

# Youth Work for All PROCLAMATION



## 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.**

## YOUTH WORK FOR ALL SEES AND ACCEPTS YOUNG PEOPLE HOLISTICALLY. IT FOLLOWS THAT WE PROVIDE SERVICES 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 youth work.**

## 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, strong, voluntary youth services and a strong, democratic, society.**

## YOUTH WORK FOR ALL IS OUR APPROACH TO ALL YOUTH WORK REGARDLESS OF 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.**