



THE
JUBILEE CENTRE
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

#iwill

Celebrating the character of young people
taking action to help others

 step up to serve



Launch of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign 2013

Only a life lived in service to others is worth living.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

In 2013, Step Up To Serve, the charity behind the #iwill campaign, was launched by HRH The Prince of Wales along with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition, to make participation in meaningful social action the norm for young people by 2020. Last year, as part of the first anniversary, we appointed 50 young #iwill Ambassadors to represent the campaign around the country. I am now delighted to welcome a new group of 50 inspirational young people, who will join us in promoting the breadth and quality of youth social action that is taking place across the UK, and encouraging others to take part.

As you will see from the brochure each one of our #iwill Ambassadors has an incredible story to tell. It is wonderful to see evidence of young people being sufficiently empowered to make a real difference in their communities – and the recognition that there is a double benefit of taking part in social action through the character strengths, and the employability skills, that they are developing in the process. Our ambassadors are involved in a wide range of activities. By sharing their stories and experiences of campaigning on issues close to their heart, of raising thousands of pounds for charities, or of choosing to give up their time in the service of others, these young people show that social action can bring communities together to achieve powerful results.

But we have much more to achieve. We have set ourselves the very challenging target of making social action a habit in the lives of young people by the time the campaign ends in 2020. If you agree with us that it can have a significant impact in addressing issues of social mobility, social anxiety, and social cohesion then please consider joining our many partners who have pledged #iwill. In doing so you can play a material part in establishing practical action in the service of others as a part of life for as many young people as possible across the United Kingdom.

I am particularly grateful to the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham who are the instigators and funders of the #iwill Ambassadors' programme. This is another example of the extraordinary levels of support that we are receiving from all sectors of society, across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This is a genuine team effort to drive up participation in youth social action. I'm intensely proud of this campaign, and thank you warmly for your support. I hope that the stories you read here inspire you, and others, to support the #iwill campaign.

Nick Parker .

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Introduction

This brochure has been compiled to introduce the latest 50 #iwill Ambassadors that have joined the #iwill campaign as inspirational examples of 10-20 year olds that are leading the way in doing youth social action in their communities. To celebrate their achievements, and the character virtues that they have developed, the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues and the #iwill campaign have selected these young people to represent the campaign. They do so on behalf of the many young people across the UK that we know regularly undertake practical action in the service of others to create positive change in their communities.

The number of #iwill Ambassadors now totals 100, and serves to demonstrate the wide range and variety of incredible feats that these young people have undertaken in the service of others. There are inspirational stories within this brochure of young people overcoming adversity, driven by their circumstances to help others and who, in turn, have helped themselves.

There are Ambassadors from as young as 10 listed alongside those of 19, and 20, all of whom with a story to share. These young people were selected as Ambassadors as they were able to show not only a strong commitment to youth social action, but to their own development. When asked what social action has given them in return, the young people identified the character and skills that they developed. You will see throughout this brochure the lists of the virtues they highlighted, such as courage, leadership, empathy and many other character qualities.

The many organisations that have facilitated the participation of the young people in social action should also be lauded – it is thanks to their support for youth social action, and the #iwill campaign, that we are able to discover these motivational stories of young people undertaking practical action in the service of others.

Each Ambassador has chosen a future #iwill pledge of what they hope to achieve with social action in the future. This is indicative of their commitment to their journey in making a difference to others, and shows how they have made social action a habit for life. Combined with their promise to share their story with others around them to encourage their peers to join them, these inspirational young people continue to make a huge impact in the lives of others through social action.

We commend them all, and hope you enjoy reading.



Professor James Arthur
Director:
 Jubilee Centre
 for Character and Virtues



Charlotte Hill
CEO:
 Step Up To Serve

STEP UP TO SERVE YOUTH ADVISORS

The #iwill campaign seeks the creation of more opportunities for young people to take part in youth social action. Step Up To Serve, the charity behind the campaign, have made opportunities for young people to become an integral part of the organisation advising our team on strategy and priorities for the future – some of these inspirational young people tell their stories here.

Chloe Donovan, Trustee, Step Up To Serve

Chloe first became involved in social action when she became the member of UK Youth Parliament for South Norfolk aged 12, she represented the views of young people within the district and county council. She campaigned on a range of issues, from access to higher education to votes at 16. After a few years working for the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services Chloe is now building on her experience by setting up her own social enterprise called 'Hundred River Farm' and she is also the only young person to sit on the Canal & River Trust's Council, and Chairs their Youth Engagement Advisory Group.



#iwill support the inclusion of young people's opinions in the governance of the #iwill campaign through working with our partners and inspiring ambassadors to develop our youth engagement work.



Louis Stokes, Trustee, Step Up To Serve

Louis started volunteering for the NSPCC aged 11. He's helped to influence a change in the law around sex and relationships education and recently became one of ChildLine's youngest counsellors in the UK. He offers support and guidance to vulnerable young people, often in life-threatening situations. At school Louis was Chair of his school council, and has influenced both the school curriculum and teacher recruitment policies. Louis has also volunteered for the National Citizen Service, and campaigned for better access to mental health services for children and young people in Sheffield. He was recently shortlisted for Guardian Trustee of the Year 2015.

#iwill be a committed Trustee of Step Up To Serve and promote the campaign to others to help make participation in meaningful social action the norm by 2020.



Saeed Atcha, Step Up To Serve Business Steering Group member

When Saeed was 15, he wanted to change the negative press coverage of young people and give them a chance to be showcased. He set up a magazine and became part of the press that was once negative. Over the past 4 years this has developed massively. Xplode was once just a magazine, and now it's a registered charity helping over 500 young people develop skills to make them more employable as well as producing the magazine to over 35,000 young people across Greater Manchester. Saeed can be rightfully proud of his achievements.

Matthew Otubu, Step Up To Serve Business Steering Group member

Matthew is a Young Trustee and Non-Executive Director of the international NGO and youth-led development agency, Restless Development. He is a 2014 Global Scholar of the African Leadership Academy (Johannesburg), as well as an Associate Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He previously served as a Media Spokesperson for the British Youth Council and as an elected Youth Councillor and Member of Youth Parliament for Newcastle upon Tyne, delivering a keynote speech at the House of Commons in 2013. In 2015, he received the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the UK Award for Political, Legal and Governmental Affairs.



Mohammed Usman, Step Up To Serve Business Steering Group member

Mohammed has been involved in many forms of social action, including leading a Free The Children assembly at college, which resulted in raising £1,200 and Mohammed subsequently speaking at the We Day celebrations at Wembley Arena. Sharing the stage with Vice President Al Gore and Malala Yousafzai, Mohammed spoke in front of 12,000 people. Since becoming an #iwill Ambassador last year, Mohammed has sat on panels at a Teach First conference, and a NCVO Research conference. He recently received the Business in The Community Inspiring Young Talent Award on Behalf of Barclays alongside Kirstie Mackey (Director of Barclays LifeSkills Programme) and is sitting on Free The Children's Youth Advisory Committee, as well as becoming a Warwick Business School ambassador.

George Fielding, Step Up To Serve Education Steering Group member

Born with Cerebral Palsy, George was the first wheelchair user to complete his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, played an important role in designing his new local youth centre, is the former Vice Chair of Mole Valley Young Voice and councillor for Surrey Youth Parliament, has been an active ambassador for Whizz-Kids for eight years and has Chaired their Board of Ambassadors since July 2012. Last year, he was the youngest recipient of a British Empire Medal for services for young disabled people and their families.



JORDAN ABERNATHEY

Name: Jordan Abernathey

Age: 18

Where I Live: Dundee & Tayside



“No one should be a bystander. If I can make even one person feel more comfortable then I have helped make a better society.”

I firmly believe in equality for all – a guiding principle that I live my life by. I started doing more for the MOGII (Multiple Orientations Gender Identities Intersex) community by volunteering with Gay Men’s Health in Edinburgh. Here I got my first taste of what I could do to help people, and how it made me feel when I knew I had made even a tiny difference.

I then moved to Dundee where I started my work with Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland, helping promote safer sex and encourage positive decision making. I started college here in Dundee where I set up the LGBT+ society with the help of staff and other students. This has allowed me to help make the college a more welcoming place for MOGII/LGBT+ students. I feel I have made a real difference by acting as an information point for both staff and students by sharing my knowledge on MOGII/LGBT+ matters. I was also elected chairperson for the local LGBT Youth Scotland youth committee, an amazing opportunity to gain experience in engaging with the community.

Through all these experiences I’ve found that social action doesn’t have to be difficult. Just be motivated and believe in the cause you are fighting for, and together we can truly make a difference.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland
- LGBT Youth Scotland
- Gay Men’s Health
- Dundee & Angus College



#iwill work with the small trans male community in Tayside, ensuring that the Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland’s sexual health services meet their needs. I plan to help the local community grow and flourish by expanding the local LGBT+/MOGII groups and helping make current services friendlier to gender minorities.

JACK ABREY

Name: Jack Abrey

Age: 18

Where I Live: London



“Through social action, I’ve developed leadership, communication and confidence skills. But most importantly of all, my mental health has benefited.”

When I was seven, my Dad very sadly passed away. I went through an exceptionally tough time, and throughout it the Scouts were truly a lifeline for me. To this day, I’ve tried to do what I can to give back. I’m now Chair of the Scouts National Community Impact Group, connecting communities through social action. At school, I was Head Boy and led our international cooperation scheme with Michamvi School, Tanzania. I kept in touch regularly with them, helping them complete their roof and make the school a safer place to learn. I’ve also organised fundraisers, most recently for Nepal, and ensured our Senior Citizens’ Christmas Meal, bringing together isolated elderly people, reaches the far corners of our community by making posters and asking local GPs and care homes to advertise them for us.

It’s not always been easy. I’ve suffered with poor mental health in the past, but seeing the difference I could make to others played a key role in lifting me out of depression. I feel passionately about reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, which is why I’ve campaigned and encouraged others to speak out without fear of discrimination. Now I’ve finished school I’m currently at university and will continue to help others, encouraging more kindness and consideration in our society. I’m particularly excited to continue promoting a ‘Million Hands’.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- The Scout Association
- Chace Community Schools



#iwill look to set up a mental health ‘safe space’ at university and continue to campaign to reduce and remove the wholly unacceptable stigma surrounding mental health. Furthermore I want to ensure every young person has the opportunity to get involved in social action (as well as having their voices heard), such as ‘A Million Hands’, by promoting this nationally and engaging key decision makers.

JOSHUA ALDWINCKLE-POVEY

Name: Joshua Aldwinckle-Povey

Age: 14

Where I Live: Essex



“Digital technology is vital to my work in campaigning and finding volunteering opportunities. Without it my social action would not be possible.”

In 2013, I set up a campaign called ‘Greatness over Bullies’ with my friends. We support young people suffering from bullying, offering advice and letting them know that people care. Now, I spend a few hours a week growing the campaign and working on projects like the Support Room, an online support space for young people dealing with bullying which O2 Think Big helped us set up. We’ve also started a YouTube series, Fresh Thinking, on tackling bullying, and young people regularly tell me that the campaign has inspired them to fight bullying too. I’m also on Thurrock’s Youth Cabinet, where I work with other young people to advise on youth services in the local area, and debate issues such as young people’s mental health and social media. I’ve recently won a v30 award from vInspired for my social action, and have just launched a new campaign: Give A Read (@givearead)!

As well as thoroughly enjoying every second of my social action, I’ve also had brilliant opportunities to meet new people and learn new skills, and I’ve been inspired to get involved in other things going on in my local area too, like the Summer Reading Challenge through my local library. It’s great to be part of a community like Thurrock, and I’m glad to be able to help other young people feel part of that community too.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Thurrock Youth Cabinet
- O2 Think Big



#iwill find new ways to grow my anti-bullying campaign, Greatness over Bullies, and my Give A Read campaign, whilst encouraging others to make a difference too.

RYAN BICKLE

Name: Ryan Bickle

Age: 10

Where I Live: Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria



“If everyone was nice to each other the world would be a better place.”

I'm only 10 years old, but I try to do what I can to help other people. It all started when my grandad died. He was one of my favourite people to spend time with, and when he died I cried for days. I decided that I should do something to help other people who had the same illness as him, so I held a jumble sale and made money for the Hospice. Next I made lots of loom band bracelets and sold them for Children in Need.

That's not all I've done. When I was seven years old I persuaded my dad to help our teachers and children in my class when we were learning about healthy eating. Dad works at the hospital as a chef and my class designed meals which we served on the children's ward. Now, every Year 3 class in my school does it too.

Although some children don't have much, I always give some of my birthday money to charity, and my mum thinks it's great when I clear out my bedroom to take things to a charity shop. I also like to help my great grandma, who can't see very well. I always help her walk her dog otherwise she might fall somewhere, like into the sea. Even though I'm only 10, I'm doing all the things I can think of to make the world a little bit better.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Children in Need



#iwill *make an extra Christmas shoe-box for Roma children in Romania. Also, I will co-ordinate our school's Harvest Hamper Project, helping the elderly in our town.*

SAFFRON BALL

Name: Saffron Ball

Age: 15

Where I Live: Lancashire



“With a listening ear and a willingness to help, it’s amazing the difference you can make to someone’s life.”

I can still remember what it was like to start secondary school. Not quite knowing the rules at first, getting lost finding your way to the Science block, working out which clubs to join. It’s exciting, but it’s also a bit daunting. When I heard that Franklin Scholars were looking for mentors for Year 7s at my school, I thought about how at that age I’d have appreciated the support of an older student, so I volunteered to help. It’s honestly been an amazing experience.

I spend a few hours a week as a Franklin Scholar, mentoring a Year 7 student in our weekly sessions and doing my best to support my mentee around the school in general. We’ve developed a really close bond, and it’s so rewarding to see how her literacy levels have improved above expectations since we’ve been working together, even with all the personal problems she has had to deal with recently. I’m glad I’ve been there for her and helped her deal with things that would be tough to go through alone. I feel like I’m a much more empathetic person than I was before I started with Franklin Scholars, and it’s given me a sense of purpose and responsibility which I’m really grateful for.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Franklin Scholars



#iwill continue to play a key role in the development of my mentee, beyond this academic year. I will also help support the next cohort of mentors at school, helping them to have an even greater impact on yet more young students.

ELIZABETH BEALE

Name: Elizabeth Beale

Age: 19

Where I Live: Milton Keynes/Loughborough



“Social action has helped boost my resilience, determination, and leadership skills; I’m proud of the difference I have made to my community and the journey that I’ve led my volunteers on.”

There’s a huge gap between young people and decision-makers, and that needs changing. My volunteering has been inspired by my passion for youth voice. I caught the ‘bug’ for volunteering age 13, and since then have not looked back. In 2011, I was elected as a Youth MP and at 15, I founded the Big MK Youth Debate, after successfully applying for grants, including vInspired Cashpoint funding, and then I ran the event for three years. The Big MK Youth Debate forced local decision makers to listen to young people, whilst equipping the young people with the skills to allow them to stand up for what they believed in. I trained up a group of 20 volunteers to help run each of the events, and I am immensely proud of all of them.

These experiences have since taken me on an amazing adventure, from working with schools to deliver outstanding PSHE lessons, to speaking at parliamentary receptions and funders breakfasts, to leading three social action campaigns on vInspired’s leadership programme Team V.

Being part of vInspired has also meant recognition (I won vInspired’s Volunteer of the Month in April 2014!) and I’ve since become an ambassador for the charity. Social action has been great for putting on my CV, UCAS application and to discuss at interviews. Without doubt, it has made me the person I am today.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- vInspired
- UK Youth Parliament



#iwill *be a great advocate for social action, whether through my own community projects or through public speaking.*

ALISON BIRCH

Name: Alison Birch

Age: 13

Where I Live: Shropshire



“I used to be quiet, but now I love making my voice heard through social action.”

I've always found it odd that adults should get to make decisions about young people without even asking them what they think. So when I heard about the NHS' Shropshire Young Health Champions through my local youth club, I jumped at the chance to get involved.

It's a group of young people working on health projects to make people in Shropshire healthier and happier. In March 2014 I completed my training, and I've spent the last year supporting my fellow Champions on various projects and campaigns.

We try and think of creative ways to solve local healthcare issues, like with the children's unit at the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. It's the first time teenagers are getting their own space in the hospital, so our job is to make sure it's suitable for people our age. I love working with the rest of my group and getting to meet local businesses who are often keen to support what we're doing by sponsoring us.

Not only have I helped improve healthcare services in Shropshire, but I've also gained a lot of confidence. I hope I can inspire others to try volunteering too, and give young people a say in services that are meant for them.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Shropshire Young Health Champions



#iwill work with school nurses and youth workers to mentor and support quieter young people to give social action a go!

LUCY BOWIE

Name: **Lucy Bowie**

Age: **10**

Where I Live: **Renfrewshire**



“*Even small things can achieve a lot.*”

I know that some people say walking is boring, and that a 10 year old is too young to make any kind of difference in the world. But I've shown in the past year or so that neither of these things is true!

Last year I decided I wanted to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, so I did a sponsored walk. I set up a JustGiving page online to raise money, and then I walked 10,000 metres! It was amazing to see all the support I got, not only from my family and friends, but also from my Brownie group. Someone told Girlguiding Scotland, and they even put it on their Facebook page! I managed to raise £810 for charity, winning the East Renfrewshire Quaich for service in the community. I was so proud of myself that I decided to do it again this year – but make it a bit harder this time, walking the first day of the West Highland Way with my mum and my aunt, which was 12 miles. This time I donated sponsorship money to Beatson Cancer Charity in Glasgow.

Overall, I've raised or helped to raise well over £2,000 for my chosen charities and hopefully helped a lot of people suffering with cancer.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Brownies
- Girlguiding Scotland
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Beatson Cancer Charity



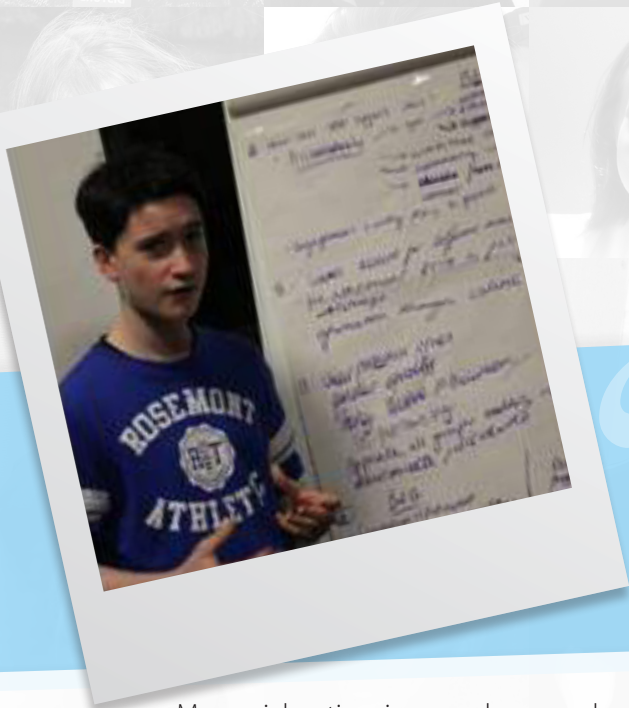
#iwill *show people that everyone can make a difference.*

MICHAEL BRYAN

Name: **Michael Bryan**

Age: **13**

Where I Live: **Bournemouth**



“Social action is a brilliant way to help others and build your own character at the same time. I’m proud to say I’ve learnt to be more cooperative and empathetic as a result of taking action, and I’ve seen the positive difference I can make to those less fortunate.”

My social action journey began when I read in the news about the terrible consequences of gender inequality across the world. I believe in a just and tolerant society, and reading about girls who had suffered from FGM and child marriage shocked me into taking action. I felt I couldn’t just sit back and let these things happen, so I decided to do something about it. I got involved with Plan UK, and have since helped them campaign for girls’ rights. I think it’s so important that we stand up to gender equality and fight on behalf of those who are silenced.

I’m also keen to get more young people interested in politics, as I think one of the best ways to campaign for what we believe in is through our democratic system. What’s more, I’ve used my skills to raise money for Cancer Research, and to campaign for the British Youth Council’s ‘Make Your Mark’ campaign.

Social action has allowed me to meet like-minded young people who share my ambitions and hopes for a better world. People who, like me, want to make a difference, and be the change they want to see. I’ve benefitted greatly from the skills I have learnt and I hope I can inspire others to speak out against the unfairness and inequality that’s around us.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Plan UK
- International Youth Council
- British Youth Council
- Cancer Research
- Department for International Development



#iwill encourage others to take part in social action by visiting schools and talking to pupils about the difference they can make. I will also lobby the government to put social action further up on the agenda.

KIEREN BUXTON

Name: **Kieren Buxton**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **Norfolk**



“ *Not only does social action give you the chance to help others (and feel good about it!), but it can also help you get a job too.* ”

Of all the ways to make a difference in your community, I think youth democracy is one of the most powerful. I've been a Member of the UK Youth Parliament for Norwich South for 18 months now, and I spend several hours a week working on causes I care about. I recently campaigned to improve mental health services in my local area, and contributed to Norfolk County Council's strategy. I also care passionately about supporting those with Motor Neuron disease, and have raised over £2,500 through fundraising for Motor Neuron charities. In schools, I've been involved in peer-to-peer support, particularly helping primary school children.

All these experiences set me apart from others when I applied for jobs, helping me get a part-time job in my town, and most recently helping me to get an apprenticeship with Norfolk County Council. It's great to see how interested employers are in my social action experience, and it's meant I've never been short of things to write on my CV. And not only has social action been a great way to build my confidence, organisational and communication skills, but the feel-good factor that comes with helping others gives me such a buzz, and is a great motivator to keep going.

Organisations I've Participated With

- UK Youth Parliament
- Norfolk County Council



#iwill *spread the word about the positive benefits of social action, encouraging other young people to take part too, and lead social action activities for others to give it a try.*

THERESE CROSSAN

Name: **Therese Crossan**

Age: **15**

Where I Live: **County Antrim**

“Volunteering has helped me become more involved and make a difference in my community.”



Gymnastics is a real passion of mine. I'm a regular at the City of Belfast Gymnastics Club, where I coach children in gymnastics. I noticed that children with autism face extra difficulties, so I focus on coaching those with high-dependency autism in different types of gymnastics including trampolining, beam and horse. It helps them to improve their skills, like hand-eye coordination and balance, and have fun, all in a safe environment. I've also benefitted a lot from my work, developing strong bonds with the children, improving communication skills – especially non-verbal communication – and learning more about autism. I try to share what I'm doing to encourage others to get involved too, writing a piece about my volunteering for my school website and making a pledge on the Giving Northern Ireland pledge wall.

Volunteering at the gymnastics club has been such a rewarding experience, and something I know I'll keep doing in the future. Every week I'm reminded of why I'm there, not only by the children but also by their parents, who recently told me that my sessions have been a lifeline for them – that makes me feel really proud.

Organisations I've Participated With

- City of Belfast Gymnastics Club
- Giving Northern Ireland



#iwill continue to promote my social action in both my school and wider community through the use of social media.

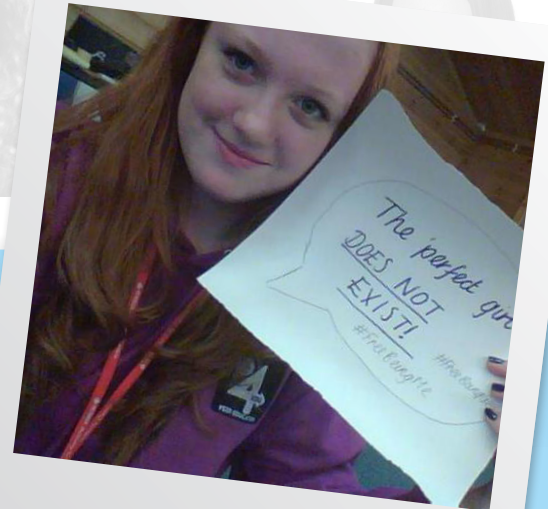
GEORGIA CARTMELL

Name: Georgia Cartmell

Age: 16

Where I Live: Birmingham

"I'm always tweeting about positive body confidence to help more girls feel confident about themselves – I even get retweeted at the regional and national levels of Guides!"



According to recent research by Girlguiding UK, girls are increasingly worried about how they look, and one in five primary school girls has dieted. I strongly believe that body confidence is one of the biggest challenges facing girls today, and I'm determined to do something about it. As a Guide, I've become a Peer Educator, delivering sessions to other girls on body confidence and self-esteem.

I've been able to give over 150 girls and young women the gift of body confidence, and inspire them to challenge the unrealistic and unhealthy images of women we so often see in the media. I've also trained other Guides to help deliver these sessions too, and I'm a Young Leader with Rainbows, where I try to be a good role model for girls aged 5-7.

My social action experiences have helped me build leadership skills and confidence, but above all I've learnt how to be resilient. Recently, I had to have a serious leg operation so I was in hospital a lot. But rather than let it get me down, instead I decided to plan monthly Guide evenings at the hospital. It definitely took my mind off my leg! Next, I'm looking forward to training even more girls to be Peer Educators, so that we can reach as many girls as possible.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Girlguiding UK



#iwill continue my work with Girlguiding, and I hope to work towards the highest award they have. I've also applied to be part of Girlguiding's youth policy panel.

CHRIS CATT

Name: Christopher Catt (Chris)

Age: 17

Where I Live: Llanymynech



“I get to meet people of all ages through social action, and by showing the benefits it can bring, I hope I can inspire them to help others too.”

Most people probably don't have much contact with their local fire service, but they probably do have a lot of respect for firefighters. That was the same for me, and when I found out about the Fire Cadets I couldn't wait to get involved. It's for young people aged 13-17 to learn more about the Fire Service, improve communication between the Fire Service and the community, and increase fire and community safety awareness. As a volunteer Young Firefighter, I help at community events and I'm a trained first aider. When I was on a plane recently and a man was taken ill, my first aid skills helped to save his life.

I'm also part of the youth organisation Young Dragons/Dreigiau Ifanc, where I've volunteered as a marshal and fundraiser at local and national motor rallies and marathons. We also get involved in environmental clean ups, bag-packing for charities, and spending time with local elderly residents.

As a Fire Cadet and a Young Dragon, I've learnt vital new skills, become part of a team and made loads of new friends, and it's helped me think about my future career options – all the while making my community a nicer place to live for everyone.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Chirk Young Firefighters Association
- North Wales Young Dragons
- Dreigiau Ifanc Gogledd Cymru



#iwill continue volunteering with Chirk Young Firefighters and Young Dragons/ Dreigiau Ifanc and help them fundraise for other groups and charities in North Wales.

JASON COSTIN

Name: Jason Costin

Age: 19

Where I Live: Walsall



“I think every person, regardless of their background, should have the chance to contribute to society as an active citizen.”

Sadly, it’s all too often the case that those who are on the margins of society are disengaged from it, and their voices go unheard. Growing up in care, I can understand what that’s like. But through social action, I’ve learnt new skills and found a confidence I didn’t know I had. Helping others is so rewarding – whether it’s litter-picking in the local area or organising a tea party for local elderly residents. I’ve enjoyed starting up my own initiatives most of all, and I’ve got big plans to boost youth social action within my local area by running weekly volunteering sessions.

Social action has had a huge impact on my life. It’s definitely helped me get to where I am now, doing an apprenticeship with Creative Academies – an integrated learning provider which supports personal growth in children, young people and adults in the West Midlands. It’s also inspired me to encourage other people my age who wouldn’t normally consider it to volunteer, showing them that they can make a difference not only to others but in their own lives as well.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Creative Academies



#iwill build a youth base of Social Action Advocates in my local area, setting up weekly volunteering sessions where we can bring people of all ages together in a reading group, or provide arts activities for young people in care.

JORDAN DIXON

Name: Jordan Dixon

Age: 19

Where I Live: Tottenham/Peckham



I volunteer to run football training sessions for young people every Saturday, mainly so that they don't have to go through the tough times that I went through at their age.

When I was younger, I used to be in a gang, and I got expelled from school in Year 8. My reputation meant I didn't stand a chance of getting into another mainstream secondary school. I moved around a few different education centres but was successively thrown out, until I eventually found one to take me. It was a tough time, because my mum was in and out of hospital for mental health reasons. But then I realised I couldn't use that as an excuse to fail at life, so I got my stuff together and got some GCSEs.

I didn't know what to do next until I discovered Let Me Play, which provides sport and volunteering opportunities. They got me interested in sports coaching, and I got my FA Level 1 soon after. That's how I first got involved in social action. Through Let Me Play, I volunteered to run free sports activities for young people on a London estate. Last year, I was a volunteer young leader at Edmonton Craig's Park Unity Hub through Enfield Council, mentoring other young people. Recently, I have set up a football team with my friend, buying equipment using our own money and doing free football training for young people who live on my old estate.

I try to show them that playing on a team is way more worthwhile than fighting in a gang and that you can learn more transferable skills and life skills in a team. Although I couldn't see that when I was younger, I definitely can now.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Let Me Play
- Enfield Council
- Furley Town F.C.



#iwill *one day set up my own football academy to give young people the chance to play football and gain qualifications at the same time.*

NYASHA DURI

Name: Nyasha K. Duri

Age: 18

Where I Live: Greater London



“Social action has given me the confidence to believe in myself more. It’s also made me feel brave enough to be idealistic and follow my principles even if this occasionally means failure, because I know I’ll always learn something valuable.”

I first got involved in social action through my church, where I became a mentor, and at school, tutoring other students. Those experiences brought a change in me and ever since I’ve continued helping others. I did NCS with The Challenge, helping improve an allotment area and campaigning for children’s rights. I’ve also been a Youth Board Rep, helping to fundraise £2,000 for YMCA, as well as raising awareness for the homelessness charity StreetLink.

My most recent social action initiative is called Politicks: it’s a non-partisan digital platform aiming to redefine youth political engagement with a three-pronged approach – My MP, My Vote and My Action – to tackle the 3Ds: disconnect, disengagement and disillusionment. I plan to feature thought-provoking articles, animated video content, quality infographics and interesting sound clips, as well as producing an enjoyable monthly newsletter filled with developments in the world of politics. It’s been an amazing experience, learning to code and working with others to set SMART goals so I can measure Politicks’ meaningful social impact. I hope to help make politics more accessible and give all young people a say in the way our country is run, and I’m excited to see how the project grows.

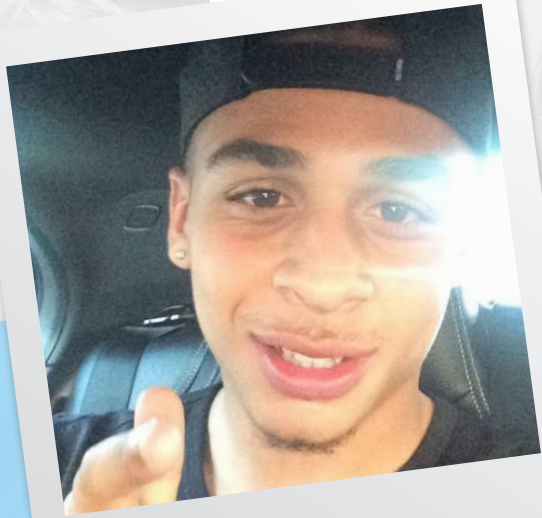
Organisations I’ve Participated With

- HRH The Duke of York & Nominet Trust’s iDEA
- UpRising
- BBC
- National Citizen Service and The
- Challenge
- Youth Employment UK CIC
- vInspired
- Government Digital Service
- Google Campus London
- Somewhere to
- Stemettes
- Think Big
- Freeformers



#iwill focus on engaging marginalised groups in politics by meeting with them in person and advocating why it is so vital that they make their voices heard in our democracy.

AINSLEY EVERETT



Name: **Ainsley Everett**

Age: **19**

Where I Live: **Peckham**

“I wanted to help younger children so they didn’t go down the wrong road.”

My upbringing was challenging when I was younger, living on a council estate with my mum as my dad was not around. The environment was difficult, and I was easily influenced there by some of the people around me leading me into trouble with the police on many occasions. My school life suffered as a consequence, as I was a difficult student, which eventually led to a meeting with Lord Harris, the school’s owner, as they discussed the possibility of excluding me.

After some poor exam results, I gave myself a talking to, and started taking school, and life, more seriously. I joined afterschool classes, and stepped up my revision. I saw how my mum was struggling and said to myself that I would get her and me out of this struggle. I started thinking outside of the box and considering what I was good at – which led me to football – and I soon started coaching other young people about turning to sports rather than to a life of crime. Through helping them, I was helping me.

I had always played football but I never focused when I was young. What turned a corner for me was coaching younger players in the sport and showing them what a difference it had made in my life, and how it could help them in theirs. Right now I am chasing my dreams of becoming a professional footballer, playing and training most days of the week.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Thamesmead Town F.C.
- Dartford FC College



#iwill use the power of sport and social action to convey my message to others and inspire them to make a change

EMILY FOX

Name: **Emily Fox**

Age: **15**

Where I Live: **Norfolk**



“I’m planning to promote youth social action in schools, communicating through social media, and telling everyone about the benefits it can bring.”

My social action journey started while I was a Scout. I was asked if I wanted to be a young leader for a Scout section in my local area, and I haven’t looked back since! It’s led me to become a Member of Youth Parliament, representing young people and campaigning on issues that matter to us. It’s also encouraged me to get involved in social action through my Youth Forum, and make Norfolk a better place to be.

I’ve visited elderly people at residential homes, and volunteered at centres that help people with learning difficulties. I’ve also worked hard to bring down the levels of anti-social behaviour in the area, by organising and participating in social action projects in the summer holidays, and encouraging other young people to get involved as well.

Social action has made a huge difference to me personally, too – it’s been a great way to build my social media skills, as I’m always online promoting social action events and sharing our social action successes. Not only that, but it’s boosted my confidence – and that’s given me the courage to go out and help even more people locally, which makes me feel so proud!

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- UK Youth Parliament
- Youth Forum
- The Scout Association



#iwill *continue to take part in social action with the UK Youth Parliament, Youth Forum and Scouting, making a positive difference in my community.*

IFE GRILLO

Name: **Ife Grillo**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **London**



Growing up in Hackney, I was a young carer and knew how it felt to feel helpless, unimportant and constantly anxious. I got involved in social action because I wanted to turn my anger, at a system that constantly fails the most vulnerable in society, into something that could try and create change.

I am currently Vice Chair of the British Youth Council and getting to this point has been a tough but amazing experience. I became Vice Chair of Hackney Youth Parliament when I was 14 and then got elected to represent Hackney to the UK Youth Parliament where I began to realise how much I cared about inequality – especially in education.

I have always loved debating and I now work as an ambassador and mentor for an organisation called Debate Mate where I teach debating in disadvantaged areas and that helps make sure all young people have the skills they need to succeed. I also work with organisations such as the Fair Education Alliance and Teach First to further look at the problems within educational policy and how we can improve it.

Racial inequality is also a massive issue. Being a young black person can be difficult and whether we admit it or not, racism is still an issue in society and I constantly campaign to make sure we still treat it like an issue that needs fixing. I got involved in social action by just caring and by being lucky enough to find organisations which cared too.

Organisations I've Participated With

- British Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament
- Debate Mate
- Fair Education Alliance
- Teach First, Youth Philanthropy Initiative
- Into University
- Student Voice
- Model Westminster
- vInspired
- Young Hackney
- Adobe Youth Voices



#iwill *never assume that I know what young people care about or want, I can't speak for all young people. I will always try to make sure young people are at the heart of decision making which affects them.*

FAROUK GUTHMY

Name: Farouk Guthmy

Age: 18

Where I Live: London



“When your friends start doing what you do, achieving in the way you achieve, then you know you’re doing something right.”

When I help out at the Sam and Annie Cohen Day Centre, an elderly care home, I can easily see the impact that my social action has. Just by organising what might seem like ordinary social gatherings at the Centre, I know that I’ve helped put a smile on someone’s face. But that’s just the start: when you spend time in great places like that, you soon realise just how many organisations there are that need help.

Just having a bit more social awareness allows me to make a huge difference to people’s lives, whether it’s at Newham City Farm, or a paediatric therapy centre in Dubai, where I led sports sessions for kids with Down’s syndrome. I really feel like I’m a part of these communities now.

Personally I feel empowered, more confident and far more resilient – those things that my teachers are always talking about! And now my friends are doing it too, we’re all making a huge difference to society in different ways.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Sam and Annie Cohen Elderly Day Centre
- Rashid Paediatric Therapy Centre (Dubai)
- Newham City Farm
- NCS and The Challenge
- Citizens UK
- Metropolitan Police



#iwill get involved in Model Westminster and the Patchwork Foundation to help young people get into politics.

EMMA-JANE HAMPSHEIR-GILL

Name: Emma-Jane Hampsheir-Gill

Age: 19

Where I Live: London



First aid should be taught at every school, because giving someone the skills to save a life could be their most important lesson ever.

Since primary school, I have enjoyed connecting with others through social action, from the micro to the macro – from personal development to human rights. My faith also reminds me that we are all equally deserving, and so I should always do my best to help spread and facilitate opportunities for others wherever I can. It's led me to become involved with St John Ambulance, a charity I now represent nationally. I've trained others in first aid and given them life-saving skills, as well as acted as a mentor and helped young people develop the confidence to become leaders in their own right. I also deliver first aid both in day-to-day life and at public events.

Recently, I helped present at the Big First Aid Lesson with Claudia Winkleman – an amazing example of digital technology accessing many people nationwide. First aid training was streamed freely to schools and homes along with a live Twitter feed, reaching over 410,000 students!

Becoming involved with St John Ambulance has taught me not only first aid but also interpersonal and teamwork skills, as well as helping me to recognise my achievements and encouraging me to keep trying even when things are challenging. Being part of the charity has truly widened my horizons and made me appreciate the opportunities I have even more.

Organisations I've Participated With

- St John Ambulance



#iwill campaign for first aid to be delivered in all schools and create ambassador roles to spread this life-changing message and help the volunteers develop personally as confident leaders and teachers.

TIM HANCOCK

Name: **Tim Hancock**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **County Armagh**

“My social action initiative, Tim’s Lights, is totally focused on sharing the real meaning of the season in a charitable manner for all of the community – I’m dedicated to raising money for good causes and bringing local people together to make the world a better place.”



When you think about Christmas lights, you probably imagine fairy lights around the tree, and perhaps the odd reindeer outside your home. But not if you live in Lurgan! A few years ago, I started making Christmas lights a BIG deal at my home. I started ‘Tim’s Lights’, a Christmas lights display designed to bring the community together. In 2013 I decided to turn it into a fundraising opportunity, raising almost £300 for Charlene’s Project – a local charity supporting education in Uganda. Ever since, I’ve wanted to make the display even bigger and better. In 2014 we raised £1,013.41 for Marie Curie Cancer Care, in memory of my friend, Andrew. In between, I spend a lot of time providing technical support and encouragement to lights enthusiasts around the world who are also fundraising for charity.

What’s great about the display is that not only is it raising money for good causes, but it’s also bringing the community together. Lurgan has experienced some dark days during the Troubles, and I’m proud to say that the lights display brings all of the community together during the dark winter nights. It’s also taught me to take a creative approach, using my skills, to help others, and it’s given me a real sense of purpose. I’m already planning a community switch-on this Christmas, and I can’t wait to make an even bigger difference than before!

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Tim’s Lights
- Charlene’s Project
- Marie Curie Cancer Care



#iwill *continue volunteering for the local community, bringing light and hope during the dark nights of winter through the lights display. I will continue to fundraise for charity, building on the lights display and bringing in new features, and provide opportunities for visitors to donate to our chosen causes.*

OWEN HARRIES

Name: Owen Harries

Age: 17

Where I Live: Blackpool and Fylde

“I love giving back to the community, as the generations before us worked hard to give us the lives we have now.”



I used to be in the Army Cadets until I moved house, which unfortunately meant I had to stop. But what was the first thing I did when I got to my new town? I joined the National Volunteer Police Cadets! It's through them that I've learnt so many new skills. For example, I'm now trained in first aid and in the past month alone, I've had to use my first aid knowledge twice.

I also help sell poppies for the Royal British Legion on Remembrance Day, participate in community action days, and attend crime prevention workshops. Being a Police Cadet has really shown me how important it is to feel connected to your local community. Recently, I spent time with the other Police Cadets at a local homeless shelter, providing food, clothing, and chatting to the residents.

This is now my second year of Police Cadets and I've recently applied to be a Cadet Sergeant. It's also given me the confidence I needed to become an NUS Student Union Governor at my college – something I don't think I'd have had the courage to do before. Now, I can't imagine my life without social action in it!

Organisations I've Participated With

- National Union of Students
- Army Cadets
- National Volunteer Police Cadets
- Royal British Legion



#iwill *become a Police Cadet Adult Leader as soon as I turn 18, and help young people like me to contribute even more to society.*

ALEX JONES

Name: **Alex Jones**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **Newport**

“As a young transgender male I have faced a variety of hurdles since coming out. I want to make sure other young LGBT teenagers’ ‘coming outs’ are a little easier than mine. I want to educate, inspire and show others that it’s okay to be different and unique.”



The difference between girls and boys might seem obvious, but when I was younger, I didn’t see any difference between girls and boys, men and women. When I was a teenager I finally understood that though I was born a girl, I am actually male. Looking back, I remember I even had arguments in McDonald’s about having the boys’ toy from the Happy Meal, not the girls’!

Life was not made easy for me – from bullies at school, to society’s expectations. I knew that I had to transition to being male, but I didn’t know how to get there. I desperately sought help in drugs and in self-harming – but none of this helped me either. Everything made me feel worse because I wasn’t who I was born to be. Soon, though, I decided to transition, and I’ve never looked back.

I’ve since worked with Fixers to raise awareness about LGBT issues, and against homophobia and transphobia. I’ve started a really popular blog, posted hundreds of times, and was recently chosen to be a Young Person’s Champion for Pride Cymru. I even gave a speech in front of over 12,000 people! And now I’ve really topped it off by publishing a book about my experiences. I’ve come so far since the days of being bullied, and I’m proud to say I’m a man.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Pride Cymru
- Fixers



#iwill help schools, colleges, universities and the workplace become a more transgender friendly place, and I will encourage people to take part in transgender campaigning through education.

MEG KNEAFSEY

Name: Meg Kneafsey

Age: 20

Where I Live: Durham



“I believe in tackling apathy by encouraging other young people to fight for the causes they care about.”

Completing NCS in 2011 first got me into social action, and I’ve spent my free time helping others ever since. In the UK, I’ve volunteered at foodbanks and set up my own volunteer group connecting the foodbanks with local student volunteers. I got involved in vInspired’s Team V, working on social action campaigns like Swing the Vote, and creating my own campaign to target stereotyping which got over 7,000 likes on Facebook. Now that I’m at university, I lead a personal development programme which brings alumni back to the university to give skill talks to current students. I’ve also been on my university’s charity committee, and now I’m the Charity Liaison for the university too.

While I’m passionate about local issues, I also care deeply about international development. I’ve previously volunteered in Nicaragua and Tanzania, and this summer I led a group of volunteers on a five-week volunteer trip to India. Not only that, but I also fundraise for the charities I work with abroad, and this year I’ve supported the fundraising efforts of the 11 volunteers who came to India.

Over the past four years, I’ve benefitted hugely from my social action experiences and they’ve really shaped who I am. Whether travelling and living in different cultures, or learning more about important issues at home, throughout all my social action I have met incredible people and made friends for life.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- NCS
- vInspired – Team V



#iwill make a difference to others by working on social action campaigns within my university and local community.

BLAZE LAMBERT

Name: **Blaze Lambert**

Age: **16**

Where I Live: **Antrim**



“Through my social action experiences I've learnt to be more compassionate, and show empathy for those in difficult situations.”

Social action has always been important to me. Whether it's fundraising for charity through sponsored silences (a favourite of our teachers!), annual harbour jumps for Spina Bifida, cutting off my hair, volunteering at the Special Olympics Development Day, or mentoring girls at school, helping others is a part of who I am.

Every week I go to Guides, where I help lead activities for younger girls as a trained Peer Educator, as well as delivering sessions for other youth groups around the country. Last summer I got to go to Mexico with the Guides and spent some time with children at an orphanage, which was so rewarding.

The cause that's closest to my heart has to be Marie Curie Cancer Care. Last year the nurses at Marie Curie looked after my Dad, so it's a charity I've supported wholeheartedly ever since. Most recently I completed a 10km sponsored walk for the charity, and soon I'll be starting as a street collector for them, hoping to raise their profile in the local community.

Seeing the impact I can have on those in need through charities like Marie Curie has been so rewarding, and it's wonderful to be able to motivate younger students to make a difference to a cause they care about too.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Girlguiding UK
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Ballymena Academy
- Comic Relief
- Little Princess Trust
- Spina Bifida



#iwill continue helping others and building my own skills at the same time.

ELLIE LEVINE

Name: **Ellie Levine**

Age: **18**

Where I Live: **London**



“Whether it’s putting my journalistic or musical skills to good use, or volunteering at events, I’m always finding ways to help others and have fun at the same time.”

I have 10 years of experience so far at the Jewish Lads’ and Girls’ Brigade (JLGB). I can still remember meeting up with my group every week, and all the parades and music concerts and camps we got to be part of. Now that I’m 18, I’m glad to be able to give something back and make sure other children have the same opportunities I had.

Currently, I’m a youth leader at JLGB as well as the youth representative for Essex JLGB, supporting my local band in Redbridge, volunteering at the Junior group in Woodford for the 8-11 year olds, and helping at events like the recent 70th Anniversary of the Holocaust Community Event, where I volunteered as a steward during the ceremony. I’m also involved in various other projects JLGB has to offer – I took part in National Citizen Service this summer on their interfaith programme, and I’m working towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

As the Editor of the JLGB’s new youth magazine, Reboot, and guest tweeter and blogger for the JLGB, I’m gaining the digital skills and practical experience I’ll need to study journalism at university and turn what I love into a career. And the best part is that I’m gaining all this while helping other young people at the same time!

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Jewish Lads’ and Girls’ Brigade
- National Citizen Service
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award



#iwill continue to volunteer for the JLGB Youth Magazine and JLGB activities, as well as work towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, and encourage other participants and volunteers to take action too.

DEBORAH MANSSELL

Name: Deborah Mansell

Age: 19

Where I Live: Shropshire

“People often feel they can't commit to social action as they're too busy with life, but I think even being involved in small projects, like blogging about a cause you believe in, can still make a difference.”



I grew up in a village with many challenges, where most people are in a poor economic situation, and sadly there are those in the community that feel little hope that anything can be changed. I want to inspire people to change things for the better.

A few years ago, I decided to do my Silver & Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. For the social action element of this, I helped run a kids' club for 8-12 year olds in my village, which was really rewarding. I loved being able to provide the children with a space to have fun, be safe and know there are adults they can rely on. It got me into helping with a Venture summer camp, where I've been senior tent leader for the past three years, and Girlguiding, where I've spent five years running events and now volunteering as a trainee leader for the Brownies in my university town.

I've gained so much confidence through all these experiences – being in situations that take me out of my comfort zone has challenged what I thought I was capable of, really helping increase my self-esteem and self worth. I've learnt character skills for future work and life, and I know I'll keep volunteering throughout university and beyond.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Ventures
- Girlguiding
- St Mary's Church Highley



#iwill inspire others to see the benefits social action can bring, so that they want to get involved in social action too.

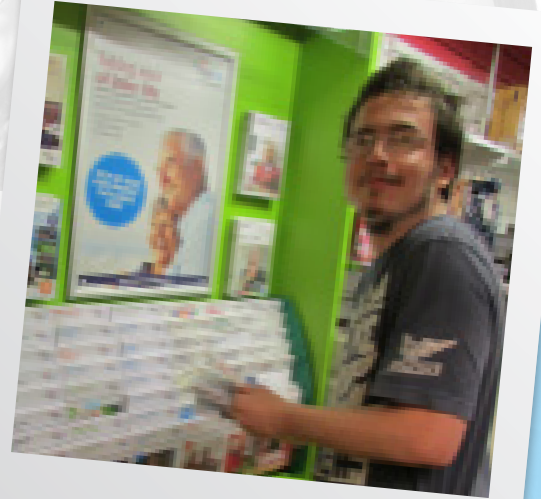
CHRISTIAN MASON

Name: Christian Mason

Age: 20

Where I Live: Yorkshire and the Humber

“When it comes to social action, I give it my all. I’ve got cerebral palsy, and despite my personal challenges I’m proud to say that I try my best to achieve certain goals.”



I volunteer at my local Age UK shop come rain or shine, helping in the running of the shop in lots of ways. One of my main responsibilities is looking after Gift Aid. It’s so important for charity shops to be able to claim back Gift Aid on any items donated, as it can raise huge sums of money. Whereas before I was responsible for producing the Gift Aid stickers manually, I recently took the lead on making the new shop printer ready for printing Gift Aid stickers. This new method will increase the shop’s productivity in a big way, hopefully increasing Age UK’s revenue for Gift Aid too.

Volunteering at Age UK has totally boosted my confidence and a whole range of other skills, and it’s always good fun. I really like the variety of tasks that I get to carry out when working alongside the Manager and the other staff, who are always looking out for ways to help me learn more. It’s great to know that I’m making a difference to older people across the UK at the same time.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Age UK



#iwill continue to support Age UK and act as an ambassador for the benefits of volunteering, encouraging people to engage with volunteering and Age UK to support older people.

SUZANNE MAXWELL

Name: Suzanne Maxwell

Age: 19

Where I Live: South Lanarkshire

“I always get my constituency involved whenever I can, and being an #iwill Ambassador is a perfect opportunity to make sure the voices of young people are heard.”



I'm proud to live in South Lanarkshire, so I jumped at the chance to join my local Youth Council and volunteer at a nearby youth club. I work with young people all over the area to make sure their voices are heard and spend a lot of my time attending events and campaigning with the Scottish Youth Parliament.

By volunteering on a regular basis, I've gained confidence and improved my communication skills, particularly when it comes to presenting to others. Now, I don't just feel comfortable standing up in front of an audience and talking to young people, but I really enjoy it – and I get to practise all the time as part of my youth work training. It's such a great feeling helping tomorrow's citizens and future leaders develop their own skills and expertise. For me, campaigning – whether it's creating a Facebook page to raise awareness of local issues, or persuading others to believe in a cause I care about – is a great opportunity to improve my local area and inspire others at the same time.

Being an #iwill Ambassador gives me even more energy to dedicate to South Lanarkshire and its amazing young people.

Organisations I've Participated With

- South Lanarkshire Youth Council



#iwill *discuss with people in my local area to see what social action they'd like me to carry out and we will work as a community to do so successfully.*

MICHAEL MCKERNAN

Name: Michael Mckernan

Age: 17

Where I Live: West Dunbartonshire



My confidence has soared through getting involved in social action. I love delivering workshops and it's great to feel that I'm inspiring others at the same time.

My social action journey started with my local youth group. I noticed that young people like me respond better to advice when it comes from someone their age, and that's what got me into peer education. I found that I really enjoyed talking to others about how we could make our community a better place to live, and through West Dunbartonshire Council's Youth Alliance Peer Educator Group I got the opportunity to do just that.

I've since delivered community safety workshops to 2,000 other young people through experiential learning, including a car driving simulation to demonstrate road safety. I've also worked with No Knives Better Lives, a Scottish knife crime prevention organisation that aims to raise awareness of the consequences of carrying a knife, and I've delivered workshops for other practitioners too.

As a peer educator, I think it's especially important to make sure I always show respect to others and listen to their ideas and concerns. I'd also like to think I can be a good role model for other young people, hopefully encouraging them to want to make their community a better place too.

Organisations I've Participated With

- West Dunbartonshire (WD) Council Youth Alliance Peer Educator Group
- WD Early Intervention Team
- WD Community Learning and Development
- No Knives Better Lives
- Scottish Peer Education Network



#iwill continue volunteering as a peer educator to inspire more young people to make a positive difference in our community.

GEORGE MILLER

Name: **George Miller**

Age: **16**

Where I Live: **Essex**



“Young people are the future, and I want to make sure our views are taken seriously.”

For the past five years, I've been involved in social action in various ways. As a Sea Cadet, I often used to volunteer to do bag packing at Morrison's in Chingford in support of various local causes. At school, I help out at various school events, as well as being Deputy Head Boy, a Prefect, and part of the Student Voice leadership team. I'm also an accelerated reading mentor, helping children in Year 7 and Year 8 who find reading difficult, and I've single-handedly run an inclusive drama club since 2013.

As Drama and Performing Arts Ambassador at school I've encouraged students from different cultures, ethnicities, and social backgrounds to be involved in drama, as well as those with special needs and disabilities such as dyslexia and autism. I'm keen to make sure the arts are available to all. What's more, I'm also a Youth Councillor for Epping Forest, where I've helped organise environmental youth volunteering days, a youth conference for 90 young people, and an anti-bullying campaign '#U R Not Alone', to name just a few.

I'm proud to say that I've been recognised for these achievements with two Jack Petchey Awards, and all in all, I think social action has really helped me become a more rounded, caring and considerate person.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Epping Forest Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament



#iwill continue helping others – especially as a Youth Councillor, where I'll keep on using my role to make sure young people have a voice.

TANYA MUBAYIWA



Name: Tanya Mubayiwa

Age: 17

Where I Live: Buckinghamshire

“Inspired by seeing so many fantastic young performers at the TEDx talk I organised, I hope to reduce the stigma around those who choose a career in the creative arts.”

I've always loved listening to inspirational speakers, and I've found that events like TED talks are a brilliant way to learn about new ideas and pick up tips on public speaking. But young people's voices are often missing from these platforms. That's why I decided to organise a TEDx event at my school – the first of its kind.

We had talks and performances on the sciences, languages and culture, music, poetry and dance. It was a huge success, not only because it gave young people a chance to express themselves and what they care about, but also because it gave me the opportunity to learn new things and meet new people. By taking the role of lead organiser, I became a kind of mentor to the younger students at school, and it taught me a lot about responsibility. I also made so many new friends along the way, which I never expected.

I am also now a senior anti-bullying ambassador within my school and I mentor younger anti-bullying ambassadors on how they can work together to make our school a bullying free school. The whole experience has shown others that they can make use of their talents and their voices to pursue their goals, and it's shown me that things like age and gender don't need to hold you back from doing what you love.

Organisations I've Participated With

- O2 Think Big
- TEDx



#iwill help other young people to achieve their dreams and goals by mentoring young people in my local area.

FRAN OLIVER

Name: **Fran Oliver**

Age: **19**

Where I Live: **London**



“Through rebuilding myself and my life, I realised I could help other young people do the same thing.”

Life hasn't been easy. Growing up, a family illness led to me taking more responsibility at home at quite a young age. It came at a difficult time and I fell in with the wrong crowd, ending up in an abusive relationship. It meant having to take a long-term absence from school, which really set me back and meant I was unemployed for a full two years after that. Partly because of all this I suffered from depression and anxiety. My confidence plummeted and I couldn't imagine things getting better. More than once it reached a crisis point where I tried to commit suicide.

But slowly, over time, I found that I was starting to gain confidence again. Going to church helped, as did finding out about the Prince's Trust. I had thought up a business idea to help other young people make the same strides in self-respect and confidence that I felt I was making, and the Prince's Trust helped me get onto their enterprise course to make that dream a reality. Now, I'm nearing the launch of my own social enterprise – as well as pursuing a degree, working part-time, and volunteering at my church Streatham Baptist Church and Brixton prison. Things are working out, and although I'm probably busier than I've ever been before, somehow my life feels a lot less chaotic.

Organisations I've Participated With

- The Prince's Trust
- Brixton Prison
- Victim support
- C.E.N
- NoSexWithoutLove
- Damilola trust
- Streatham Baptist Church



#iwill allow young people to meet their aspirations and goals through my social enterprise project, making youth the centre of positive movements within society.

NAYHA PATEL

Name: **Nayha Patel**

Age: **16**

Where I Live: **London**



I believe that taking steps to change the things that are wrong in our society is important and we are obliged to help others wherever they may be in the world.

I was inspired to get involved in social action at around 10 years old because of the fantastic work of doctors and nurses at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London as they helped my younger sister who was suffering from a heart problem. This inspired me to go on to raise awareness of the Great Ormond Street Charity in my school and also raise money for the charity's worthy causes. From then on, I have raised money and awareness for many charities including Diana Award, Wings of Hope, Free The Children, The Children's Society, Micro-Tyco and other local charities in my community including Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness (KCAH).

I'm also involved in Council21, my school's social enterprise council, to raise funds for charities and school-based projects all over the world such as in Malawi and Ecuador. I communicate important issues and charity messages to my school community, via the school's social enterprise and charity twitter account. I've also been recently involved in mentoring students as they start in my secondary school. So much of my social action has happened via my school, Surbiton High School, and without their support and the generosity of the pupils, staff and parents, I would not have been able to make a difference. I don't want to stop there though - there will always be people who need my help and I'm glad to be able to make a difference.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Diana Award
- Free The Children
- We Day
- Surbiton High School's Council21
- United Learning
- Wings of Hope
- KYGN
- Micro-Tyco
- KCAH
- The Children's Society (DofE)
- GOSH



#iwill engage with all 60 United Learning schools, which will help me to promote social action in local communities and continue with social action both in my school and local community.

LUKE REES

Name: **Luke Rees**

Age: **16**

Where I Live: **Blaenau Gwent**



“Through social action, I’ve gained a real passion for coaching sport and seeing young children achieve their full potential.”

I’m really into all kinds of sports, so it’s great to have found a way to use what I love to help others. My social action journey has involved volunteering at a disabled swimming club, running a rugby club for primary school children, and volunteering for Llanhilleth Street Games.

I’ve also planned sports events in my local area, like during the London 2012 Olympics when I organised an opening ceremony celebration and sports day at my local leisure centre. Through my social action I’ve become a Platinum Young Ambassador for Sport Wales and represented Wales at the Sainsbury’s School Games competition, where I spoke in front of over 5,000 people. I’m also on the Youth Sport Trust (UK) Steering Group, representing young people when it comes to the future delivery of sport throughout the UK, and I’m involved with Aneurin Leisure, a community organisation in Blaenau Gwent.

I think one of the best things about all this that the rest of my family have been really proud of me, and it’s inspired them to get involved in social action too. Whatever happens next, I know I’ll keep volunteering and inspiring young people to participate in sport, because I’ve seen the difference it can make.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Street Games
- Sainsbury’s School Games
- Sport Wales
- Youth Sport Trust
- Aneurin Leisure



#iwill regularly promote social action through social media and aim to get everyone within my school and community involved. #iwill help make sure government and national organisations listen to young people’s views and opinions.

MAEBH REYNOLDS

Name: **Maebh Reynolds**

Age: **15**

Where I Live: **Antrim**



“I’m hoping to motivate others by letting them know about how they can get involved in a whole range of different social action opportunities.”

Since I was just five years old I’ve been involved in social action. I can’t really remember a time when I wasn’t! I started helping others through the Catholic Guides of Ireland, where I’m now in a leadership role as an Assistant Guide Leader. It’s an important organisation to me because it provides such a great service for our local community, and I love being part of it.

I now volunteer every week helping run the group for girls aged 7-9. Recently, I’ve been mentoring on the ‘Free Being Me’ programme, designed to promote positive body image in girls. It’s great to feel part of a wider community – I’m often on social media connecting with other Guides around Ireland to share our ideas about social action and the progress our units are making. I’ve also assisted the Pensioner Club, organised fundraising events for charity, and cared for people who are homeless by collecting and delivering clothes to homeless shelters in Antrim. I’m proud to be working towards my Millennium Volunteer Award, building up my volunteer hours.

Through social action, I’ve had many opportunities to meet new people and make lifelong friends. It’s also helped me to grow as a person, becoming much more confident and building valuable life skills that I know will come in handy throughout the rest of secondary school and beyond.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Catholic Guides of Ireland
- Volunteer Now



#iwill promote the benefits and opportunities that social action provides to my friendship groups, school and community by showing them the impact they can make by giving up their time to help others.

HARRY SARGEANT

Name: **Harry Sargeant**

Age: **19**

Where I Live: **Nottinghamshire**

“I believe every young person should have a safe space to go to have fun, learn new skills, and become active citizens. That’s what I try to provide through the Scouts.”



We all have a responsibility to look out for others, and I try to do that through the Scouts. For a while I’ve volunteered every week at my local Cubs group to give 8-10 year olds somewhere to have fun, learn new skills, and get involved in their local community. It’s in an area where there aren’t many opportunities for children and where there’s a lot of poverty, so I’m glad to be able to provide a safe space for children to go, as well as take them on camps every so often.

I also want to support those who are a bit older, too, so I recently started a pilot community impact project supporting 16-24 year olds who aren’t in education, employment or training. I aim to help these young people gain self-esteem and get back into mainstream society. Through this project I’m also trying to provide life-changing experiences – most recently, I led an expedition to Iceland for the group. It was also my first time abroad and an incredible experience.

Throughout all this I’ve learnt that building positive relationships is one of the most powerful ways to help young people who have dropped off society’s radar, often because they don’t have the support they need. I’m glad I can provide that and show these young people that they have someone to rely on.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- The Scout Association



#iwill continue to provide opportunities to Cubs as a volunteer every week and on weekend camps. I will also continue to give opportunities to young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) on a regular basis.

ABIGAIL SEATON

Name: Abigail Seaton

Age: 12

Where I Live: Sheffield



“Social action has helped me feel confident about who I am while helping other people. I hope I can inspire others to try it too!”

Every week, I volunteer as a Rainbow helper for 142nd Frecheville Rainbows in Sheffield – a group of 5-7 year-old girls who meet up to make friends, do crafts and support the local community. If I ever notice that one of the girls is upset or worried about something, I always make time to sit with her and talk to her to help her overcome her problems. I think it’s so important that girls are supported to be the best they can be, and I aim to inspire them to believe in themselves and not worry about peer pressure.

I also try and do this as a Guide and Patrol Leader for the other girls in my local unit. It’s not always easy, especially because I have some health difficulties, but I do my best. At Church, I’m always getting involved in readings and fundraising activities too, and I love feeling part of the community.

I believe social action has helped me grow in lots of ways. I used to be quite a shy person who felt nervous about trying new things. Now, I love a challenge and I love who I am, and it’s helping others that has made me that way.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Girlguiding - 142nd Frecheville Rainbows



#iwill always strive to promote doing the right thing and keep getting involved in volunteering at any opportunity.

TERRI SMITH

Name: Terri Smith

Age: 20

Where I Live: Edinburgh



“Without the people I’ve met and experiences I’ve had through social action, I wouldn’t have had the skills and confidence I needed to turn my life around.”

I didn’t have an easy start in life. I grew up in poverty and at school I was bullied, and sometimes I couldn’t ever imagine things getting better. But social action truly did help me get my life back on track. I first got involved when I was just 12, and over the past eight years I’ve had some incredible experiences. I’ve worked directly with other young people, implementing personal youth development programmes in Edinburgh, and volunteering as a peer mentor.

One of my proudest achievements is working with Police Scotland and Edinburgh Council to design and implement a youth action scheme. After a 12-month pilot, youth crime rates in my local area are at the lowest they’ve been for over a decade. I also represent young people’s voices as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament, which I’ve done since I was 14, and I’ve been part of four successful campaigns – some grassroots, others national. Throughout my teenage years, I raised over £10,000 for five different charities, and I’m continuing to raise money for people in need.

I think I probably volunteer over 20 hours a week and now, at the age of 20, I’m still a keen campaigner for the UK’s most vulnerable and disenfranchised young people.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Scottish Youth Parliament



#iwill continue to participate in more volunteering opportunities as well as work towards raising another £10,000 for another five charities.

EMILY SOLLOWAY

Name: **Emily Solloway**

Age: **17**

Where I Live: **Milton Keynes**



Through volunteering to support younger girls, I hope I can encourage them to grow up to be independent-thinking, caring and kind.

When I was younger, I was lucky enough to have the support of caring parents who instilled in me independence and strength and showed me that helping others can only benefit the community we live in. Now that I'm older, I feel like it's time for me to give something back.

I know that some people think that the youth of today just don't care, so I decided to challenge that stereotype by volunteering on Sunday mornings in the café at our local care village for elderly residents. I really enjoy spending time with the residents, helping them and chatting with them, and it's lovely to be able to bring a smile to someone's face. I'm also into swimming, so I volunteer at my local swimming club to help the children's disability group. Working with younger children is so rewarding, which is why I'm also a young leader with my local Rainbows group. I try to be a positive, strong role model for the girls.

Helping others has also made me realise that when I'm older, I'd like to become a nurse. I think it'll be a great way to put the care and compassion I've developed through my social action into a career in service.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Girlguiding UK



#iwill *continue my work with people of all ages, encouraging those who are younger to get involved in social action, and bridging the generation gap between the young and the elderly.*

RURAI DH STEWART

Name: Ruraidh Stewart

Age: 16

Where I Live: Skye & Lochalsh Scotland



“As young people we are in a unique position: we are the generation best-placed to identify and drive our government’s agenda about issues such as education, fair pay, the environment and discrimination. We should all be doing more to ensure that our opinions are helping to inform and influence political debate.”

I am passionate about the environment, local food production, reducing food miles and at least having a choice about whether we eat GMO. My aim in social action has always been to raise awareness of the myriad of issues affecting our future and to contribute to our society.

I first got involved with social action, in 2012, through the Junior Climate Challenge Fund (JCCF) grant panel. As a grant panel member I have helped allocate almost £1m of Scottish Government funding to like-minded young people to mitigate climate change. As a group, the JCCF panel were keen to encourage as many young people as possible to contribute to a greener Scotland. We designed and ran a series of workshops in schools throughout Scotland, demonstrating the benefits of adopting a low-carbon lifestyle.

I was the Highland Youth Legacy Ambassador for the 2014 Commonwealth Games promoting the Games legacy throughout Highland. As a qualified assistant instructor, I train young people and adults at my local sailing club. I work with Highland 3 as a member of the Saltire Award panel and am a member of the local Generations Working Together network. I represent the young people of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. Through social action I’m now confident speaking in public, making decisions and planning and running events.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Young Scot - Main Highland 3
- Keep Scotland Beautiful Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club
- Scottish Youth Parliament Junior Climate Challenge Fund



#iwill encourage my peers to participate in social action by promoting the benefits of volunteering while visiting schools throughout my local area. As MSYP I will also be encouraging young people to engage in the electoral process.

ARIANE TAKYI

Name: Ariane Takyi

Age: 19

Where I Live: Hampshire



“Being involved in social action has opened my eyes to issues – in my community and nationally – that I just wasn’t aware of before.”

It was during NCS that I first learnt about the impact social action can have on a community. In the final part of the programme I took the lead role in organising our group’s social action, on bridging the gap between generations. I knew from then on I wanted to engage with social change, be it on a small or large scale.

Since then, I’ve always made it my priority to help others and engage more young people in the work I do. I became a Team V leader, giving me the opportunity to recruit volunteers on a whole range of projects. One of the campaigns we chose was on food poverty in the UK – we organised a Christmas meal for those who were homeless and young people who were vulnerable.

It was really important to me that the volunteers I recruited were from a diverse range of backgrounds, as I feel passionately about helping break down the barriers for young people on the BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) spectrum to engage actively in change making. I want everyone to have the chance to build their confidence, communication and leadership skills through social action, just like I did.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- vInspired (TeamV)
- NCS
- O2 Think Big
- Fixers UK
- British Youth Council
- UK Young Ambassadors
- GVN Young Ambassadors
- Greens of Colour (Caucus of Green Party)
- Young Greens



#iwill actively campaign to get more BAME young people to get themselves involved with campaigns around BAME and community issues.

EASHAN THAKRAR

Name: Eashan Thakrar

Age: 17

Where I Live: London



“Everyone should have equal opportunities, regardless of their personal circumstances – and through social action, I’m doing my best to make sure that happens.”

I think that anyone with honest intentions and a simple idea can make a difference, if only they set their mind to it. That’s why I started The Youth Project (TYP) Foundation back in 2014. With over 1350 youth members worldwide, we’ve fundraised for and built a community centre for children in India, and I spend every summer there working with children living in slums and coaching football.

In the UK, we run a mentoring scheme every Saturday for young people with learning disabilities, and last New Year we brought together 50 young volunteers who gave up a day donating food, water and clothes to people who were homeless in London. We did this in June again and are planning one in Paris. I also spend a lot of time promoting TYP Foundation to inspire others to get involved – whether it’s through social media, BBC Radio Asian Network, or TYPE magazine – a space for talented young writers to express their ideas and issues they care about, which I helped set up.

I’ve got big plans for the future of TYP Foundation. We’re hoping to grow our membership, expand our support to young people in Brazil, and continue to make a positive difference here in the UK – giving even more young people the chance to fulfil their dreams.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- The Youth Project (TYP) Foundation



#iwill *do everything I can to inspire more young people to change the world for the better.*

MATTHEW TINKER



Name: **Matthew Tinker**

Age: **14**

Where I Live: **Essex**

I've learnt so much through being a Youth Councillor – from public speaking, to campaigning, to first aid skills, my experiences have proved that amazing things can happen when young people are given a voice.

In April 2014, I was proudly elected as a Youth Councillor for Epping Forest District Council, and since then I've spent over 170 hours volunteering. I regularly attend Youth Council meetings, and I also sit on the adult committee reviewing the Council's youth engagement work.

As a Youth Councillor, I've campaigned to reduce the voting age to 16, and recently I lobbied the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and Transport for London, to add a date of birth line to the Zip Oyster Card so that young people can use it as a form of ID. I also helped organise a Youth Conference for 90 students to discuss local issues, organised a youth volunteer day in the Forest to tidy the woodland area, and helped set up '#U R Not Alone', a bullying awareness project for Year Nines. We posted information to help those suffering from bullying on the Youth Council website, and gave 1,200 students a memory stick to download the advice.

It's great to know that what we're doing is appreciated by the wider community too – recently, our Youth Council received the High Sheriffs' Shield 2015 in recognition of our valuable contribution to Essex. I'm proud to stand up for young people and make a difference to our local area at the same time.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Epping Forest Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament



#iwill accurately represent the young people of my constituency at a national level of youth democracy, and fight to keep the Youth Council going so that it will be there for the next generation of young people.

SARAH TROTT

Name: Sarah Trott

Age: 13

Where I Live: Dorset



Blogging about my social action experiences and issues I care about has been a great way to connect with other young people. It's inspiring to know there are so many of us out there doing great things in the world!

I first got involved in social action three years ago when I joined my school's Student Council. Since then, I've Chaired my local Youth Council, earned a ticket to Free The Children's We Day, represented my school at Downing Street on behalf of the IF campaign to end global hunger, and campaigned on causes like anti-bullying, LGBTQI+ rights, climate change and women's rights. I'm currently volunteering to help the NHS with their clinical commissioning review.

Through social action I've been able to impact the lives of others in a positive way. Money I've raised has gone to help children both locally and on the other side of the world. I've also gained so much confidence, too. I used to be really shy, but now I've spoken about social issues in front of hundreds of people! What's more, I've become a much better team leader and now I'm able to work with my team instead of charging off ahead like I sometimes used to. My outlook on life has also changed, which I think has made me a better friend – understanding others' issues has helped me become more compassionate and caring, and I can appreciate now how privileged I am.

Social action has also inspired me to start blogging about my experiences and opinions with other young people, and show them that you're never too young to start speaking out.

Organisations I've Participated With

- Dorset Youth Council
- Free The Children
- The IF campaign
- NHS



#iwill continue to play a key role in my Youth Council, campaigning and fundraising on issues from bullying, to mental health, to saving youth services. I will continue blogging about these important issues. I would also like to go into youth groups and schools to talk about social action and encourage others to get involved!

JAMIE TRUSLER

Name: **Jamie Trusler**

Age: **18**

Where I Live: **Leicester**



“The more I tell my social action story, the more I believe I have a voice that can inspire. And I intend to use it!”

I was 13 when I first heard about St John Ambulance. The opportunity to learn life-saving skills and use them to help those in need was too good to miss, so I signed up immediately. Five years later, when I used those skills to save my Dad's life, I realised just how much that decision changed me. I believe everyone should be able to do what I did, which is why I've spent the past couple of years delivering Basic First Aid training to 2,000 young people across Leicestershire.

But it's not only first aid skills that I've learnt. I used to be really shy, and at 13 I'm not sure I'd have believed that just a few years later I'd be speaking onstage at the Sunday Times Festival of Education, meeting HRH Princess Anne, or representing St John Ambulance at the National Parade of Remembrance. It's also led me to more social action opportunities, whether it's doing National Citizen Service, campaigning for a living wage through the British Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament, or being a Youth Ambassador for the International Lions club.

All these experiences have truly made me who I am today, and helped me work towards fulfilling my dream job as a Police Officer – something I know I could never have done without social action.

Organisations I've Participated With

- National Citizen Service
- St John Ambulance
- International Lions
- British Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament



#iwill campaign to put Basic First Aid on the National Curriculum.

MARIAM WASEEM

Name: **Mariam Inayat Waseem**

Age: **20**

Where I Live: **Lancaster**

“I want to make Britain a more democratic place where all young people have a say in the decisions that affect them.”



I've been involved in youth democracy since I was 16, when I joined my local youth council. From there, I got elected as a Member of Youth Parliament for Oldham and worked regionally with Youthforia North West, Dovestones Youth Rangers, and as UK Youth Parliament regional secretary for 2013-14. Currently, I'm a trustee for the British Youth Council.

Throughout my time in youth democracy I've worked on a whole range of campaigns affecting young people – like the League of Young Voters campaign I was involved in locally, regionally and nationally, which I helped run through social action using thunderclaps and online competitions, and combatting youth unemployment at the International Youth Job Creation summit in 2013. I've always endeavoured to empower young people to have a say on issues that affect them, encouraging youth political participation locally and nationally. I've also represented the views of young people in the UK on the European stage, speaking at the Europe Festi-Forum about Youth Democracy in France in 2013 and the European Youth Event in Strasbourg in 2014 and I've also just been invited to represent the UK at the 29th session of congress of local and regional authorities at the council of Europe in Strasbourg. It's a huge honour as only one young person was invited from each member state.

Through social action, I've developed countless skills and have been instilled with a true sense of empowerment. I've proved that my age, ethnicity and gender are not barriers to success, and I know I have to continue trying to help other young people realise this too.

Organisations I've Participated With

- British Youth Council
- UK Youth Parliament



#iwill continue empowering young people in my networks, and educate others on the wealth of opportunities to get involved in social good.

GEORGIA WILLIAMS

Name: Georgia Williams

Age: 18

Where I Live: Flintshire



“The rewards of seeing the young people improve themselves benefits me tremendously because it stimulates me to go further and do more.”

Some people think youth clubs and Scouts are just about having fun. They definitely are, but for me, they were also the springboards I needed to get into social action.

I always admired the adults and volunteers who went out of their way to help me and I decided that I wanted to be a part of that. For my Duke of Edinburgh’s Award I volunteered at my local youth club, with the Scouts and at an animal rescue centre. This was only the beginning though, and I soon started helping other volunteers at a local homeless shelter, and getting involved in local environmental work supported by the National Lottery, like litter-picking and preserving natural habitats. I’ve also participated in sponsored events for the Teenage Cancer Trust in the past couple of years – at the age of 15, my best friend died after battling cancer, so it’s a cause close to my heart.

I love inspiring others to get involved in social action too, so I’m always on social media, letting people know what’s going on in our local area, and what they can do to help. Nowadays I spend a few hours a week volunteering, becoming a better leader, more open minded, and much more confident.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- The Scout Association
- Save the Family
- The National Lottery
- North Clywd Animal Rescue Centre
- Cancer Research
- Teenage Cancer Trust
- Rugby World Cup 2015



#iwill help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds develop themselves and their skills. I will encourage others to take part in social action by sharing my own journey, and showing how rewarding it can be to help others.

FAHIM ZAMAN

Name: Fahim Zaman

Age: 18

Where I Live: West Yorkshire

“Since I got involved in social action, I’ve not only grown in confidence and improved my speaking skills, but it’s also made me feel like I’m playing my part as a citizen of our global society.”



I first got involved in social action after attending We Day UK – Free The Children’s event at Wembley Arena aimed at inspiring young people to take part in social action. Hearing from incredible speakers about the difference they had made in the world motivated me to run campaigns at my school, raising over £3,000 last year to help provide food, water and education in poor communities around the world.

I’ve since held motivational assemblies and workshops at school to encourage more young people to take part in social action and urge them to make a difference in their communities. What’s more, I’ve just returned from an incredible volunteer trip to India to help build a school so that children overseas can have access to the opportunities that many of us here take for granted.

Now, social action is a huge part of my life. It’s taken me out of my comfort zone and transformed me as an individual, giving me an insight into the global issues faced by many today and the determination to not only empower those around me but also bring about positive social change.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Free The Children
- OurFuture TV



#iwill hold motivational assemblies to encourage students to make the most of their education, and use my YouTube Channel ‘OurFuture TV’ to provide a platform to showcase youth social action and encourage others to play their part.

#iwill

AMBASSADORS 2014

QUOTES FROM 2014 AMBASSADORS

"I love being an #iwill Ambassador as social action is important to me seeing young people develop through life and seeing them change."

NADINE THOMAS

"Being an #iwill Ambassador means that I am a person there to help others whether I know them or not. I'm also someone people can come to and ask for support when they would like to get involved with different charities and need advice."

To be honest, at first, I did not know or even care about social action till one day I walked into my assembly and there was a man telling us about a charity I could join. I decided that it could be fun so I joined and from that moment on I've loved it.

I've met other people who were amazing and found a place that I love because everyone there wanted to help others without thinking about what was in it for them. This charity changed me and helped me help others making social action an important aspect of my life.

Being an #iwill Ambassador helped me recognise how much I love helping others and let me understand how much I can do!"

AVISHKA ATTANAYAKE

"Being an #iwill Ambassador has become such an important part of my life now. I truly believe that young people can achieve great things - there's so much evidence of that shown by the #iwill campaign. It's important the older generations believe in young people to allow us to fulfill our potential and not naively put us all under the same umbrella that the media do."

After all, it is the experiences we have as young people that will help shape our generation into future leaders, politicians and teachers. Social action is fundamental in preparing us for this."

DANIEL REDHEAD

"We needn't doubt the ability of our young people and how prepared they are to undertake challenges! Many young people believe it's important for them to help tackle social issues, but very few believe this opportunity is available to them locally."

So many doors to lasting and meaningful change can open, by saying #iwill."

ASTRUD TURNER

"Being a #iwill Ambassador is awesome! It's opened lots of doors and helped me co-found EnSo, a new chain of schools for poor kids in Africa!"

AYRTON CABLE



THE
JUBILEE CENTRE
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

The Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues is a unique and leading centre for the examination of how character and virtues impact on individuals and society. The Centre is based at the University of Birmingham and was founded in 2012 by Professor James Arthur. With its focus on excellence, the Centre has a robust and rigorous research and evidence-based approach that is objective and non-political. It offers world-class research on the importance of developing good character and virtues and the benefits they bring to individuals and society. It is a key conviction that the more people exhibit good character and virtues, the healthier our society. As such, the Centre undertakes development projects seeking to promote the practical applications of its research evidence.

To find out more, see www.jubileecentre.ac.uk

 step up to serve

Step Up To Serve is a small charity that coordinates the #iwill campaign. The #iwill campaign was launched in November 2013 thanks to the leadership of HRH The Prince of Wales and the UK's three main political parties. The campaign aims to make participation in meaningful social action the norm for young people by 2020. We describe this as 'young people taking practical action in the service of others to create positive change'. Examples could include caring for someone in the community, providing peer support online, volunteering for a charity, campaigning or fundraising for a specific cause. More examples can be seen within this brochure.

To find out more, visit www.iwill.org.uk