Young People's Digital Rights
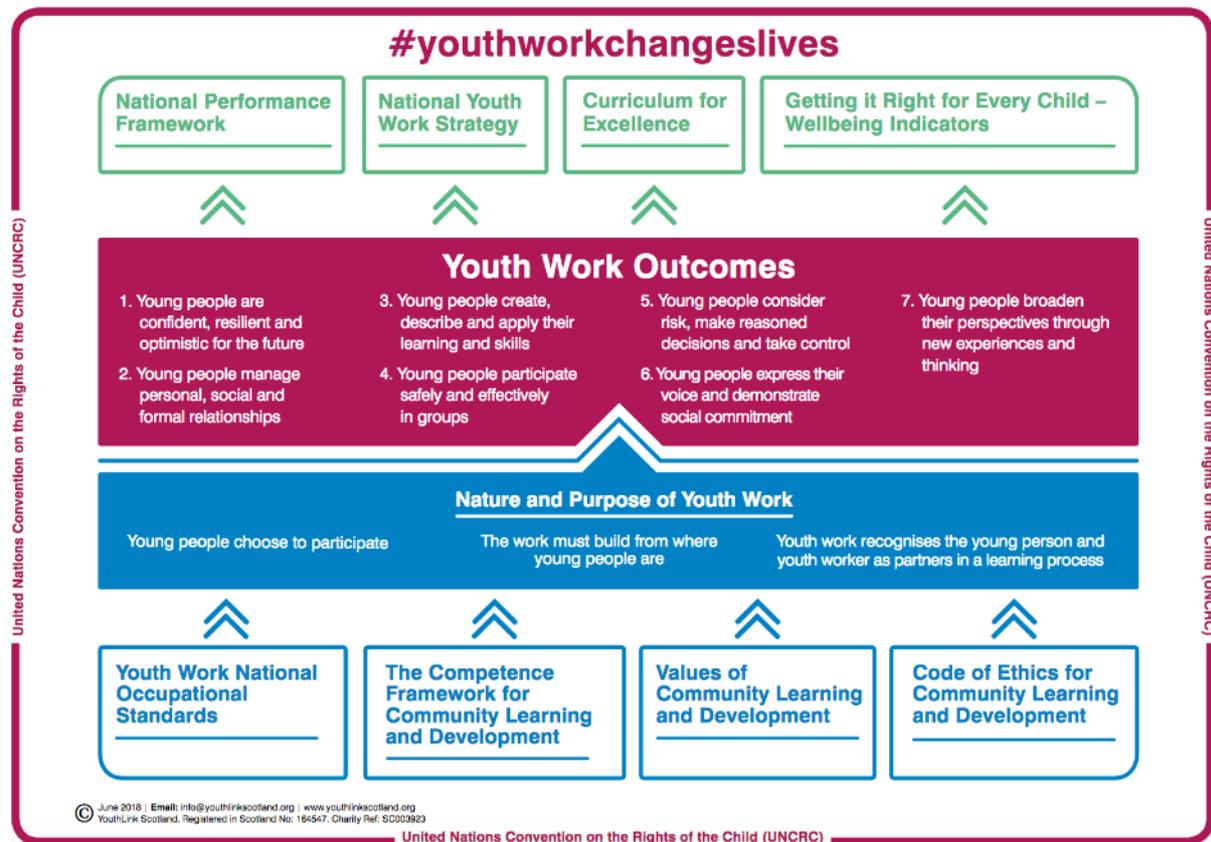
Workshop introducing Young People's Rights in a Digital Setting

Aims

- Youth workers understand the importance of young people's rights in a digital setting
- Youth workers are aware of the 5Rights Framework as a way of expressing this
- Youth workers consider their roles and responsibilities in relation to realising children's rights in a digitalised world

Introduction

Youth Work is underpinned by a commitment to children and young people's human rights[1] as displayed in Scotland's Youth Work Outcomes. These rights are expressed in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC). The UNCRC came into force in 1990 - the digital landscape was very different!

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[1] Youth Work Outcomes, YouthLink Scotland, 2016

Activities

1. Ideal digital world

Invite youth workers to draw an ideal digital world in which children and young people's rights are realised: What does it look like? What opportunities are there? What protections are there? What facilities are there for children and young people? *e.g. Are there opportunities for young people to express themselves? Be involved in decision making? Learn? Play? Be kept safe from harm?*

Discussion:

- Present your ideal digital world
- Which aspects are present in the current digital world?
- Which aspects are absent from the current digital world?

2. Introduce 5Rights

5Rights is a movement started by Baroness Beeban Kidron in the UK, to understand the UNCRC in the digital world. 5Rights believes that children and young people should be supported to access digital technologies **creatively, knowledgeably and fearlessly.**

In Scotland, Young Scot leads the 5Rights coalition. They supported a group of Youth Commissioners to investigate young people's digital rights in Scotland. Here is a film of the youth commissioners explaining 5Rights:

The 5Rights are:

- The Right to Remove
- The Right to Know
- The Right to Safety and Support
- The Right to Informed and Conscious Use
- The Right to Digital Literacy

https://5rightsfoundation.com/the-5-rights

The youth commissioners produced a report called Our ~~Digital~~ Rights in 2017. The next step was to form the Young Scot 5Rights Youth Leadership Group to work on implementing the recommendations.

You can watch a film about the project and read about the youth work process. https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/?material=young-scot-5rights-youth-leadership-group-en

3. Your role as a youth worker

Open up a discussion reflecting on 5Rights

- How important is this in relation to the lives of the young people we work with?

- What can we do as youth workers to facilitate young people's rights being realised in a digital world? In our online and offline practice?
- What partnerships, alliances and influences do we need?

4. Action plan

Participants should make a note of 1-3 actions that they intend to take in relation to realising children and young people's rights in a digital world.

Participants should write a postcard to themselves detailing one of the actions they have identified.

Trainer to post them in 2 weeks' time

Related learning

YouthLink Scotland and Education Scotland have developed a full training pack on [Recognising and Realising Children's Rights](#) in youth work which can be delivered as a 'train the trainer' opportunity. Please contact info@youthlinkscotland.org.

These training materials have been developed as part of the 'Digital Youth Work' project, a strategic partnership between 7 organisations across Europe to build the capacity of the youth work sector to deliver high quality youth work in a digital age. The full collection of resources is available through www.digitalyouthwork.eu. The project has been funded by Erasmus+.