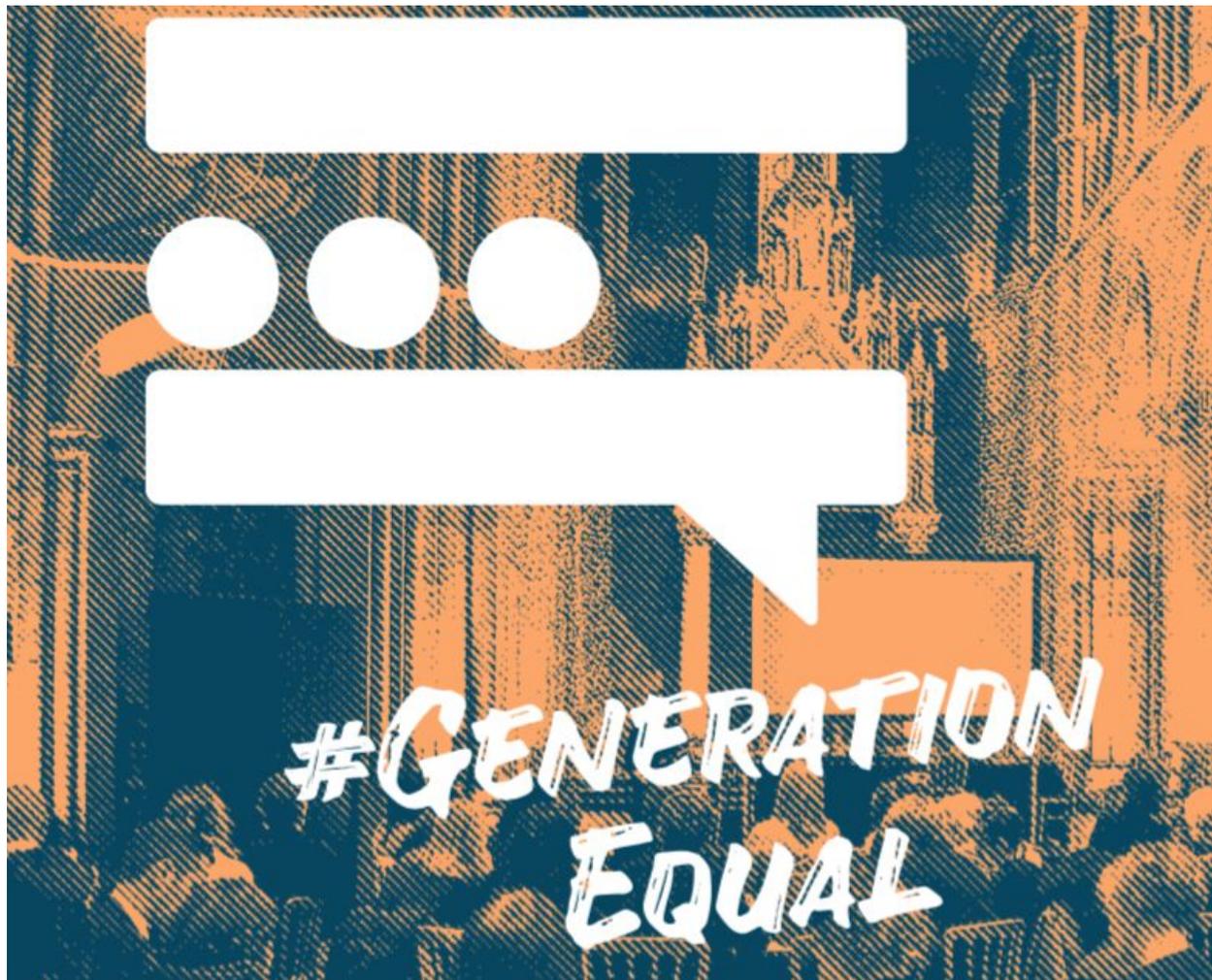


NACWG Youth Circle Online Report

Summary of Feedback and Project Information



Report compiled by Lou Brodie

Introduction

The following report offers a brief summary of the feedback received from staff and participants from the First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls Youth Circle Online Project. Created to ensure the voices and experiences of young people are heard and become central to the work of the NACWG. The Youth Circle Online was a 5 week project that took place over zoom facilitated by artists Ashanti Harris and Samar Ziadat. Over 5 sessions the young people explored the subjects of gender and intersectionality, before going on to use their findings and answers to the councils set questions to come together and creatively collaborate in the production of a zine that set out what they wanted to articulate to the NACWG.

Participants and Engagement

We had 41 participants signed up by their youth organisations to take part in the online sessions. In addition to this we had two groups working offline. The offline work was offered in response to feedback from young people working with Angus Women's Aid that regular meetings were not possible for them. We provided a link to weekly google folders which contained a pack of resources and creative instructions that allowed them to undertake the activities with support of their youth workers offline in their own time. Participating groups were:

Online

- Information and Learning for All Project
- Girlguiding Scotland
- East Ayrshire Council
- Sikh Sanjog
- East Lothian Council and Scottish Youth Parliament
- RASAC Perth and Kinross
- Lyth Arts Centre
- LGBT Youth Scotland
- Stirling Netball Club
- YMCA Kilmarnock
- Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre (STAMP Project)

Offline

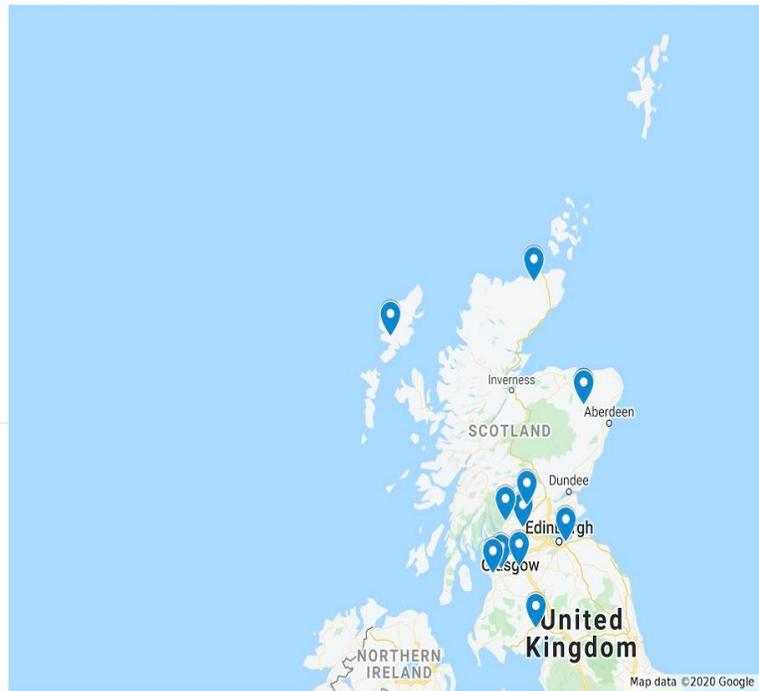
- Angus Women's Aid
- Children in Scotland

The following map shows the geographical spread of participants

NACWG online participants

Participant locations

- AB52
- FK7
- DG2
- EH21
- PH5
- KA3
- FK8
- AB52
- ML10 6UL
- KA11
- KW14
- Harris

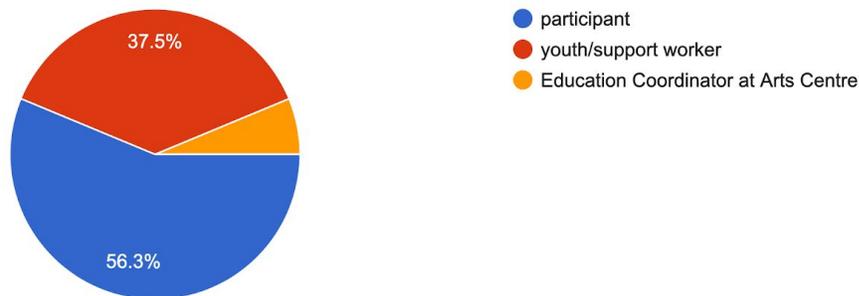


Of the initial 41 sign ups 30 young people remained engaged throughout the project and all 30 submitted a page to be included in the zine. Unfortunately the offline groups did not manage to submit a zine page. They fed back that this was due to a few things including illness in the group and bereavement. However both youth workers feedback that they had really appreciated the resources and hoped to use them in future.

Feedback

We had 16 responses to complete a google form providing project feedback. 9 of these were from participants and 7 were from youth workers/ supporting adults.

Please tell us if you are a participant or Youth/Support Worker
16 responses

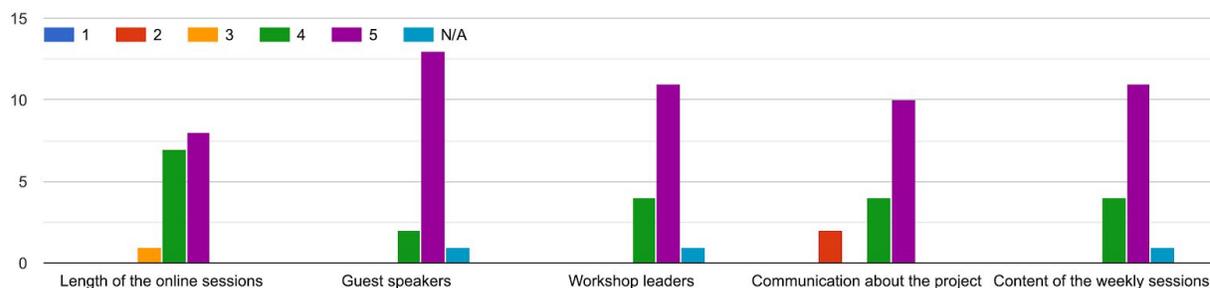


You can view the full responses [here](#)

When asked how satisfied they were with the elements of the project respondents said the following:

1 = Very dissatisfied 5 = Very satisfied

How satisfied were you with the following elements of the project?



A selection of key takeaways from the project that the participants shared with us include:

I learnt a lot about intersectionality and how it impacts people in our society. I also learnt more about mediums of expression and creativity which can double as activism, a political statement or to raise awareness about an issue e.g. war photography. I was encouraged to think more deeply about measures the Scottish Government could take to create a more equal society for women and girls and then channel my suggestions creatively and uniquely. I was also introduced to the Zine as a form of expression, which I will definitely be using again in the future!

To witness how passionate our young people are about such important issues and how confidently they were able to express their opinions was for me a really positive experience.

Although everyone involved in the sessions had a different perspective and unique upbringing/beliefs we also all had a lot in common, and shared a lot of the same experiences with gender issues especially.

I thought it was so cool that we had this project on women and girls by the Scottish government, which you might expect to be rather stuffy and dull and outdated, being led by really interesting and cool arts workers with really valuable perspectives and practices. It was such a privilege to get to witness Ashanti and Samar facilitating, and the presenters that they brought on board were excellent as well.

When asked to describe the project in 3 words respondents wrote the following

Sharing ,learning ,creating
awesome interesting impressed
Informative, inclusive, educational
Informative, collaborative, inclusive
Creative, educational, fun!!
Informative, collaborative, inclusive
Creative fun interesting
Creative fun interesting
Very enjoyable experience
Inspiring. Rewarding. Educational.
Creative fun interesting
interesting creative informative
Fun. Interesting. Different
Informative, collaborative, inclusive

Favorite moments from the 5 weeks included:

The final images and discussion on the different topics

Getting to know other people across the country who are really passionate in their work/studies, and who are so willing to make a change. Hearing them speak and give their ideas was incredibly inspiring.

Having the freedom to create our zine on what we believed in/had experience of.

What sticks with me is the intersectionality presentation, and the way ashanti and samar listened to the young people and gave them affirmations and positive feedback, and encouraged everyone to speak about their experience and passion.

Least Favourite moments from the 5 weeks included:

The timing of the meetings was slightly awkward as I had to fit it around dinner and other after-school commitments, but the content totally made up for it!

Being asked to describe myself He/him it caught me off guard, a good learning.

realising that we only had 2 weeks to go! i thought we could go on like that forever.

Sharing views was definitely intimidating at first but I felt so much better after I did and more confident

A small selection of what the participants would change about the project include:

I would've liked more time in breakout rooms.

I would have been thrilled if there were more guest speakers in the project so that the meetings covered a really wide range of subjects. I believe that this would have really deepened my knowledge of topics and issues surrounding the fight for equality, as I learnt so much from the speakers who did come in!

More interactive work (breakout rooms were good) and less long presentations

The sessions were really well done, the only thing I'd want would be slightly more time for some of the discussions but I wouldn't want any less time on the presentations so I'm not sure if there's a solution there!

The general conclusion from the feedback forms suggest that overall the participants who chose to stay with the project and the supporting youth workers had a positive experience and got quite a bit out of the project. I would suggest this is backed up by the quality of work produced for their zine.

Reflection from the Project Manager

In looking back at the two pilot youth circles that took place in 2019 to how we approached the youth circle in response to the restrictions imposed by COVID 19 in our 2020 iteration I believe that the project was able to benefit from the pivot to online working. While we were unable to reach the kind of numbers we had hoped to in June 2020, offering an online project allowed us instead to have consistent contact with a group of young people over the 5 weeks. This allowed for a process of learning and discussion which cannot be cultivated in one off events. It also allowed for the practitioners to introduce influences and stimulus in both politics and art which the participants could then research and engage with in their own time should they have wanted to. They could then bring this back into the weekly sessions. I think you can really see this progression and inspiration in the final pages presented by the young people.

In practical terms, were we to deliver the project again I would consider creating a blended model that took place on and offline over a longer period of time and which could be delivered to a larger number of young people. I would also add complimentary sessions for the youth workers so that they could have their own exploration of the materials and creative activities in a way that empowered them to go and work with their young people in their own local settings.