

Meeting of

The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

24 May 2022

Attendees

Item 3

- Nelly Adam, Black Lives Matter Cymru
- Hasminder Aulakh, Policy Officer, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales
- Mahieddine Dib, Youth Representative, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales
- Catrin James, National Policy & Projects Officer, Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Deborah Jones, CEO, Voices From Care Cymru
- Pamela Luckock, Young Carers Academy
- Yvonne Murphy (Omidaze Productions & creator of The Democracy Box project).
- Seana Power, Youth Representative, Voices From Care Cymru
- Elizabeth Swinney, Rural Affairs officer, Wales Young Farmers Club
- Omolemo Thamae, Black Lives Matter Cymru
- Olivia Winter, Young Co-creator, Democracy Box

Item 3: Youth organisations roundtable

10. The Co-Chairs welcomed the members of the panel: Nelly Adam and Omolemo Thamae (Black Lives Matter Cymru); Hasminder Aulakh and Mahieddine Dib (Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales); Catrin James (Urdd Gobaith Cymru); Deborah Jones and Seana Power (Voices From Care Cymru); Pamela Luckock (Young Carers Academy); Yvonne Murphy and Olivia Winter (Democracy Box); Elizabeth Swinney (Wales Young Farmers Club).
11. During the discussion, the following comments were made:
 - a) Further devolution was necessary to improve life for young people in Wales. The devolution of justice was important. Young people needed to feel that they mattered and could engage with the state.
 - b) There was no point in asking citizens what should be devolved if they did not understand devolution. Education and engagement were important.
 - c) Engagement and consultation should be clear and concise, using a variety of methods - via schools, digital platforms, social media.
 - d) A lack of information could stop people from participating in democracy, for example during local elections. Voting ballots for national elections in schools could help.
 - e) Lack of education in school was an issue. We needed to explain to young people why it was important to vote. It was a long-term issue that needed to be addressed at grass roots level.

- f) The social media echo chamber was another issue - - young people tended to repeat online negativity. There was a need to engage directly and positively to make an impact.
- g) There was a need to differentiate between difficult to reach people and willingness to participate. The gap between the lack of cooperation and the lack of participation needed to be bridged.
- h) Young people could feel that engagement with Government was sometimes tokenistic. It was important to pay young people for their input and to value their contribution.
- i) It was important to reach young people directly by meeting them at events with a high proportion of young people in attendance.