



Your Logo



Press Release **embargoed until 00am Friday June 27th, 2025

“Young Voices, Loud and Proud: Youth Work Ireland’s Proud Spaces Rural Youth Groups Lead Protest for Equality at Dublin Pride”

As part of this year’s Dublin Pride celebrations, hundreds of young people from Youth Work Ireland’s network of Proud Spaces LGBTQI+ youth groups will travel to the capital to celebrate, march under the powerful banner of Proud Spaces.

Proud Spaces is Youth Work Ireland’s youth-led model for supporting LGBTQI+ young people, developed in collaboration with our 20-member youth services. It defines what’s needed to ensure young LGBTQI+ people, particularly those in rural areas, feel safe, supported, and included in their communities.

This year, the parade presence includes a bold new element—the **“Raise Your Voice, Raise Your Banner” campaign**. In the weeks leading up to Pride, young people across the country have been taking part in a powerful banner-making activity. Using creativity as a form of protest and visibility, these hand-crafted banners reflect young people's thoughts on identity, resistance, visibility, and solidarity. As they march in Dublin, their voices will be amplified not only by their numbers, but by their slogans, symbols, and artwork calling for justice and inclusion for all.

“This isn’t just about banners—it’s about building awareness, sparking dialogue, and giving young people a powerful way to reflect on and share what matters to them most, Pride is a celebration, yes, but it’s also a protest. These banners carry messages of both.” **Gina Halpin, Head of Information and Inclusion.**

*“As part of Pride, we are celebrating the role youth work plays in supporting LGBTQI+ young people on their journey to self-acceptance. Our youth services offer crucial spaces and supports, but this work is still underfunded and under resourced. The best way the government can mark Pride is to significantly increase investment in youth work, ensuring every LGBTQI+ young person in Ireland has access to the support they deserve. This message is at the heart of our **Youth Work for All** campaign—because inclusive, well-funded youth work must be available to every young person, in every part of the country.”* **Dr Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland.**

Youth Work Ireland is the largest provider of LGBTQI+ youth work services in rural Ireland. Through safe, welcoming Proud Spaces, whether in youth groups, drop-in centres, or community hubs, young LGBTQI+ people find connection, support, and belonging. Though progress has been made, many still face isolation and discrimination in their local areas. That's why this national Pride event is so important: it is a moment to be loud, visible, and proud.

Ends

Notes to Editors

- A panel of LGBTQ+ young people and Gina Halpin, Head of Information & Inclusion, Youth Work Ireland, are available for interview.
- To arrange an interview, please contact:
Eppy Mutetwa | 086 078 9352 / emutetwa@youthworkireland.ie
- Photos from the Pride Parade will be available from **Marc O'Sullivan Photography** on the day.

Youth Work Ireland is a youth-led, rights-based organisation committed to inclusion and equality for all young people. Our 20 Member Youth Services support thousands of young people each week, including through LGBTQI+ youth work grounded in our Proud Spaces model. All programmes are delivered by trained youth workers who provide safe, inclusive, and affirming spaces for young people to be themselves and thrive.

www.youthworkireland.ie