

FEBRUARY 2021

LLAIS IFANC 'OUR FUTURE' MANIFESTO



PREPARED BY LLAIS IFANC MEMBERS

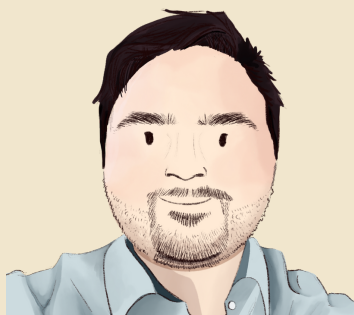
FOREWARD

Llais Ifanc Youth Cymru's young leaders' panel is open to young people in Wales 11-25-years old. **'Our Future'** manifesto has been together with the help and support of our Llais Ifanc members and through the views of young people across Wales. This manifesto is for young people made by young people.

This year with the passing of Senedd and Election (Wales) Act 2020, 16 and 17-year olds will be able to vote for the first time at the Senedd Elections in 2021. They will have influence in choosing the Members who will represent them in the next Senedd.

As we see the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on communities, health and the economy, we need to ensure young people's worries and concerns are heard by people in power.

This manifesto is for young people made by young people and is for parties and elected representatives to commit to ensure young people are at the top of their agenda.



LLAIS IFANC PEER LEADERS -

Nirushan Sudarsan, Ieuan Bater & Natalie Hussey



ART & CULTURE

Despite the culture sector facing challenges during the pandemic, young people want to have equal opportunities, especially when it comes to having access to art, sport, music and other creative activities. This is a right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as it states Article 31 'The right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.' We believe that sports, culture and arts are fundamentally important for young people, that's we have put together 3 pledges to prioritise Art & Culture.



01

Funding for the arts, culture and sport sectors should be protected as Wales recovers from the COVID-19 crisis.

02

Ensure local youth work and centres are invested in by national and local government to provide activities and programmes for young people.

03

Make sure every young person has access to free and accessible high-quality services for sport, art and culture.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The climate and environmental emergency is the greatest challenge we face. Climate change is a problem that will affect young people more than any other generation. We need to take radical action now so we protect our future and the planet.

Invest in tackling the climate emergency with targets of recovery for nature, develop a plan for a sustainable food strategy and a commitment to continue reducing carbon emissions.



Sorry, We're
CLOSED
DUE TO CLIMATE CRISIS

Make a commitment to invest in green jobs and in skills and training to support and transform our industry, energy, transport, agriculture and our buildings, while restoring nature.

Establish a National Forum of Young People to listen to young people's ideas and concerns on Climate Change.





EDUCATION



The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted children and young people in the way they learn and get support in an unprecedented way. We want to ensure young people's worries and concerns about their future is heard and addressed. We support the need for a broad education that equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to learn and earn. The next Welsh Government need to address the critical time lost of learning and opportunities for young people.



Invest in more funding for schools to provide high-quality support for mental health, advice services and establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's education.

Young people must be able to contribute and have a say in measuring learning, developing the curriculum and school budgetary decisions.



Ensure all children have equal opportunities to learn and experience the world with the curriculum reflecting children of all backgrounds, ethnicities and identities.





EMPLOYMENT



One in four (23%) people in Wales currently live in poverty, which is the highest level of all UK nations. These inequalities have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic with young people disproportionately being affected in terms of job loss and income. As Llais Ifanc, we want the next leaders of Wales to take bold action and invest in young people's skills, qualifications and training opening up pathways and opportunities into the world of work.

1

Follow the Future Generations Commissioner's recommendation and pilot a universal basic income to ensure that no individual faces financial hardship and to tackle in-work poverty.

2

Actively commit to banning zero-hour contracts across Wales and encouraging across Wales for an action plan for every business to reduce any gender and ethnicity pay gaps. In line with recruiting more young people as part of a diverse workforce.

3

Ensure there is appropriate funding for businesses and organisations to recover from the impact of Covid-19. Adopting incentives and giving more funding for businesses who recruit apprentices, school leavers and graduates to tackle youth unemployment.



EQUALITY



Llais Ifanc strives for Wales to be committed to equality, to achieving a world free from all forms of bigotry and discrimination. Coronavirus has highlighted inequalities in society alongside society's burning injustices on women; Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME); LGBT+ communities and disabled people. We want the next Welsh Government to take bold steps to ensure all young people should be treated fairly and equally.

Improve monitoring, reporting and accountability arrangements to ensure that local and national services are delivering for children from all backgrounds to tackle inequality.



Children from different Races or Religions as well as those who are LGBTQ+, Disabled, GTR, Refugee and those in care backgrounds must be listened to by policy makers and ensure equality is at the heart of every government policy and decision.

Follow the recommendation from the Children's Commissioner for Wales to bring the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into Welsh Law so every child is protected from discrimination for generations to come.



MENTAL HEALTH

Covid-19, a lack of jobs, a shortage of housing, missing out on education, seeing friends and cuts to public services have pushed young people's health and wellbeing into crisis. We need high quality, more personal and preventative measures to provide the real change young people need to live happier, healthier, more fulfilling lives.

**1**

Invest in mandatory training for those working in education, youth and health care settings on how to identify mental health problems and provide support for all young people, especially those most at risk.

**2**

Commit to Mind Cymru's pledge of improving access and outcomes for children and young people experiencing mental health problems with a national priority with resources to meet demand.

**3**

Publish calls for a new Mental Health Strategy with a young person-centred focus so all children and young people can access appropriate, timely and individually focused services.



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