

# YOUTH FOCUS NW DEMOCRACY RESOURCE PACK

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LEARN  
ABOUT DEMOCRACY

# youth focus

Improving the lives of young people

NW

**Dear reader,**

**Democracy and Politics are intertwined into almost every aspect of our life.**



**In this pack you will learn the basics of democracy as well as guiding you to further reading and resources. How much work you put into learning through this pack will determine how much you get out of it.**

Resources to help  
combat, challenge and  
learn more about  
democracy in society

# DEMOCRACY RESOURCES:

## READ

There is so much out there to read! You could learn more about the history of black people and oppression through biographies or non-fiction. Reading about democracy, how to run a campaign and how other activists have done it!

## LISTEN

Listen to podcasts, radio shows and other audio books.

## WATCH

There is a growing number of TV/ film and documentaries dedicated to learning more about democracy and especially recently about activism.

## INTERSECTIONALITY

What is an intersectional approach? How does it relate to democracy and social issues?

## GINA MARTIN

She is a writer, broadcaster and campaigner. She is an ambassador for UN Women UK and she is an ordinary person that made change after she felt injustice. She also changed the law and this is how!

## DEMOCRACY EXPLAINED

From the House of Commons to the Monarchy learn the basics of the democratic system here.

## DEMOCRACY MADE EASY

Some democracy terms and ideas but made easy!

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN DEMOCRACY

How to get involved in democracy and campaigning

## UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The UK youth parliament enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Have a look at who they are here.

## YOUTH FOCUS NORTH WEST

A simple diagram explaining who Youth Focus NW is and what they do for young peoples' voice in the North West.

## REPRESENTATION

We cannot become what we cannot see. Why does representation matter so much?

## VOTING SYSTEMS

Sometimes the voting system can seem quite complicated so here are 4 different types of voting systems broken down for you.



# KEYWORDS/PHRASES AND MEANINGS

**Democracy**- form of government in which the common people hold political power and can rule either directly or through elected representatives.

**Voting**- to cast or conduct a vote. (by choosing your preferred candidate on a ballot paper.)

**Representation**- how something is shown eg, the makeup of Parliament through different groups in society we can see how well represented people are.

**Parliament**- Parliament is the legislature or lawmaking group in the government

**Left wing**- believe in an equal society and believe that the government should play a large part in people's lives in order to achieve this.

**Right wing**- believe that a certain level of social inequality is unavoidable, and that the government should play a limited role in people's lives.

**Constituency**- they are electoral areas or divisions which elects one member to the;

**House of Commons**- is the lower house of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It is made up of Members of Parliament elected by the people

**Equality**- the quality or state of being equal; the quality or state of having the same rights, social status, etc.

**Capitalism**-economic system in which private individuals own and control most of the factors of production. Individual way of thinking.

Can you find any more keywords/phrases?

MORE INFORMATION ON LEFT VS RIGHT WING  
[HTTPS://WWW.UNIFROG.ORG/KNOW-HOW/UNDERSTANDING-THE-POLITICAL-SPECTRUM](https://www.unifrog.org/know-how/understanding-the-political-spectrum)

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET INVOLVED IN POLITICS?

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF REPRESENTED IN POLITICS?

WHEN DID YOU FIRST START THINKING ABOUT DEMOCRACY, WHAT MADE YOU START THINKING ABOUT IT?

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT DEMOCRACY?

HOW DOES YOUR DEMOCRACY EFFECT YOUR DAILY LIFE?

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED IN GETTING INVOLVED?



# READ



## Non-fiction

## Fiction

### WHY I'M NO LONGER TALKING TO WHITE PEOPLE ABOUT RACE

BY RENNI EDDO-LODGE

This book has been described by many as "essential reading." Exploring the links between gender, class and race in Britain and other countries. This book discusses a variety of important aspects of racism and catalyses an urgent conversation about race in Britain.

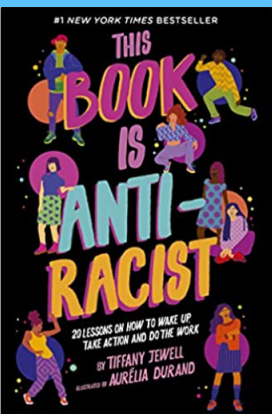
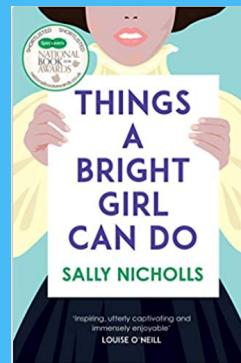


### THINGS A BRIGHT GIRL CAN DO

BY SALLY NICHOLLS

Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote.

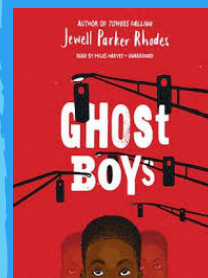
This book about the suffragette movement in the UK and the First World War will be food for thought by telling the stories of three very different girls involved in the suffragette movement.



### THIS BOOK IS ANTI-RACIST

BY TIFFANY JEWELL

Who are you? What is racism? Where does it come from? Why does it exist? What can you do to disrupt it? Learn about social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice to move the world toward equity and liberation.



### GHOST BOYS

BY JEWELL PARKER RHODES

A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a white police officer, drawing connections with real-life history, from the author Jewell Parker Rhodes.

"As a ghost, watching his family trying to cope with his death, Jerome begins to notice other ghost boys. Each boy has a story and they all have something in common...Bit by bit, Jerome begins to understand what really happened - not just to him, but to all of the ghost boys."

### BE THE CHANGE

BY GINA MARTIN

In this book you will learn what activism really is and why it's so important. How to use the internet to fight for what you believe in. How to pick the cause you truly care about. And how to do the hardest thing in activism: get started. Be the Change also includes plenty of practical advice like how to write a press release, set up an e-petition, find pro-bono legal support and secure media coverage for your campaign.



### THE POWER

BY NAOMI ALDERMAN

A fiction about a world that is dominated by female power. Exploring the concepts of gender, hierarchy and power, It starts with a tingling in the fingers, a feeling of focus, of a change in the rhythm of the world, a pricking of the thumbs. It then leads to a revolution.



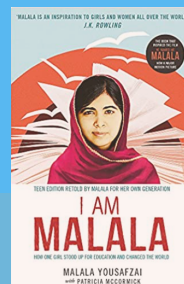
### GRETA THUNBERG

NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY GRETE THUNBERG

"This book brings you Greta in her own words, for the first time. Collecting her speeches that have made history across Europe, from the UN to mass street protests, No One Is Too Small to Make A Difference is a rallying cry for why we must all wake up and fight to protect the living planet, no matter how powerless we feel. Our future depends upon it."



### I AM MALALA

BY MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Raised in the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala was taught to stand up for her beliefs. When terrorists took control of her region and declared girls were forbidden from going to school, Malala fought for her right to an education. And, on 9 October 2012, she nearly paid the ultimate price for her courage when she was shot on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive.. And this is her story

### Articles, blogs etc

There are articles and blogs published daily about racism and what is going in the world. Be sure to have a read and follow blog posts and people that you like. Perhaps if you are not a fan of reading you could listen to a book in an Audio form!

# LISTEN

## PODCAST!

DISCUSS WITH HAYLEY ROSE DEAN



With a variety of different activists this podcast encourages open and honest conversation around various topics and social issues with a different guest at each episode. Aiming to open up conversations about different societal issues, break down stigmas and consider alternative perspectives.

## PODCAST!

CHEER UP LUV, WITH ELIZA HATCH

In this podcast, Eliza interviews a number of artists, activists and creatives about their work, and discusses submitted stories of sexual harassment from the Cheer Up Luv community, with the aim of dismantling myths and challenging some of the stigmas that have become normalised in our day to day lives..



## BBC RADIO 5

GINA'S CHANGEMAKERS

From saving the planet to working class young people making a difference, the campaigner Gina Martin interviews different people about how they are changing society as we know it.



## LISTEN

LISTEN TO THE NEWS, WHETHER THAT BE ON TV OR IN AN ARTICLE

One of the most powerful things we can do in life, is to listen. Listen to the reports of the day and learnt what is going on in the world. One day at a time!

Listen and learn



# LISTEN AND THINK

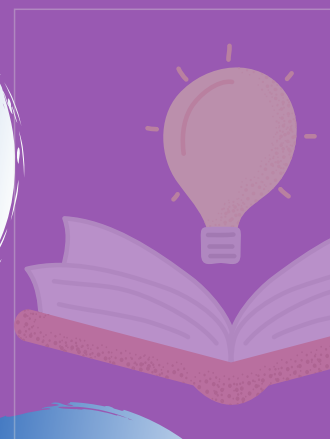
Pick one of these podcast episodes or choose your own and listen to it, perhaps make notes, draw or just think about what they are saying.

**HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?**

**HOW HAS IT CHANGED YOUR WAY OF THINKING?**

**DID YOU RELATE TO ANYTHING THAT WAS SAID IN THE PODCAST?**

**WHAT ARE THREE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE LEARNT THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE?**





# WATCH

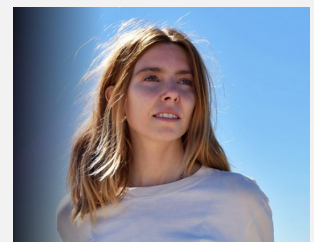
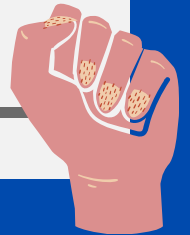
WHEN WATCHING THINK ABOUT FOLLOWING, WRITE/TALK/DISCUSS THEM

HOW HAS YOUR THINKING CHANGED?

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

WHAT MESSAGE WAS THE FILM SENDING?

WHY DO YOU THINK THE MESSAGE WAS SO IMPORTANT?



## 13TH (NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE)

A must watch and eye opening look into America's criminal justice system. 13th compares the criminal justice system to American slavery—showing how for-profit systems have corrupted our jails, with corporations making money from the mass incarceration crisis. Facts such as the US has 5 percent of the world's population but 25 percent of the world's prisoners.

## STACEY DOOLEY INVESTIGATES

Stacey fearlessly tackles the big issues that affect young people around the world. Unique, hard-hitting documentaries.. These stand alone episodes discuss some of the worlds biggest issues from the migrant crisis to rights. Available on BBC I player (some episodes contain some strong language and some upsetting scenes.)

## KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE

This American documentary revolves around the primary campaigns of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Amy Vilela, Cori Bush and Paula Jean Swearengin who are four progressive Democrats who ran for Congress in the 2018 midterm elections. Although based in the USA this documentary shows how anyone can run for political office and the incredible journey they took.

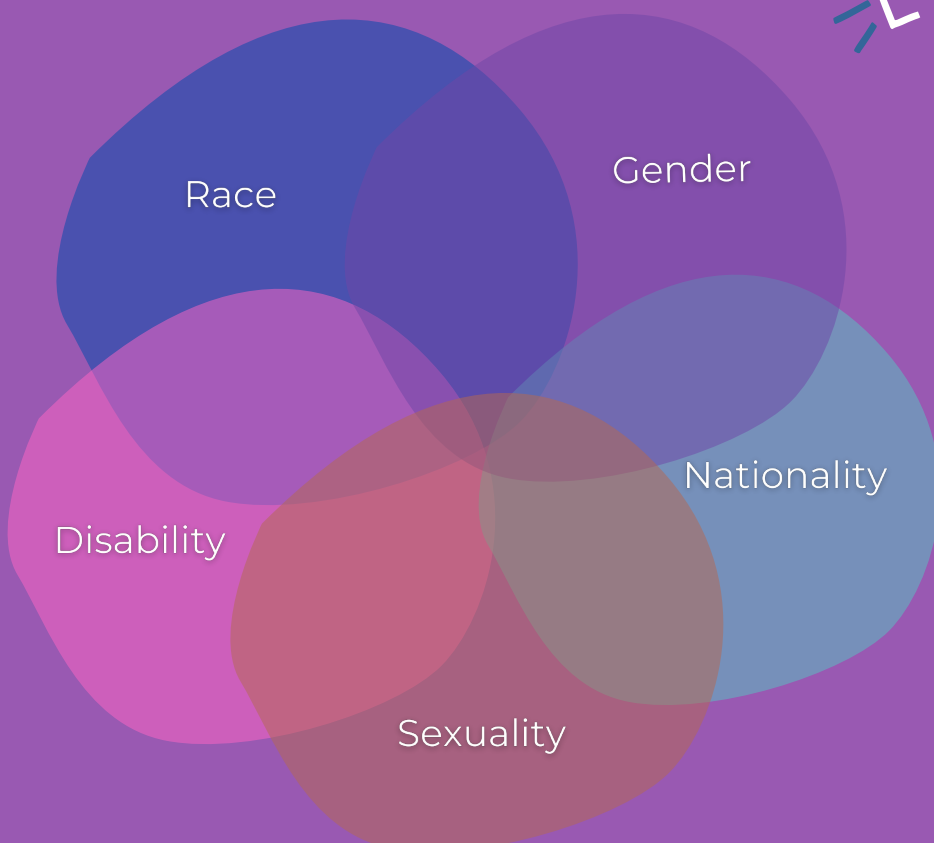
## BECOMING (NETFLIX)

This is an intimate documentary looking at the life of Michelle Obama and her hopes and connection with others during her 2019 book tour for 'Becoming.' From childhood growing up on the South Side of Chicago, through her high school years when she was told she was aiming too high with her ambitions, to her work with young girls and women.



# Intersectionality

**EQUALITY**



Intersectionality acknowledges a **person's** range of social identities (eg. gender, race, sexuality, etc.) as a whole, rather than considering them as separate pieces.

Intersectionality identifies advantages and disadvantages that are felt by people due to a combination of factors.

Understanding that **inequalities are not created equal.**

## WHERE DID THIS TERM COME FROM?

**PROFESSOR KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW COINED THE TERM "INTERSECTIONALITY" IN A 1989 ACADEMIC PAPER.**

**IT COMES FROM BLACK, QUEER, FEMINIST THOUGHT.**



## INTERSECTIONALITY LOOKS AT

### POWER

THE AMOUNT OF CONTROL OR INFLUENCE SOMEBODY HAS.

### PRIVILEGE

THE AMOUNT OF RIGHT, IMMUNITY, OR BENEFIT ENJOYED BY A PARTICULAR PERSON.

### OPPRESSION

THE AMOUNT OF PROLONGED CRUEL OR UNJUST TREATMENT OR EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.

Intersectional feminism centres the voices of those experiencing overlapping forms of oppression. It recognises that we are made up of multiple identities, and the oppression we may experience reflects that. Types of prejudice such as sexism or racism do not always exist in isolation, but often combine to form a new type of oppression. Intersectionality, therefore, illuminates the overlaps between inequalities and gives us a more accurate understanding of the world we live in today.

**HAVE YOU HEARD OF INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM?**



# GINA MARTIN'S STORY

## WHO IS GINA MARTIN?

SHE IS A WRITER, BROADCASTER AND CAMPAIGNER. SHE IS AN AMBASSADOR FOR UN WOMEN UK AND SHE IS AN ORDINARY PERSON THAT MADE CHANGE AFTER SHE FELT INJUSTICE. FROM GENDER EQUALITY, WHITE PRIVILEGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS. SHE "WANTS TO MAKE POLITICS AND THE CONVERSATION AROUND IT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE BECAUSE IT'S SO COMPLEX AND GATEKEPT."



**WHAT IS UPSKIRTING?**  
IT IS WHEN A PERPETRATOR POINTS A CAMERA UP A NON-CONSENTING INDIVIDUALS CLOTHING AND TAKES INTRUSIVE PHOTOS.

GINA ISN'T A POLITICIAN, SHE ISN'T IN THE CABINET OR HOUSE OF LORDS, SHE ISN'T A LAWYER, AND SHE DOESN'T OWN A FUNNY WIG AND YET SHE CHANGED THE LAW!

## WHAT MADE HER WANT TO CHANGE SOMETHING?

GINA WAS AT A FESTIVAL WHEN A MAN TOOK PHOTOS UP HER SKIRT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND SHE GRABBED THE PERPETRATORS PHONE AND RAN UP TO SECURITY AUTHORITIES. THE POLICE WERE CALLED BUT THEY TOLD GINA THAT NOTHING WOULD COME OUT OF HER OFFICIAL COMPLAINT BECAUSE UPSKIRTING, THE PRACTICE OF TAKING NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL PHOTOS OF SOMEONE, WAS NOT ILLEGAL.

## HOW DID SHE GO ABOUT IT?

A FEW DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT SHE WROTE ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON FACEBOOK. HER POST WENT VIRAL WITH OTHER WOMEN SHARING SIMILAR EXPERIENCES. SOON AN ONLINE PETITION CALLING FOR POLICE TO REOPEN THE CASE HAD RECEIVED 50,000 SIGNATURES. THE BILL WAS INITIALLY BLOCKED BY A TORY BACKBENCH MP. HOWEVER IT SECURED GOVERNMENT BACKING. THE NEW LEGISLATION WAS APPROVED IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND PASSED THE FORMALITY OF ROYAL ASSENT TO BECOME LAW.

**CAN YOU FIND ANYONE ELSE WHO ELSE HAS MADE THIS KIND OF CHANGE?**

**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?**



# DEMOCRACY EXPLAINED



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS) ARE ELECTED EVERY FIVE YEARS AT A GENERAL ELECTION.

THERE ARE 650 LOCAL AREAS EACH WITH ONE MP.

MP'S JOB IS TO REPRESENT THEIR AREA AND HELP MAKE LAW/ SCRUTINISE THE GOVERNMENT.

## HOUSE OF LORDS

THE HOUSE OF LORDS IS THE **SECOND CHAMBER** OF THE UK PARLIAMENT. THE ROLE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS IS TO HELP MAKE LAWS AS WELL AS CHECK-ON THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT AND INVESTIGATE ISSUES. MOST PEERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED BY THE QUEEN ON THE ADVICE OF A PRIME MINISTER IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXPERTISE IN A PARTICULAR AREA.

## THE MONARCHY

THE UK'S POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY** WITH A KING OR QUEEN AS HEAD OF STATE. HOWEVER, IT IS THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT THAT MAKE OUR LAWS, NOT THE MONARCH. THE MONARCH ONLY FORMALLY PASSES LEGISLATION - THIS IS KNOWN AS ROYAL ASSENT.

## WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

A POLITICAL PARTY IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH SIMILAR IDEAS AND BELIEFS WHO HAVE COME TOGETHER TO WORK TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS. THE IDEAS OF A POLITICAL PARTY ARE WRITTEN DOWN IN A DOCUMENT CALLED A MANIFESTO. THE PARTY MANIFESTO PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR ACTION SHOULD A PARTY WIN AN ELECTION.

## WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF POLITICAL PARTIES?

THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT PARTIES IN THE UK EACH WITH DIFFERENT IDEAS AND POLICIES. THE LARGEST PARTIES INCLUDE THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, THE LABOUR PARTY, THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, UKIP AND IN SCOTLAND, THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY. THERE ARE OTHER SMALLER PARTIES SUCH AS THE GREEN PARTY AND PLAID CYMRU TO NAME A FEW.

NOT EVERYONE ALWAYS HAD THE RIGHT TO VOTE. IN 1918, THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT GAVE THE VOTE TO MEN OVER THE AGE OF 21, AND TO WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 30.

# DEMOCRACY MADE EASY



## MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

### WHAT IS AN MP?

AN MP IS AN ELECTED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT THAT PEOPLE CHOOSE TO REPRESENT THEM THROUGH AN ELECTION.

### HOW DO I FIND MY MP?

WHEREEVER YOU MAY LIVE YOU WILL HAVE AN MP THAT REPRESENTS YOU! FINDING YOUR MP IS SUPER SIMPLE. JUST HEAD TO THIS WEBSITE AND TYPE IN YOUR AREA.  
[HTTPS://MEMBERS.PARLIAMENT.UK/FINDYOURMP](https://members.parliament.uk/findyourmp)

### WHAT DOES AN MP DO?

THEY PARTICIPATE IN DEBATES AND VOTING ON LEGISLATION. THEY MAY ALSO BE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES EXAMINING NEW LAWS OR THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS. THEY ARE ALSO THERE TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS.

## THE CABINET

### WHAT IS THE CABINET?

THE CABINET IS THE TEAM OF 20 OR SO MOST SENIOR MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT LEADS ON SPECIFIC POLICY AREAS SUCH AS HEALTH, TRANSPORT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR DEFENCE.

### WHO CHOOSES THE CABINET?

THE CABINET IS CHOSEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

### ACTION!!

HAVE A LOOK AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT SOME CABINET POSITIONS AND WHAT THEIR JOBS ARE?

 [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

**DEMOCRACY?  
YOU DECIDE**

▶ ⏪ 🔊 0:02 / 6:19



HAVE A LOOK AT THIS VIDEO THAT EXPLAINS WHAT DEMOCRACY IS.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/LX1UL00X9DY](https://youtu.be/LX1UL00X9DY)



# YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN DEMOCRACY!



BY CARING ABOUT DEMOCRACY YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE. THERE IS DEMOCRACY IN EVERYTHING WE DO. GETTING INVOLVED DOESN'T HAVE TO MEAN BECOMING A MP, EDUCATING YOURSELF ABOUT IT CAN BE JUST AS IMPORTANT. SO HERE ARE 4 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT DEMOCRACY.

1

## YOUR LIFE

YOUR LIFE IS SHAPED BY DEMOCRACY, WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT.

2

## POLICIES

FROM EDUCATION TO HEALTHCARE TO SERVICES, GOVERNMENT DECIDE ON POLICIES THAT EFFECT US ALL.

3

## VOTING

BY LEARNING ABOUT DEMOCRACY YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO VOTE EFFECTIVELY.

4

## LEGISLATION

OUR LAWS REFLECT OUR CULTURE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LEGISLATION IS CREATED TO BE INCLUSIVE AND BY LEARNING ABOUT DEMOCRACY YOU CAN MAKE EDUCATION DECISIONS ON YOUR STANCE OF LEGISLATIONS.

## YOUR TURN!

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET INVOLVED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



# UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

"THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT ENABLES YOUNG PEOPLE TO USE THEIR ENERGY AND PASSION TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER. UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR 11-18 YEAR OLDS TO USE THEIR ELECTED VOICE TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION AND CAMPAIGNING."



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

MEMBERS OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT ARE AGED 11-18 WHO ARE ELECTED IN LOCAL AREAS. THEY REPRESENT THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA. MYP'S ARE ELECTED EACH YEAR OR EVERY TWO YEARS, THIS IS DONE THROUGH A YOUTH COUNCIL.

THEY USE THEIR ELECTED VOICE TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION AND CAMPAIGNING.

THE MAKE YOUR MARK TOPICS ARE DECIDED BY MYPS THROUGH A VOTE ON A MANIFESTO THAT IS CREATED THROUGH THE "ANNUAL SITTING."



**UK Youth Parliament**  
MAKING OUR MARK

#MakeYourMark

### WHAT SHOULD YOUR UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN ON?

On the 9th November the UK Youth Parliament will come together in the House of Commons to debate and decide the most important issues to campaign on for the year ahead.

### THEY WILL DECIDE FROM THE TOP\* ISSUES VOTED BY YOU!

Find out more about UK Youth Parliament at: [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk)  
facebook: UKYouthParliament

**UK Parliament Week**

The UK Youth Parliament House of Commons sitting is part of Parliament Week. It is a great opportunity to find out more about your parliamentary democracy and how you can take part. Parliament Week 2018 runs from 12-18 November 2018.

For more information go to [www.parliamentweek.org](http://www.parliamentweek.org) #parliamentweek

\*The result will prioritise the issues for the debate in the House of Commons, but the debate must include at least 2 DM wide topics (not just topics relevant to England) due to the devolved nature of UK democracy.

UKYP Ballot Paper 2018.indd 1 09/08/2018 13:00

MAKE YOUR MARK BALLOT IS OPEN TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-18 IN THE UK. TAKING PART WILL HELP US TO ESTABLISH THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE EACH YEAR. IN 2018, OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE TOOK PART IN MAKE YOUR MARK! THE TOP 5 ISSUES THEN GET DEBATED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

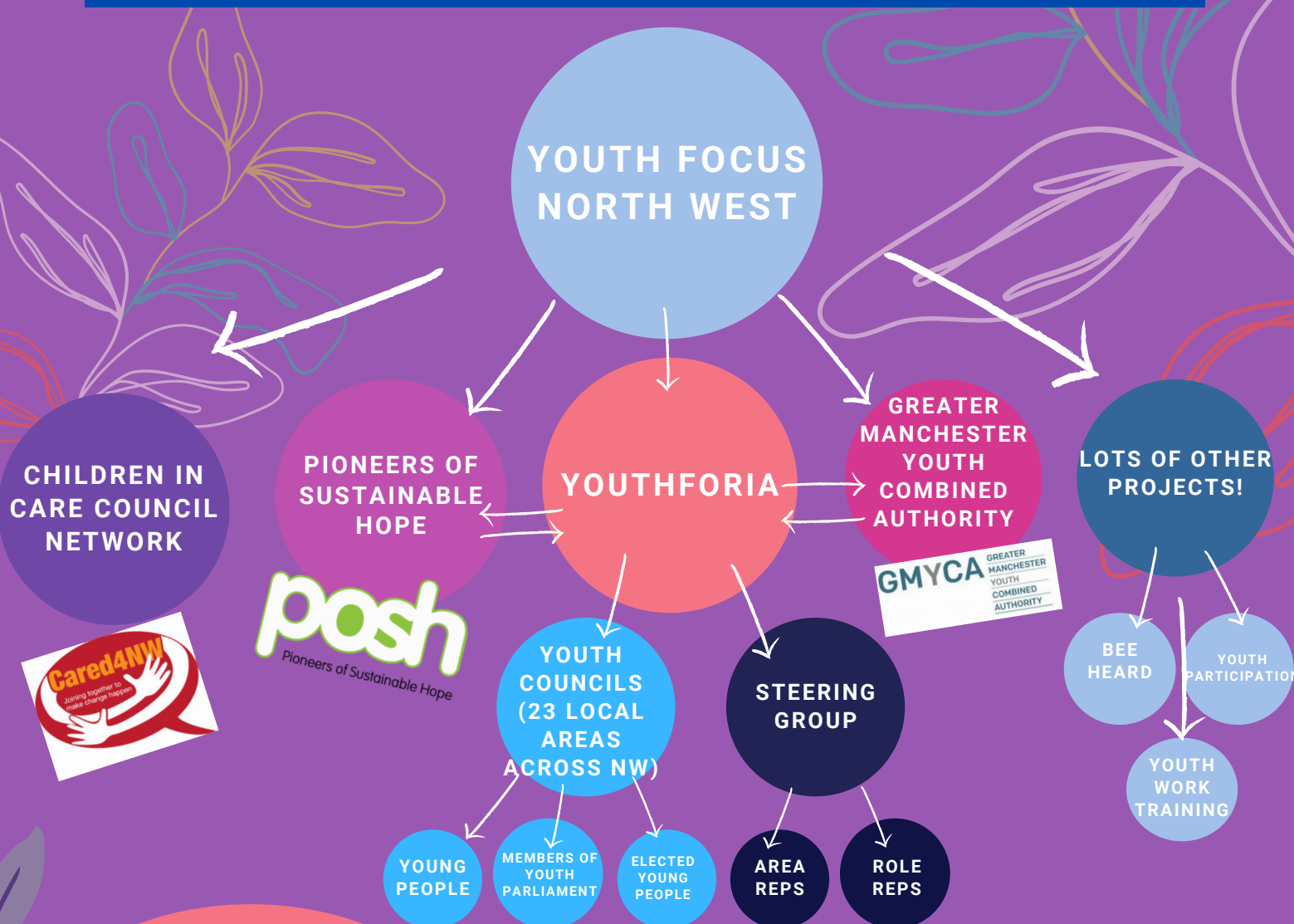
MEMBERS OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT AGED 11-18 TAKE PART IN AN ANNUAL DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, CHAIRED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS RT HON LINDSEY HOYLE MP. THEY DEBATE FIVE ISSUES CHOSEN BY A BALLOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE UK AND THEN VOTE TO DECIDE WHICH TWO ISSUES SHOULD BECOME THE UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S PRIORITY CAMPAIGNS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.



# YOUTH FOCUS NORTH WEST

YOUTH FOCUS NORTH WEST IS A STRATEGIC HUB FOR YOUTH WORK, SUPPORTING AND RUNNING MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LED PROJECTS ACROSS THE NORTH WEST.

"WE LIKE TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN AND OUR BELIEF IN YOUNG PEOPLE, LISTENING TO THEIR VOICES AND MOVING FROM VOICE TO POWER UNDERPINS EVERYTHING."



## WHAT DOES YOUTHFORIA DO?

This North West Youth Forum involves young people who are part of democratic representation structures from all 23 North West local authorities and all Members of the UK Youth Parliament. Focused on issues of social justice and improving the lives of their peers Youthforia members take their messages and campaigns to decision makers and politicians locally, regionally and nationally.



## WHO ARE THE STEERING GROUP?

YOUTHFORIA MEETINGS ARE RUN BY YOUNG PEOPLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. THE SG ARE ELECTED YOUNG PEOPLE FROM 16-18 AT YOUTHFORIA WHO HELP ORGANISE AND FACILITATE YOUTHFORIA MEETINGS. THERE ARE USUALLY 12-13 STEERING GROUP REPRESENTATIVES.

# REPRESENTATION



THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IS AN ELECTED BODY CONSISTING OF 650 MEMBERS KNOWN AS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MP'S). MP'S ARE ELECTED TO REPRESENT CONSTITUENCIES BY THE FIRST-PAST-THE-POST SYSTEM. HERE IS A SMALL BREAKDOWN OF HOW WELL THE UK IS REPRESENTED.

1

## WOMAN

A TOTAL OF 220 OF MP'S ARE FEMALE. THIS IS 34%.

2

## BAME

10% OF MP'S IDENTIFY AS BAME. THE BAME POPULATION ACROSS THE UK AS A WHOLE IS 14%.

3

## LGBTQ+

AMONG THE 650 MP'S THERE ARE AT LEAST 45 WHO ARE OPENLY GAY, LESBIAN OR BISEXUAL THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY HAS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION, WITH NINE OF ITS 47 MP'S OPENLY GAY.

4

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

THERE ARE 173 MP'S WHO WENT TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS. (26.6%) 7% OF THE UK POPULATION WENT TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS.

## WHY IS REPRESENTATION IMPORTANT?

IF THE SYSTEM IS MEANT TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, THEN IT SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MANY POPULATIONS IT SERVES, AND THAT INCLUDES PEOPLE OF ALL IDENTITIES.

OUR EXPERIENCES MATTER AND ARE SHAPED BY OUR IDENTITIES. IF PEOPLE IN POWER DON'T HAVE THOSE EXPERIENCES THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO KNOW ABOUT THEM AND CHANGE THEM. BY HAVING A GOVERNING BODY THAT REPRESENTS THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE LEGISLATION CREATED IS MORE EFFECTIVE.

SEEING PEOPLE IN POWER WHO LOOK LIKE YOU, OR IDENTITY LIFE YOU DO IS SO POWERFUL

IT MATTERS BECAUSE YOU CANNOT BE WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE

OUR EXPERIENCES ARE SHAPED BY OUR IDENTITY.

# VOTING SYSTEMS

## FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

MOST VOTES WINS.

THE **HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LOCAL COUNCILS** IN ENGLAND AND WALES USE THE FIRST-PAST-THE-POST SYSTEM.

AT A GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION, VOTERS PUT A CROSS (X) NEXT TO THEIR PREFERRED CANDIDATE ON A BALLOT PAPER. BALLOT PAPERS ARE COUNTED. THE CANDIDATE WITH THE MOST VOTES REPRESENTS THE CONSTITUENCY OR AREA.

## ALTERNATIVE VOTE (AV)

“PREFERENTIAL” VOTING SYSTEM

USED FOR THE CHAIRS OF MOST COMMITTEES AND THE LORD SPEAKER.

VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE BY MARKING 1, 2, 3 AND SO ON. A VOTER CAN RANK AS MANY OR AS FEW CANDIDATES AS THEY LIKE OR VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE.

FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES ARE COUNTED FIRST, THEY NEED 50% OF VOTES TO WIN. IF THERE IS NO MAJORITY THE CANDIDATE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF VOTES IS ELIMINATED AND THEIR SECOND PREFERENCE VOTES ARE REALLOCATED TO THE REMAINING CANDIDATES. IF ONE CANDIDATE HAS MORE VOTES THAN THE OTHER REMAINING CANDIDATES PUT TOGETHER, THAT CANDIDATE IS ELECTED.

## SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE (STV)

USING PREFERENCES AND QUOTA.

USED FOR DEPUTY SPEAKER IN HOUSE OF COMMONS, LOCAL ELECTIONS IN SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND MORE.

VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE. EACH CANDIDATE NEEDS TO REACH A QUOTA. THE FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE ARE ADDED UP. CANDIDATES WHO ACHIEVE THIS QUOTA ARE ELECTED. SURPLUS VOTES FROM CANDIDATES WHO HIT THE QUOTA GO TO SECOND PREFERENCE CANDIDATES.

## CLOSED PARTY LIST

USED BY ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

A VOTER MARKS A CROSS ON THE BALLOT PAPER NEXT TO THE PARTY'S NAME. PARTIES GET THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN PROPORTION TO THE VOTES IT RECEIVES IN EACH CONSTITUENCY.

VOTERS CHOOSE PARTIES NOT CANDIDATES. THE PARTIES DETERMINE THE ORDER IN WHICH CANDIDATES APPEAR ON THE LIST.



# CHALLENGE

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST VOTING SYSTEM AND WHY? CAN YOU FIND ANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD THAT USE DIFFERENT VOTING SYSTEMS?



## CHALLENGE OTHERS

ONCE YOU HAVE LEARNT, LISTENED AND CHALLENGED YOURSELF ON DEMOCRACY IT IS TIME TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED WITH OTHERS.

ARE YOUR FAMILY/FRIENDS REGISTERED TO VOTE? DO THEY KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING AND DEMOCRACY?



You don't need to do extensive research or prep first. Learning more about the history of democracy is helpful. Knowing facts like when women got the vote or who your MP is is a great thing to share!

Share how you're feeling and be respectful of other perspectives.

Tackle the Point not the Person!

Be an active listener and show you're engaged. Listening is just as important as talking.

Consider reading a book or watching a movie to learn together.

**CONTINUE**



**THIS IS  
JUST THE  
BEGINNING!**

**HAVE A LOOK AND  
SEE WHAT ELSE YOU  
CAN FIND ON  
DEMOCRACY. THIS  
VIDEO IS A GOOD  
START.**



**Is Britain REALLY democratic?**

73K views • 1 year ago

Channel 4 News

In our latest FactCheck Explains series, we take a look at the way we elect our MP  
Past ...

<https://youtu.be/ARnQmrLxjBk>

Have a conversation with your youth council, what can you do to get involved in democracy in your local area?

**HOW TO CONTINUE  
THE WORK?**



HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AROUND YOU ABOUT DEMOCRACY.

LISTEN AND AMPLIFY THE VOICES OF MARGINALISED PEOPLE IN SOCIETY.

CHECK, DOES YOUR SCHOOL TEACH ABOUT DEMOCRACY? COULD YOU GIVE AN ASSEMBLY ON WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT?

SHARE, SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT. YOU COULD WRITE A BLOG, FILM A VIDEO OR DISCUSS WITH FRIENDS.

GET INVOLVED IN DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS, LISTEN AND LEARN.

CONTINUE .

# WHERE TO GO FROM HERE



## YOUTH FOCUS NW

Youth Focus NW has a host of information on their website as well as more resource packs to enable you to learn even more!



<https://youthfocusnw.org.uk/resources/>

## BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL

They empower young people through a multitude of projects from the UK Youth Parliament to the NHS England Youth Forum and more!



<https://www.byc.org.uk/>

## ACTIVISM SUPPORT

Whether you're an activist, campaigner, carer or relief worker we are here to provide a safe space to discuss any issues that may be impacting on your life and work.

<https://www.counsellingforsocialchange.org.uk/activists/>

## INTERSECTIONALITY

This video explains what intersectionality is and how we are all impacted by it.

<https://youtu.be/w6dnj2lyYjE>

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Anxiety UK offers tailored support for those with anxiety 03444 775 774  
Open 9:00am-10:00pm Monday to Friday,  
and 10:00am-8:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

**Black Mental Health Matters** site-  
<https://www.blackthrive.org.uk/>

## AMPLIFY

Share what you have done!  
Share what other activists have done!

Know you can always reach out for help if you need it.