One Young World

BELFAST 2023



Education Authority Youth Service
Post Summit Report

“Every race. Every faith. Together in one place.”



Kate Robertson
OYW Founder

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Executive Summary



The One Young World summit in Belfast provided the Education Authority delegates with the chance of a lifetime to network, listen to inspiring speakers and personally reflect on their own actions and plans for their future.

Challenged by the emotion, truth and facts of the lived experience of many young people in war torn countries, those personally persecuted and those who live without; our young people were challenged to find their space in the global world reflected in their local communities.

Balancing the truth and impact of local people from local communities with the wealth and power of large corporate organisations was challenging.

This opportunity provided personal challenge and every opportunity to reach for the future, realising the opportunities and the weight of all the resources that young people from Northern Ireland have to make the world a better place.

Being so proud of our friends and fellow delegates as they engaged in so many challenging conversations. Especially empathising and understanding the courage that it took for Matthew Taylor to speak about the challenges and realities of living with mental health whilst breaking the stigma of speaking out.

Fatima as a newcomer to Northern Ireland, living a life as a asylum seeker from war torn Afghanistan. To be so inspired and humbled by her personal sacrifices and challenges as she speaks out and takes action within our local community to support her fellow citizens.

Being part of a delegate forum with such presence, energy, light and fun which was acknowledged and sought out by all at the event. Such an inspiration, many plans are in place for future action.

97% INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



"There's no peace without the women!"

Monica McWilliams stood with EA delegate speaker Fatima Sarwari

"Children are the best mimics in the world, are you worth mimicking"

Francois Pienaar





"We must acknowledge our past in order to help our future."

Rebecca McCullough on stage with EA ambassador Aimée Clint

"Every conflict has its own characteristics. We have to learn lessons from other peace processes and their mistakes to not repeat them"

President Santos of Columbia



One Young World Belfast 2023

ONE YOUNG WORLD IS THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR YOUNG LEADERS. ITS MISSION IS TO CONVENE YOUNG TALENT FROM EVERY COUNTRY AND SECTOR, WORKING TO ACCELERATE SOCIAL IMPACT BY IDENTIFYING, PROMOTING AND CONNECTING THE WORLD'S MOST IMPACTFUL YOUNG LEADERS, TYPICALLY AGED 22-30, TO CREATE AND DRIVE CHANGE THROUGH RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP. TO DATE ONE YOUNG WORLD AMBASSADOR PROGRAMMES HAS IMPACTED OVER 41.5 MILLION PEOPLE.





"The day you stop being curious is the day you stop growing, and the day you stop growing you stop contributing. And the truth is we all have an obligation to contribute."

Ronan Dunne
Chairperson
Six Nations Rugby

The Journey to Belfast 2023

For young leaders, the Summit is the landmark event of the year. It is a chance for the individuals responsible for shaping the future of our world, to come together to confront the biggest challenges facing humanity. The Summit is the ultimate place to be inspired, share learnings, and connect. Together participants raise the bar for what it is possible to achieve as leaders, individually and collectively.



The Summit is not just a life-changing four-day experience, it is just the start of every attendee's journey. Every leader who attends leaves the Summit as a One Young World Ambassador and a valued member of the global community. This is a lifelong membership to one of the most incredible networks in the world and it is a community like no other.

The One Young World Community comprises of young leaders, corporate partners and supporters from every single country, spanning every industry. This includes activists, humanitarians, world-leaders, business-leaders, thought-leaders, entrepreneurs, politicians and innovators.

The annual One Young World Summit presents cities with the unique opportunity to host an internationally diverse, youth-driven event that is second only to the Olympic Games in terms of the number of countries represented and has gained an impressive reputation for the calibre of world-famous participants.

At past Summits, Delegates have been joined by Counsellors including Justin Trudeau, Emma Watson, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Sir Bob Geldof, the late Kofi Annan, Sir Richard Branson, Meghan Markle, Professor Muhammad Yunus, Jamie Oliver, Jack Dorsey and Mary Robinson, amongst others. Past and future One Young World host cities include Dublin, Tokyo, Montreal, Bogota, Munich, Bangkok, Ottawa and London.

85%



of delegates felt they elevated their profile globally

Securing the bid for Belfast 2023

In securing Belfast as the home for the summit in 2023 we noted that we had one of the youngest populations in Europe with 43% of our citizens aged 30 years and below. Our schools, colleagues and universities rival the best in the world. 17 of our schools are among the UK's top 100 leading performers in the examination hall. In fact, Northern Ireland was the top performing region in the UK for GCSEs in 2018. Around one in every sixteen adults aged 16 – 64, or over 73,000 individuals in the region are engaged in early-stage entrepreneurial activity.

During the assessment of the bid to host the One Young World Summit it was evident that the city is brimming with potential. Our youthful dynamism, talent and optimism is the vibrant energy driving the city's resurgence and regeneration and One Young World was seen as a strategic initiative to inspire and create opportunities for our young people in Belfast in future years to come.



90%

OF DELEGATES FEEL THEY HAVE ELEVATED THEIR OWN PROFILE LOCALLY

Whilst the Belfast One Young World Summit was an initiative supported by the United Kingdom Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, with governance and delivery provided by Belfast City Council, a Belfast Strategic Oversight Group was established to provide connections across the public, private and political connections maximising potential reach and legacy.

Membership of various working groups to bring the summit to fruition included The Executive Office, Northern Ireland Office, Department of Communities, Department of Finance, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, and the Education Authority. All political parties were involved in the decision to bid for, secure and host the summit in Belfast. In addition, the North South Ministerial Council, the President of Ireland and a range of political and business partners supported the bid. Previously the Summit was held in Dublin and lessons learnt was embedded into the NI programme.

“You have come too far not to go further. You have done too much not to do more. We have so much more to do.”



Moko Tepania

Far North Mayor

Our Role

Policy

Policy Connect, the Department of Education Policy, 'Priorities for Youth – Improving Young People's Lives Through Youth Work' (2013)

Youth leadership which focuses on the exploration of key issues, especially in the context of global education and international youth work is a key aspect of the Northern Ireland Youth Work Curriculum. This is supported through the policy imperative as noted in Priorities for Youth (2013) 4.6.8 'The focus for the age range 19-25 will be on issue-based programmes or volunteering and leadership opportunities'.

Investment in EA Youth Service & it's young people

For the Montreal Summit One Young World has secured funding (60k) for 10 young people to attend free. This opportunity was launched at a legacy event hosted by One Young World at Belfast City Hall on the 9 November 2023. This opportunity is open to all Education Authority Ambassadors.

To provide leadership development for young people aged 14 to 25 years, Unloc has provided the opportunity for 10 young people to drive social enterprise; providing both funding through seed grants (as part of Seed 2030) alongside mentoring. The Education Authority, through the youth service is partnering in this programme, providing a legacy for our young people.

EA Delegates

Delegates were secured from the 1800 registered youth groups through an open application (assessed by young people from the community and voluntary sector and statutory youth services). Criteria and assessment were devised by young people and agreed with key delivery partners based on the summit aims and outcomes.



Regional Youth Development Plan

The One Young World Summit was a key action in the Regional Youth Development Plan for 2023/34. The Education Authorities role within the Summit was to support the programme design, lead young people's engagement within the programme and to facilitate the provision of a number of places as agreed with the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Education. This was achieved through the Content and Legacy Sub-Group, co-chaired by Arlene Kee (Assistant Director), Steph Craig (Ambassador) and Aimee Clint (Ambassador). Funding secured from The Executive Office for Together Building United Communities Ambassadors and from the core youth service budget.

We are delighted that both Steph Craig and Aimee Clint hosted interactive stages throughout the conference; showcasing the incredible talent and empathy our young leaders have.





“Anything worth achieving starts with simply showing up. Even when walking into the room means facing our fiercest rivals.”

Queen Rania al Abdullah of Jordan

EVALUATION

DELEGATES PERSPECTIVE

"I connected with a woman from South Africa who shared their personal story with me. She inspired me to make the most of what you have, even if you have nothing; emphasising the importance of generosity and community."

"I connected with a young man from Belfast who shared his journey including his substance abuse and the impact this had in his life, due to being in juvenile prison. He is now working for Alternatives Belfast, mentoring young men, leading by example with the view to other young people learning from his personal journey and experience. This inspired me to have the confidence to share my story and to focus on the skills and abilities that I have to support young people in my community."



"Sometimes the answer is simple"



Aliyah Tuansi
EA DELEGATE

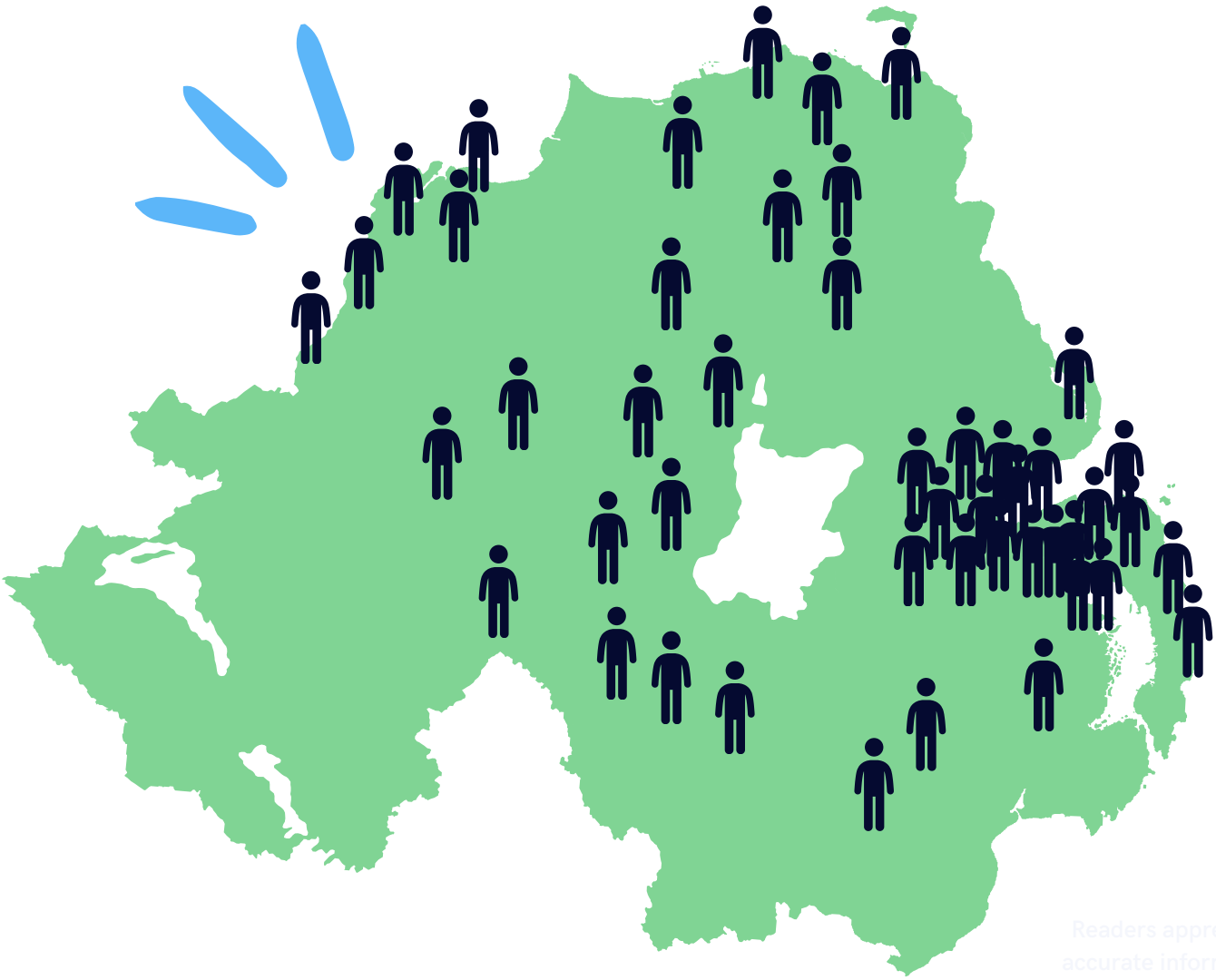
"I am in the planning stages of an initiative across the UK to build a platform for collaboration among disability rights activists, promote disability voices in decision making and educate disabled people on how to use their voice and navigate the political system."

"I am currently building a resource that will be shared with my local team around the use of inclusive social media - alt text etc. I am also meeting with one of my local councillors in Ballymoney at the end of November to share my journey and see how we can work together to implement ideas across our borough."

"I am so grateful for this opportunity. Reflecting on it has allowed me to truly understand the immense impact of this conference. It was such a privilege to be sitting down with leaders from across the world, learning and sharing, and I hope to repay EA by bringing all these skills back to my community."

Belfast 2023
STATISTICS

50 Education Authority Delegatation	**19** Statutory Sector	**1** Faith Based Sector	**25** Voluntary & Community Sector
2 Delegate Speakers	**86** Individual Media Engagements	**450** Local young people attended opening ceremony	**7** Mentor Sessions



Readers appreciate accurate information

"One person can change the trajectory of someone's life."

Dr James Doty

Professor, Stanford University



IMPLEMENTING LEARNING & TAKING ACTION



Following the One Young World Belfast 2023 Summit, all EA delegates were brought together for a weekend residential to unpack their key learnings from the week and start turning thoughts into action.

One of the sessions we had that weekend was for our delegates to explore future projects and ideas through a design thinking workshop. This allowed them the space to generate ideas surrounding topics they were most passionate about to create innovative social action projects, social enterprises, charities, businesses, projects and more.

We done this by posing five "How Might We..." statements to our delegates posed on topics they outlined where they felt most passionate about:

- Develop formal and information education
- Support the mental health of our young people
- Tackle the climate crisis
- Promote disability and inclusion
- Respond to the food crisis

"We all have a purpose"

Martina Talbot
EA DELEGATE



HOW MIGHT WE DEVELOP... FORMAL & INFORMAL EDUCATION?

LOCAL OPPORTUNITY APP

Delegates discussed how young people struggle to see all local opportunities in one place including volunteering, vocations, jobs and training.

Their suggestion was to create an app that allowed young people to view these opportunities and it be implemented throughout school and youth services.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN NON-FORMAL SETTINGS

This was all about upskilling young people through informal education. It will provide young people with a training calendar and have various training opportunities e.g. cooking, Makaton, STEM, art and basic life skills.

This programme will be fully customisable and adaptable to suit the needs of the users and will provide additional support for young people who are neurodiverse.



95%

Increased understanding of educational issues

"Empower young people to be the change makers within their community".



MARK HENRY
EA DELEGATE

RELATIONSHIP & SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

Delegates wanted to make RSE mandatory. They spoke on the importance of talking about 'taboo' subjects e.g. LGBTQ+ and having a non-biased education.

They wanted to ensure that all youth workers and teachers were trained and during the consultation process young people is spoken to.

OTHER IDEAS

Other things delegates touched on was needing to have a consultation for a new curriculum which involved, young people, parents, teachers, youth workers and employers.

How history and politics within NI needs to be non-biased and have open conversations with young people in NI.

HOW MIGHT WE... SUPPORT THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE?

MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORY APP

Delegates came up with the idea of having an app which offered mental health support alongside other resources. They noted this needed to be a free to access app which included: text a nurse, educational resources, modules and training, info for families/parents/friends, culturally aware mental health support, mood tracker.

COMEDY NIGHT 'AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY'

Delegates spoke on the 'boom' of the comedy scene in NI and how they could use local comedians to fundraise money for local mental health charities through ticket sales and patreon.

"This opportunity will send ripples through Northern Ireland for many years to come"



Verity Wenner
EA DELEGATE

94%

Increased understanding of mental health issues

MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Delegates spoke openly on the lack of government within NI, but hoped in the future there could be someone appointed as a 'Minister for Mental Health'.

They hoped that having someone in place would help tackle several issues e.g. implementation of mental health nurses in schools, investment into training and education and nationwide resources noticing mental health issues within LGBTQ+ and neurodiverse young people.

HOW MIGHT WE... TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

DIGITAL & IN-PERSON TRAINING SURROUND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CRISIS

Delegates delved into their ideas by suggesting the implementation of a 'Climate Calendar' e.g. on Wednesday 10th recycle a bottle and introducing 'Meat Free Mondays'. They stated the training should be a three-stage approach from training the trainer, training the young people and then providing a toolkit.

CLOTHES SWAP

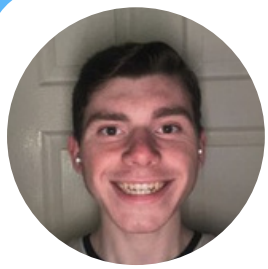
Delegates not only wanted to encourage people to swap clothes but to have an educational piece on how people can upcycle their clothes via DIY e.g. adding embellishments or changing the colour of a piece of clothing. They wanted to be able to upskill people in skills that are not taught in formal education anymore, e.g. sewing.

85%



Increased understanding of climate issues

"We are not alone in the fight for change"



Cameron Muir
EA DELEGATE

ESTABLISHMENT OF 'NI FUTURE GENERATIONS COMMISSION'

Delegates explained that the establishment of this would allow exploration on nationwide and local campaigns surrounding education, single use plastic and free public transport.

OTHER IDEAS

Other ideas included a community approach to tackling the climate crisis, by educating communities on compost and community allotments. The group outlines that a regional wide recycling process needed to be in place with easier to understand processes and suggested that the government make it more incentive/fun for people to get involved e.g. vouchers for recycling plastic bottles.

HOW MIGHT WE... PROMOTE DISABILITY INCLUSION?

CAREER ADVICE INIATIVE

Delegates touched on the lack of good qualities careers advice in NI, let alone how difficult it would be to get good quality careers advice when you have a disability. Delegates talked about organisations working more with school leavers rather than adults who are NEET and have a disability and help them get into a career they want to but also providing support to employers on how they can provide the best space for that young person.

ALTERNATIVE TEXT APP

Delegates outlined that having accessible social media was something they were passionate about, from their own experience with a delegate of ours who is blind and has cerebral palsy. They stated that it was hard to ensure all posts were accessible and decided that having an app that generates alt text for social media posts would be best and it would also suggest areas for improvement.



"Nothing about us, without us"

Aron Hughes
EA DELEGATE



95%

felt their interactions with other delegates inspired them

MANDATORY SEND TRAINING

Our delegates delved into the state of the SEND system within NI and outlined that teachers need mandatory SEND training as part of their components while studying. They also highlighted that segregation needs removed in education.

OTHER IDEAS

Other ideas our delegates touched on were the need to have more awareness surrounding inclusion within young people and educating them from a young age through resources. They highlighted the need for an 'Inclusion Champion' in each council where they can ensure that all events, places and communities are inclusive. Delegates who were youth workers have been to see a disability/inclusion module on courses and to also have a 'toolkit' to support them through their work.

HOW MIGHT WE... RESPOND TO THE FOOD CRISIS?

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Delegates wanted to not only just bring the community together and break down stigmas of food banks, but they wanted to upskill the local community. Their idea was to educate the community on cooking, budgeting and using everything 'but the kitchen sink'. They outlined this would allow the community to work with leaders, local businesses but to also learn from each other.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Delegates wanted to upskill communities on how to grow their own healthy produce and learn more about using local foods. They suggested the idea of creating a cookbook of low-cost meals using local products you could grow in your own garden.



85%

Increased understanding of the food crisis

INTRODUCE AN 'UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME' (UBI)

Delegates wanted to have a campaign to bring in an UBI, which would in turn hold inflation and would create an absence of economic insecurity. They outlined that food was a basic human need.

OTHER IDEAS

Delegates also touched on how campaigns surrounding food needed to be fun and interactive when promoting fresh, healthy and home-grown food. Delegates highlighted the need for a 'Food Crisis Initiative' where there was better proportioning, more options e.g. refills and better logistic monitoring of imports and exports.

"Don't be afraid to stand out and use your voice & make a change, take the risk"



JAMIE DUNLOP
EA DELEGATE

"If all you see is what you see, then you can't see all that there is to see."



Crystal Asige with Andrew Hamilton

Kenyan Senator & EA OYW Delegate

EA DELEGATE SPEAKERS

MATTHEW TAYLOR

"Who are we to say broken things cannot fly? I am a broken thing, and I will fly."

Matthew is the Co-Founder of the UK's first youth-led mental health charity, which aims to improve awareness and education surrounding mental ill-health in children and young people across Northern Ireland, through the creation of a mental health curriculum for primary and post-primary schools, coupled with a range of related youth work and policy projects.

In July 2022, Matthew was awarded the 'Diana Award', the UK's highest accolade in recognition of a young person's contributions to activism and humanitarian work.



Listen to Matthew's full speech here ⟶

FATIMA SARWARI

"Drop by drop becomes the sea".

The unstoppable force of change, the Chair of the Afghan Association Northern Ireland, community leader, and dedicated volunteer. With a passion for community development and a drive to make the world a better place to live in, this GCSE student is a force to be reckoned with.

Whether it's advocating for the underprivileged, promoting diversity and inclusion, or working tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her, she is always on the frontlines of change. Armed with a can-do attitude and a heart full of compassion, she is determined to positively impact the world, one step at a time.



Listen to Fatima's full speech here ⟶

THE IMPACT

What our delegates have said...

"I was encouraged by the creativity and energy of young leaders"	"I developed confidence and found new passions"	"It inspired me to drive change despite the odds and in adversity"
"The importance of collaboration in building solutions"	"Never stop learning and link with those who has similar energy and passions"	"I now understand the importance of actively listening"
"I can do extraordinary things"	"Youth workers are the bridge to make change"	"I have found HOPE"

"Don't let people define you because you are young"

Aimee Woods
EA DELEGATE



“Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not”



Angela F Williams
CEO United Way

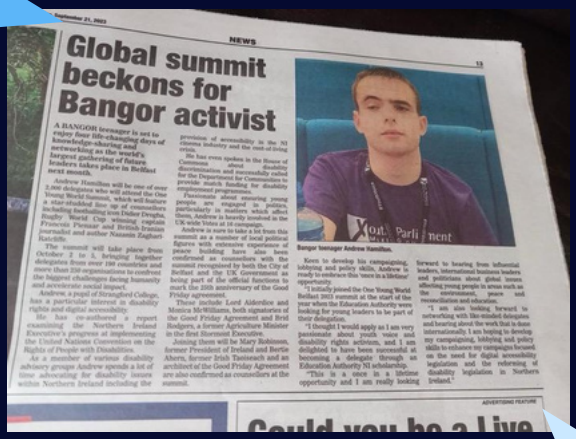
IN THE MEDIA

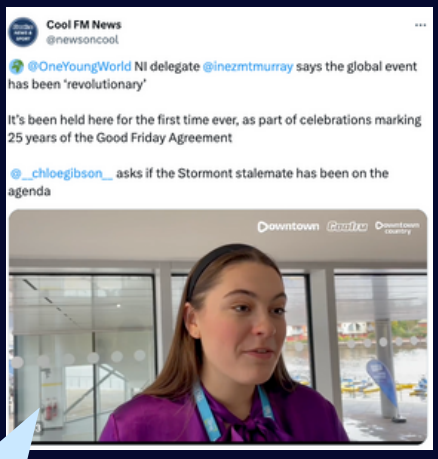
86 media engagements in local & international press

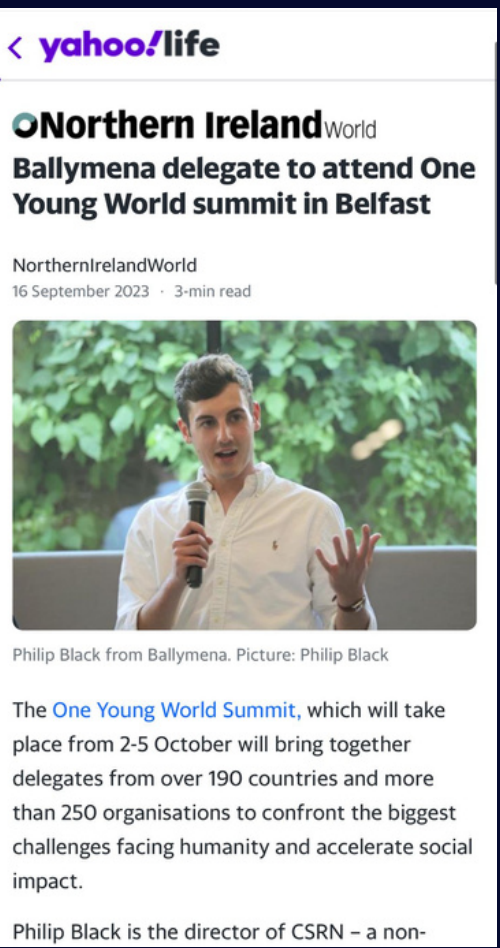
















"We are a community now, so we can all work together and support each other"



"Empower young people to be the change makers within their community"

Lauren Hegarty
EA DELEGATE

"Go alone to go fast, go together to go far"



Caitlin Morgan
EA DELEGATE



"A seed of hope can crush a mountain of doubt"

Gabrielle Feenan
EA DELEGATE

"Be the person that someone needs. Be the change in their world."



Robert Beattie
EA DELEGATE



"Impossible is not a barrier, but a challenge".

Inez Murray
EA DELEGATE

"We all have a role to play as peacemakers, changemakers, curators and researchers etc. It's starts with 'normal' people".



Rossita Maclean
EA DELEGATE