The Cross Nations Youth Manifesto 2026

Dear Decision Makers,

We are The Cross Nations Youth Forum, a collective of young people aged 16-25 from Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

We are young people from different backgrounds, communities and experiences, united by a shared ambition: to ensure that young people's voices are heard, valued and reflected in the decisions shaping our futures.

For the last year, we have met online and in person and consulted with more than 60 young people to explore the challenges, experiences and aspirations shared across our nations.

Together, we identified eight key priorities affecting young people across our nations.

Our manifesto reflects our collective experiences and sets out the changes we want to see to create a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable future.

Five Nations. Eight Priorities.

One Collective Youth Voice.

Our Priorities for Change



1. Healthcare

Accessible, Equal and Person-Centred

Improve access to mental and physical healthcare, reduce waiting lists, tackle stigma and discrimination, and ensure young people are listened to and supported.



2. Poverty and Inequality

Opportunities for Everyone

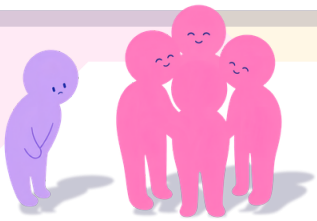
Challenge poverty through fair wages, financial support, accessible education and employment opportunities, and investment in disadvantaged and rural communities.



3. Education

Learning That Works for All Young People

Create inclusive, affordable and accessible education that reflects modern life, recognises informal learning and youth work, and equips young people with essential skills.



4. Marginalised Communities

Authentic Representation

Listen to marginalised communities, improve training for service providers and community leaders, support intergenerational work and invest in rural and isolated communities.

Our Priorities for Change



5. Digital Citizenship and Media

Safe, Informed and Heard

Improve digital citizenship and online safety education, encourage accountability, and give young people a meaningful voice in the development of digital resources, media and campaigns



6. Peace and Community

Foster an ethos of understanding across divides

Challenge misinformation, prejudice and division, create safe spaces for discussion, and support opportunities for communities from different backgrounds to connect.



7. Climate

A Fairer, Greener and More Sustainable Future

Facilitate international partnerships and cohesion across nations, take meaningful long-term climate action, address environmental inequalities and take the lead from young people.



8. Accountability and Youth Work

Youth Voice Into Action

Invest in youth work, improve access to participation opportunities, expand youth voice platforms and ensure decision-makers listen, communicate openly and follow through on their commitments.

Our Message to Decision-Makers

Don't just listen to young people.
Work with us to make change happen.

Read the full Cross Nations Youth Manifesto at www.youthaction.org

For more information contact: Holly@youthaction.org

Cross Nations Youth Forum

YouthAction NORTHERN IRELAND
Youth Work Ireland
youth SCOTLAND The network of youth groups
Youth Cymru
UK YOUTH