

NEWS IN BRIEF

International

UKYP Trustee in talks with Tutu

Melody Hossaini, Trustee for UKYP has recently returned from Los Angeles where she attended the PeaceJam conference 'Global Call to Action'.

PeaceJam is an organisation that has recently been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize with a core aim of achieving a billion acts of peace within 10 years, with the assistance of the organisation's support system consisting of 7 Nobel Peace Laureates, such as The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Shirin Ebadi.

Alongside 3,000 other young people from around the world, Melody worked with the Nobel Laureates to implement acts of peace through specific projects.

Being the UK representative on British Council's Climate Cool East Asian network, Melody had an opportunity to present the project to Archbishop Desmond Tutu whilst also galvanising interest from young people to join the cause.

Melody said: "I was extremely honoured to be working with such an accomplished and passionate group of people - both the young people and the Nobel Laureates. I found Shirin Ebadi particularly inspirational when speaking about young people and women's rights". Melody will be sustaining the

positive relationship that she has begun in LA and urges groups to get involved in PeaceJam UK.

The next UK gathering will be held in Bradford. To get involved please visit www.peacejam.org.uk



UKYP Trustee Melody Hossaini discusses global issues with Archbishop Desmond Tutu

people play in communities. The National Body for Youth Leadership will deliver a wide range of services in relation to youth leadership, to highlight best practice and attract many more young people to leadership programmes.

If successful these initiatives will in the main provide all UKYP stakeholders – especially Local Authority youth participation workers – with the opportunity to help shape national programmes which will in the end affect their own practice. Watch this space for further details.

West Midlands

Radio shows promote UKYP regional campaigns

MYPs from the West Midlands recently paid a visit to the YouthComm Radio Studios (www.youthcomm.org.uk) to record some radio pieces for their "See the Good behind the Hood" and "Fares Fair" campaigns. MYPs also challenged a journalist about why he had used term "hoodie" in an article about online crime. Dan Willetts, MYP for Dudley, said: "He was stuck for an answer when we asked him if he wore a hoodie, to which he answered yes. We then asked him why he would use a negative term for an item of clothing which he wears in a newspaper article that is based

National

In the driving seat

UKYP is bidding – along with a wide range of partner charities – to help deliver two major national programmes of work relating to young people. National Youth Week will provide an opportunity for services and individuals everywhere to celebrate the positive role young

around online crime." Dan added, "Overall it was a great day, and from myself and the campaign group we'd like to thank everyone at YouthComm radio for their support and hospitality."

National

Coalition for Youth goes live

UKYP is one of the founder members of the new Coalition for Youth. Launched at the autumn party conferences, joining UKYP as the founder members of the coalition are the National Youth Agency, 4Children, the National Children's Bureau, the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, UK Youth and Clubs For Young People.

Andy Hamflett, UKYP Chief Executive, said, "With all political parties thinking about their approach to the next general election, it's right that the voluntary sector comes together with a more unified voice, to strengthen the call for change in key areas. I hope this exciting coalition will provide another platform on which MYPs can have their say, and that all of the charities involved will be able to learn from each other in the process."

West Midlands

Gordon just a 'normal person'

When the Government decided to hold a cabinet meeting in Birmingham, one lucky MYP got the opportunity to share a table and discuss UKYP with Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Tyrone Fowles (pictured right) was invited to the meeting, held at the International Convention

Centre (ICC), as a member of UKYP representing Birmingham.

About the experience Tyrone said, "I never actually thought I would be feeling hyper that the Prime Minister was sitting a seat away from me. Although I guess it was because I don't see him on a normal working day so it was a bit of a shock to be sitting next to the man who runs the UK. I was also shocked how well he knew UKYP! I was hyper to start off with when I was shaking Gordon Brown's hand. Though when I thought about it, I remembered Gordon Brown is actually just a normal person who has a job to run our country alongside the cabinet. So if you ever meet Gordon Brown remember that."



Tyrone Fowles makes a powerful friend in Prime Minister Gordon Brown

South West

MYPs build bridges with police

Two MYPs in the South West, Rob Clews (South Gloucester) and Emma Rahman (Bristol) attended the Association of Chief Police Officers Children & Young People's Conference on behalf of UKYP and Project Safe

Space. The event was held over two days and Rob and Emma were privileged enough to meet various Police Officers and the Children's Commissioner.

After the conference Rob said, "It was clear by the last day by the amount of individuals who approached us that all police forces, if they were not already doing so, took an active interest in wanting to work with young people, including UKYP, in the future. It would be good to see each UKYP region beginning to contact their local forces not just to be consulted but to be engaged in key decisions that affect us." For more on Project Safe Space, turn to page 12.

National

Project Engage on track to be massive success

Project Engage is a steering group made up of mainly ex-MYPs and ex-DMYPs who have come together to help get more young people not in formal education involved in UKYP. The group is made up of 15 to 21 year olds who have all volunteered to help improve the youth sector, enhance the opportunities that young people have and demystify the negative image of young people portrayed in the media. Justin Pointing, a member of the steering group, said, "We are here to get as many young people involved as we can over the next few months. We will be looking at different ways to do this, part of which will be producing a DVD, posters and a toolkit filled with ideas of how to get young people involved." For more information about this project, please contact Project Engage Outreach Officer, Paul Boskett, on 01952 462394 or paul.boskett@ukyouthparliament.org.uk.