



**UK YOUNG  
AMBASSADORS  
TO THE  
COMMONWEALTH  
YOUTH FORUM  
APPLICATION  
PACK**



# About the British Youth Council

The British Youth Council is the National Youth Council of the UK. A youth-led charity, we empower young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. We support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.



We are young people - and our charity aims to help other young people, whatever their background or barriers they face, to make the world a better place for us all.

## Our vision

A world in which every young person is empowered to create social and political change.

## Our mission

As the national youth council of the UK, the British Youth Council brings young people together to find their voice and use it to improve the lives of young people. We work with others to amplify young people's voices to create an environment in which young people views are valued, sought and acted upon.

## Our values

Youth led – young people are agents of change and will always be at the forefront of our work. As a youth-led charity, young people are our leadership through our governance structures. They lead and shape our work, and we support them to define their own action for change. We champion youth leadership across all sections of society, evidencing the benefits of engaging young people in decision making and delivery and supporting that to happen.

Collaborative – we actively seek to collaborate with others to make positive change happen. We seek to work with relevant partners to add value to our campaigns and activity, and to be more creative in our approach to making change happen with and for young people. And we recognise the skills, knowledge and experience of young



people, volunteers, staff and partners, and strive to achieve more by maximising the opportunities that collaboration provides.

**Inclusive** – we respect and value diversity and act in a way that includes all. We ensure that all our activities are inclusive, recognising the needs of young people across different communities, and bring young people and partners together to learn from each other.

### **Serving our membership**

The British Youth Council is made up of almost 200 member organisations who support our common vision for young people. Members elect our board, determine our policies and prioritise our campaigns. They also act as the link between the British Youth Council and millions of individuals within our member organisations.

[www.byc.org.uk/members](http://www.byc.org.uk/members)

### **Youth-led networks**

The British Youth Council runs a number of youth-led networks and programmes - including the UK Youth Parliament, NHS Youth Forum, and Youth Select Committee - which encourage young people to get involved in democracy and campaign to bring about change. [www.byc.org.uk/programmes](http://www.byc.org.uk/programmes)

### **Campaigning and consulting**

The British Youth Council seeks to represent the views of young people and our members to stakeholders and decision makers at a local, national and international level. This work is based on our manifesto, which outlines our beliefs and aspirations. [www.byc.org.uk/campaigns](http://www.byc.org.uk/campaigns)

### **Training and recognition**

Our training programmes empower young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to bring about change. We also recognise young people who have made a significant contribution to their community through our high-profile award schemes. [www.byc.org.uk/training](http://www.byc.org.uk/training)

### **International**

Through our international youth participation young people learn about global issues and connect and share with other young people around the world. They are able to take part in discussions and influence decisions made at an international level. [www.byc.org.uk/international](http://www.byc.org.uk/international)



# About the UK Young Ambassadors

UK Young Ambassadors is a programme in place to give young people from the UK a voice and influence in international decision-making and to campaign for change on local, national and international levels. The Young Ambassador programme is open to any young person (18-25) from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales). The UKYA programme is divided in 3 main strands:

- Two UK Young Ambassadors overseeing our work within the Commonwealth Youth Forum
- Two UK Young Ambassadors overseeing our work within the European Youth Forum
- Four UK young Ambassador (each representing one of the nations in the UK) overseeing our work within the EU Youth Dialogue

The UK Young Ambassadors for the European Youth Forum and the Commonwealth Youth Forum are elected by our member organisations, while the UK Young Ambassadors for the EU Youth Dialogue are selected.

# About the Commonwealth Youth Forum



*The Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) is organised as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). It aims to promote cross-cultural connections and to achieve consensus among youth leaders on the policies required to address the challenges and opportunities facing young people.*



The Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) is the official representative voice of the more than 1.2 billion young people in the Commonwealth. The CYC was first established in 2013 with the support of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Commonwealth Youth Programme. It was endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their biennial summit in Sri Lanka as an "autonomous, youth-led" organisation.

Led by a nine-member executive, the CYC acts as a coalition of national youth councils and other youth-led civil society and private sector bodies from across the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth.

It aims to further advance the youth development agenda by integrating young people into the development work of the Commonwealth at national, regional, and Pan-Commonwealth levels. It also provides a sustainable platform for unified engagement with decision makers and youth-led development initiatives.

More info about the Commonwealth Youth Council responsible for organising the Commonwealth Youth Forum can be found [here](#).

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## About the role

**We are now looking for 1 UK Young Ambassador, who identifies as female or non-binary to join the UK Young Ambassador team, to specifically lead on representation to the Commonwealth Youth Forum.**

The term is for 3 years and runs from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - 5th September 2023.

### Who can stand?

Any young person who is **part of a BYC membership organisation**, and aged 18 to 25 on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, is able to stand as a UK Young Ambassador to the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

You must be able to commit to the full 3 year term, be able to attend an induction in October (online or in person) and be prepared to work on the occasional weekend. You must also fulfil the requirements below:



## Requirements:

- Enthusiastic, motivated and committed to supporting UK young people's voice in the Commonwealth
- Experience of campaigning or policy work (not necessarily internationally)
- You must be available for the Commonwealth Youth Forum usually taking place April-June 2020 and 2022 – TBC (due to the pandemic this year's forum has been postponed)
- Good understanding of international development themes and global issues
- Able to commit to an average of 3 hours per week. The workload will vary and weekend and evening work will be necessary from time to time.
- Able to attend an induction (possibly online) in October (dates TBA).
- Commitment to youth participation and the values of BYC
- Able to obtain a passport and travel internationally.
- Able to travel independently within the UK and overseas.
- Resident in the UK for the duration of the term
- Not holding another officially elected BYC position, e.g. PG group, Trustee, etc
- Willing to sign up to the BYC code of conduct
- Willing to give consent for images and video to be used and shared

It would also help if you had these attributes (However, these are not requirements. The most important thing is your commitment to being an excellent representative of young people):

- Knowledge of the working of the Commonwealth
- Experience of policy discussions and negotiation
- Experience of international or intercultural work

## What will I be expected to do?

*UK Young Ambassadors for the Commonwealth Youth Forum will:*

- **Represent** BYC and UK young people at Commonwealth forums and events
- Carry out UK **policy research** with BYC and through our memberships and networks
- Be accountable to BYC members and young people in the UK, through regular **communications and reporting**
- **Inform and influence** Commonwealth decision-making on BYC campaigns and issues of interest and concern to young people in the UK
- **Advocate** with and for young people on Commonwealth-wide issues, including on international development and the post-2015
- Help promote and **engage young people** in Commonwealth campaigns, projects and activities
- Support more young people to get involved in UKYA, including as researchers, advocates, campaigners, and bloggers
- Promote your work, the work of the Commonwealth Youth Council and the work of UKYA
- Be an active member of the UK Young Ambassadors team
- Participate in BYC events
- Participate in BYC and UKYA meetings



- Represent the interests of young people in the UK, and not any other interests, including that of a political party.

The work will be UK based but there will be a requirement for international travel. The workload of the UK Young Ambassadors varies but it can be quite intensive at times. Please consider your other commitments and how much time you can realistically give to this before you can apply.

This is an unpaid, voluntary position but travel, food and other associated costs (including childcare and accommodation for overnight stays) and expenses will be covered by the project.

#### **What is the timetable for the selection process?**

Deadline for applications – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 09:00 am

Candidates informed whether they've proceeded to interview if required – 19<sup>th</sup> July

Interviews taking place over phone if required – week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> July

Candidates informed whether they'll proceed to ACM – by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August

Candidates statements for election need to be submitted (more info available for this once the selection is done) – 17<sup>th</sup> of August

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to get in touch: [international@byc.org.uk](mailto:international@byc.org.uk)

**\*NOTICE\*** Due to the pandemic, the elections for the UKYA roles will run online. We will inform you of developments timely.