



Press Release

Youth Work Ireland

28th September 2026

Leading youth organisation to showcase latest thinking in youth work to European Commissioner Micallef

Youth Work Ireland will showcase its unique “Youth Work for All” model to the European Commissioner for Youth, Glen Micallef, on Monday 28th in Dublin. During the visit, the Commissioner will meet and hear directly from young people involved in Youth Work Ireland's Youth Work for All campaign and listen to their views on the future of youth policy in Ireland and Europe. Youth Work Ireland's Youth Work for All campaign champions the right of all young people to access youth work services in their communities, regardless of their background or identity. Through arts-based workshops, engagement with policymakers and advocacy activities, young people have been leading the conversation on the importance of universal access to youth work.

“The Commissioners' visit is a chance for young people to share their ideas about the future of youth policy in Europe and what they want to see in the next generation of European Youth Goals. Young people will have the opportunity to discuss how youth work can help create more inclusive communities, support wellbeing, and ensure every young person has a chance to get involved and have their voice heard. The event also aims to highlight the important role that youth organisations across Ireland and Europe play in empowering young people, strengthening communities and supporting active citizenship. Youth Work Ireland will use the occasion to reinforce the campaign message that access to youth work is a right every young person should have.”

Said Dr Patrick Burke, CEO of Youth Work Ireland

“We will also highlight issues for the next EU Youth Strategy, like a rights-based approach to youth work providing for access to youth work as a social right in policy and legislation. Member states may need to place more emphasis on national delivery and levelling up local provision. We want to see a dedicated budget for youth under the ERASMUS+ programme in the next EU Budget, which is entering a critical phase of negotiation under the Irish presidency. Critical issues remain to be dealt with in the digital field at the European level also; the forthcoming Digital Fairness Act needs to ensure that big tech platforms are regulated to stop the negative effects of addictive algorithms and doom scrolling for young people.” Dr Burke added

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Notes to Editors

Youth Work for All is a national campaign led by Youth Work Ireland that seeks to ensure that all young people, regardless of background, identity or circumstances, can access the benefits of youth work in their community.

The Commissioner's visit takes place on 28 September 2026 and forms part of wider youth participation and engagement activities taking place during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.