Youth Commission FAQ's

What will being on a Youth Commission involve?

Being on a Youth Commission involves volunteering your time to take action to improve the rights, wellbeing and equality of LGBTQ+ Young People in Scotland. You will do this through: awareness raising work, such as delivering workshops or training; taking part in consultations or research; engaging with professionals and decision makers; consulting with your peers to gather wider input; creating new resources and information for LGBT young people or professionals; attending events and taking part in other opportunities to make your voices heard and influence change. We will also have regular development days throughout the year, a chance for you to hone your knowledge and activism skills.

Why should I join?

The Youth Commissions will give you the opportunity to influence the change you want to see and channel your energy into something positive. They are also a great space to build community with like-minded peers, and are a great experience for developing skills, knowledge, confidence and expertise that will open doors for you in the future.

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What's expected of me?

You don't need pre-existing knowledge, expertise or experience in order to join, just a passion to make change and a willingness to learn. Each youth commission will meet regularly for two to three hours every four to six weeks, usually on evenings or weekends, with the occasional event or commitment in between. The sessions will be a mixture of group skills-development as well as focused work, shaping the direction of the individual projects. The Youth Commissions will involve digital and face-to-face participation, so you will need to have access to the internet and a device that allows you to access Microsoft Teams, Discord, Zoom, or an equivalent platform. LGBT Youth Scotland will cover travel costs and expenses for any face-to-face events. Youth Commissioners are expected to commit to the role and collectively take responsibility for the group and the work. Participation Officers will be there to facilitate and support you in this.

Will there be travel costs?

If you are ever required to attend in-person meetings, LGBT Youth Scotland will pay for your travel. However, for some modes of transport, such as local bus services, we may not be able to pay for your ticket in advance. If this is the case we will reimburse you at the earliest opportunity (normally when you arrive at the meeting). We will aim to ensure you are never out of pocket.

What support will I get to take part?

The groups will be working directly with their dedicated participation officer, with support from other staff members and volunteers. All the staff are here to provide support and ensure everyone's voice is heard. These are focused action groups, rather than support spaces, for more personal support please reach out to one of our youth work staff or get involved in a youth group.

Who else will be involved?

There are currently around 5 members in each youth commission, and we are hoping to have around 15 in each.

The staff involved are:

Mia Anderson
Participation Officer
Mental Health Youth Commission
mia.anderson@lgbtyouth.org.uk

Janice Stevenson
Development Officer
Voices Unheard Youth Commission
janice.stevenson@lgbtyouth.org.uk

Kyra Fong
Participation Officer
Trans Rights Youth Commission
kyra.fong@lgbtyouth.org.uk

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How do I join?

Complete a short application form.

If you would prefer to submit a video response to the questions or submit your response in another way, please let us know and we will be happy to accommodate this.

The application form includes a space to include contact details for a referee. This is just for us to get a better understanding of whether this opportunity is a good fit for you. We understand that for some people it may be difficult to provide a reference so please don't worry if you are unable to, just let us know.

Following your application, we will arrange a time to have an informal chat via video call or in person, to get to know each other a wee bit more before confirming your position on the commission.

If there are any ways that we can make this process more accessible for you, or adapt things to suit your needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you need support to fill out the form, want to talk about how you might answer the questions or want more information on the youth commissions, please speak to your local youth worker or email the relevant staff member for the commission you are interested in (see contact details above)

We are happy to send questions in advance of the informal chat to give you some processing time and we will take answers to the application form in other formats such as video or voice recordings.

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