

What is Youth Work?

Youth work is complementary to the formal, academic or vocational education of the young person. It is a planned programme designed to help and support the personal and social development of the young person. Youth work is based on voluntary involvement and provided mainly by voluntary youth work organisations at local community level. It can take place in youth clubs, youth groups, youth projects and youth services with professional youth workers and volunteers. Youth work was given formal statutory recognition in the Youth Work Act 2001.

What is Interculturalism?

Interculturalism recognises that ethnic and cultural diversity can enrich our society. This approach implies the development of policies that promote communication, understanding and integration among and between different cultures and ethnic groups. It is a commitment to social cohesion and how best to live harmoniously in a multi-ethnic society. It is the responsibility and commitment of all in the youth work sector to work towards achieving a society based on equality and inclusion for all. Interculturalism should be seen like other inclusion and equality issues - such as gender and disability - embedded in our thinking, planning, implementation and evaluations with an emphasis on achieving equality of outcome.



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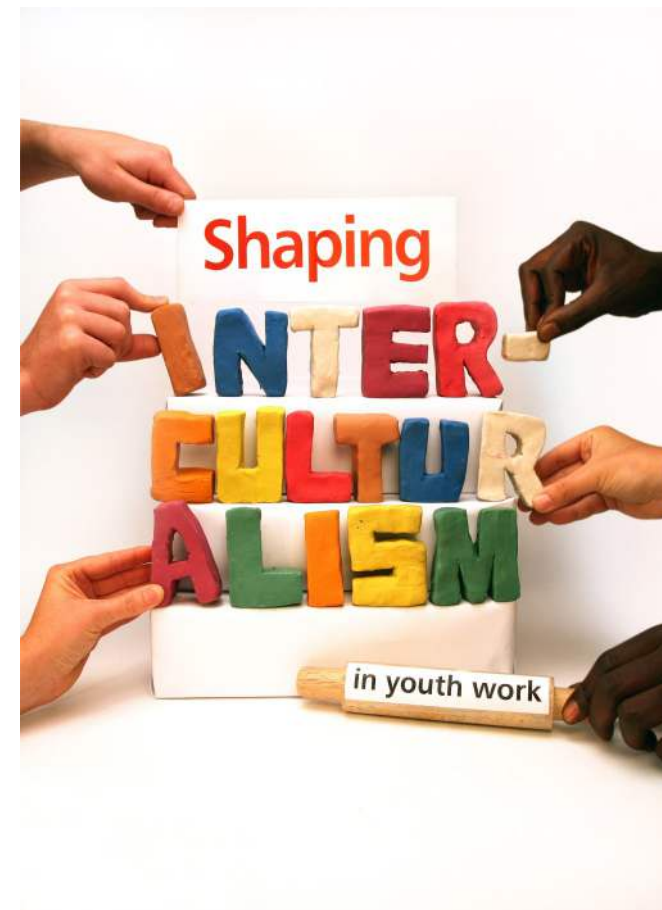
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NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND



INTERCULTURAL YOUTH WORK

Intercultural Youth Work



The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is an umbrella organisation that represents and supports the interests of national voluntary youth

organisations in acting on issues that impact on young people. We provide training, support & information in Youth Health, Youth Arts, Development Education, Interculturalism, Equality and Child Protection along with working in Advocacy, Research & Policy and Young People's Participation.

NYCI seeks to promote and encourage an intercultural and anti-racist approach as a sustainable feature of youth work in Ireland. We aim to promote equality of opportunity, interaction, understanding, respect and integration between different cultures, ethnic and religious groups as we see difference as something positive that can enrich a society.

NYCI's intercultural approach is underscored in our current strategic plan:

- We aim to actively promote participation between all young people from diverse backgrounds on an equal footing in youth work opportunities.
- We recognise and respect diversity and strive to ensure youth work opportunities are inclusive of all communities in Ireland, including youth and youth workers from minority ethnic communities and the Traveller Community.
- We seek to ensure all our policies, procedures and practices reflect an awareness of intercultural issues.
- We look to mainstream an intercultural ethos, policies and practices into the everyday work of organisations and within the sector.

TRAINING

NYCI provides training on a range of topics in intercultural youth work. Our courses cover issues such as:

- Designing an intercultural programme
- Tackling racism
- Intercultural competency and communication
- Practical supports in intercultural youth work
- Designing and implementing an intercultural policy for your organisation

Training is also available by request for youth workers and volunteers, and can be tailored to meet the needs of your organisation. For more information, please contact us.



POLICY AND ADVOCACY

NYCI is committed to ensuring that interculturalism is embedded across the youth work sector and as such advocates for the adoption of an Intercultural Strategy for Youth Work by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA). Working closely with NYCI member organisations we have carried out a consultation process with representatives of minority cultural and ethnic communities in Ireland including the Traveller Community, and communicated those findings to the OMCYA through our representation on NYWAC (National Youth Work Advisory Committee).

RESOURCES

NYCI offers a number of resources for intercultural youth work. All are available on our website www.intercultural.ie including:

- **8 Steps to Inclusive Youth Work:** Promoting best quality inclusive practice: <http://www.youth.ie/sites/youth.ie/files/NYCI-8-steps-inclusive.pdf>
- **Access All Areas Diversity Toolkit** for the youth sector www.youth.ie/diversity.
- **Lets Act on Inclusion-** 10 short videos on equality & inclusion – www.intercultural.ie/content/lets-act-inclusion-video-series
- Flyer on **'Intercultural Youth Work'** (sections translated into 8 languages) www.intercultural.ie/youth_work

We provide examples of best practice and details of successful intercultural youth work projects. If you would like to share good practice from your project, please contact us.

OUTREACH

NYCI actively promotes intercultural youth work on a national, regional and local level. Our outreach officer is available to visit your organisation to discuss issues relating to intercultural youth work. We organise events regionally during the year, and our training team is also available to deliver training to youth workers around Ireland by request.

