

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group
The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
Palace of Westminster,
London, United Kingdom
8 and 9 December 2010



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

Monday 11 October 2010

Dear «12+ Member»,

"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies." Kofi Annan

In April 2010 the IPU Assembly passed a resolution entitled Youth Participation in Democracy. The resolution aimed to highlight the importance of giving young people a political voice and to promote their knowledge and participation in democratic political activities. The objective of this seminar is to build on the resolution and to identify ways to take the process forward.

With this regional seminar we are inviting parliamentarians from around Europe to come together to discuss ways in which we can better involve youth in shaping their future. The topics on the agenda will be introduced by Members of Parliament and the emphasis will be very much on discussion and a free and frank exchange of views. English and French interpretation will be provided.

Please find enclosed a registration form, which we invite your Parliament to return to the BGIPU Secretariat no later than 5 November 2010. In this regard, we should inform you that the conference room in the House of Commons has limited seating capacity, which is why we kindly request your Parliament to limit its delegation to a maximum of three people, including advisers and secretaries.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group
The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
Palace of Westminster,
London, United Kingdom
8 and 9 December 2010



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

Lastly, we would like to point out that participants should handle all matters relating to their visas, hotel accommodation and transportation.

We look forward to the participation of your Parliament in the Seminar.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Evans MP
Chair of the British Group IPU

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

Encl.: Provisional Programme
Registration Form



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

Palace of Westminster,

London, United Kingdom

8 and 9 December 2010



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2010

0830 – 0900 Registration of participants

OPENING SESSION – SETTING THE SCENE

0930 – 1000

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

INTRODUCTORY/WELCOME REMARKS

Do young people participate enough? Is there a general downward trend of youth interest in politics? Are there too many competing interests for their attention? Are there trends or regional differences around Europe or other factors such as poverty or ethnic background?

SESSION I – WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE YOUNG PEOPLE

1000 – 1215

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Today's youth is tomorrow's government.

If young people reject politics, what is the alternative? Violence?

Outline the positive effects of greater youth participation in politics/society:

On a global scale: the UN World Programme for Youth and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and The Climate Revolution.

At a local level: Eradication of crime and anti social behavior, Promote intercultural dialogue and thereby decrease discrimination, promote better communication and negotiation skills in young people which leads to the ability to resolve conflict through peaceful dialogue

LUNCH

1230-1400

Informal Buffet lunch in the IPU and Jubilee Rooms

Host: TBC

SESSION II – YOUTH PARTICIPATION AROUND EUROPE

1430-1700

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Consider region by region (north, south, east, west) and include the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

RECEPTION

1830-2000

Delegates are invited to attend a reception at Lancaster House

Host: TBC

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2010

SESSION III – THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE – BY YOUNG PEOPLE!

0930 – 1100

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

Invite members of the Youth Parliament/Youth Council and other Youth organisations to come in and either discuss the issues that affect them – or else we could put together some sort of debate scenario...

SESSION IV – HOW TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

1130 – 1230

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

The need for younger, more modern, more accessible parliaments. Change the voting age to 16? Focus on education and include politics, democracy and civics in the national curriculum. Discuss the importance of ICT (Facebook, Twitter etc....). Develop youth information strategies and web-based information for young people. Why are young people unwilling or unable to participate using traditional ways?

LUNCH

1230 – 1430

Delegates are at leisure

SESSION IV *continued* – HOW TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

1430 – 1600

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

THE DISCUSSION

The need for younger, more modern and more accessible parliaments. Change the voting age to 16? Focus on education and include politics, democracy and civics in the national curriculum. Discuss the importance of ICT (Facebook, Twitter etc....). Develop youth information strategies and web-based information for

young people. Why are young people unwilling or unable to participate using traditional ways?

CLOSING SESSION – WHAT CAN YOU AS PARLIAMENTARIANS DO TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH PARTICIPATION?

IPU Room/Jubilee Room

1600–1730

CHAIR: TBC

- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed
- Guest Speaker – To be confirmed

Final conclusions by the Chair

Refreshments offered