



# YOUTH WORK FOR ALL DEMANDS

**Youth Work Ireland National Consensus Conference  
Monday November 4th, 2024**

*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.

