in Cardiff, these will represent the only voice of young people in the deliberations around these issues on an east west basis. It appears the majority of young people were against BREXIT but now have to deal with its fall-out.” Said Robert O’Donnell (19) one of the Irish Members

“While the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly is set up to bring together representatives of parliaments and assemblies on the two islands it is not directly elected and may not be well known amongst the public. Young people often are distant from the political process and those under 18 usually have no vote in elections. Therefore the five youth organisations from the two islands thought it important to make sure young people had a voice in these deliberations. We brought young people together in this assembly to ensure that this will happen and the young people in Dublin this week-end will develop their input and take it directly to parliamentarians in Cardiff at the end of November. BREXIT has really dominated the week-end and young people have numerous questions about what it will mean for their lives and their future, they are looking for clarity from decision makers about these key issues” Said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

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