From Climate Crisis to Climate Justice

Presenter: Eimear Manning

NGC Nation Youth Counci

What is the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)?

NYCI is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland.

Over 50 youth organisations are members, working with over 380,000 young people across Ireland and internationally.

We use our collective expertise to act on issues that impact on young people.







The Rise of the Far-Right Environmentalist

'Ecobordering'



Mass migrations of all species

Disease Spread

Conflict & War over Resources – water, crops & land

Increased discrimination & geo-political tensions

Democracy will be heavily strained

Eventually, everywhere will need a Climate Justice approach...



Climate Justice





Climate Justice means caring for the needs of the most vulnerable people **WHILE we care for the** needs of the vulnerable planet.





PAN-EUROPEAN SURVEY: What Issues do Young People Care About Most?

- Survey of young people (15 to 35 years old) in 23 European countries. In total 22,377 surveys were completed.
- Conducted between 29 October and 19 November 2020, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic lockdowns.
- The first question in the study aimed to assess 'Which of the following do you consider the most serious problems facing the world as a whole?'





Young People Fear for their Futures

An ECO-UNESCO study conducted on over 1,000 young people in Ireland on the topic of Climate Change & Eco-Anxiety, it found that:

97% of Young People feel concerned about Climate Change

Actions

feel as though they have already been personally impacted by **Climate Change**

60%

33% feel they do not have enough knowledge or skills to engage with Climate

84%

of young people are already involved or WANT to be involved in **Climate Actions**



Eco-anxiety

Eco-anxiety is "the chronic fear of environmental cataclysm that comes from observing the impacts of climate change and the associated concern for one's future and that of next generations".

The emergence of 'solastalgia'.



And it's not just our mental health that's affected, but physical as well.

Planetary Health looks at how the degrading health of our planet, can also lead to degrading health of our bodies.















MALARIA &

DENGUE FEVER









CHEMICAL POISONING (CANCER, TUMOURS, MISCARRIAGE, ETC.)









JOINT INFLAMMATION, NEUROTOXICITY & THE UNKNOWN





Study found that 75% of the 34 breast milk samples studied contained microplastics & potentially harmful plastic chemicals.



Of course we're anxious!



The best cure to eco-anxiety?

Collective & Meaningful ACTION



Collective Power Solutions

1. Consumer decisions:

Where to shop, what to buy, or boycott?

2. Volunteer or activism work:

Get involved at the local/national level. What activism style suits you best?

3. Advocacy:

What advocacy and policy campaigns do you support?

4. Collective actions:

Working as a community to lobby, protest.

5. Voting:

Which candidates or causes do we support?





Climate Youth Delegate



Beth Doherty, 2024-2025

(She was part of Climate Case Ireland, a group that sued the Irish government for being too vague on their climate actions & won!)

- Joint programme between the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), in collaboration with NYCI.
- Each year, one appointed young person joins Ireland's official delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and will attend COP alongside DECC to ensure the youth voice is heard.
- Does your country have a CYD programme? If not, advocate for one!

United Nations Climate Change Conference

Bonn, Germany



Youth Voices at the Helm





The Voice of Young People



The Voice of Young People







National Youth Council of Ireland

The Voice of Young People



 Yes, our actions are inconvenient for you – but how much more inconvenient will the climate crisis be?

We revere the beauty of these paintings – protecting them behind glass – yet we can't revere & protect the beauty of our own planet.



Preventive Detention Under the Convention?

Recent Police Action Against Climate Activists Violates ECtHR Case Law

POLITICO

Europe's climate activists face 'repressive tide'

Watchdogs warn of rights violations as governments crack down on disruptive protests.



European governments are using 'harsh, overly broad' laws to silence climate protesters

Climate activists given 'unprecedented' prison sentences for nonviolent protest

Guardian

Alarm as German climate activists charged with 'forming a criminal organisation'

Climate Rights International's report:

"Instead of jailing climate protesters and undermining civil liberties, governments should heed their call to take urgent action to address the climate crisis."

Council of Europe Recommendation

Drafting group creating a recommendation for the Council of Ministers on young people and climate action.

- Aims to protect young people and remove barriers to their participation in climate-related decision-making processes. It's the first time in history that a recommendation of this nature is needed:
 - Focuses on the climate and biodiversity crises
 - Right of peaceful assembly & protest for young people
 - It also asks that consideration is given to the specific needs of all young people, especially those from marginalised, vulnerable, or disadvantaged groups, including indigenous youth & asylum seekers.





Council of Europe Recommendation

- Includes recommendations on providing tailored information for those who work in courts & law enforcement to better understand these new forms of protest.
- It calls for the upskilling of youth workers in climate crisis information, training, and funding so that they can better support local young people & activists.
- The Recommendation hopefully be accepted by the Council of Ministers in early 2025, and then we will need all of your help to get the Recommendation accepted by your government.
- This will be a huge collective action that we can all take and organise together!





Let's get Started!



THANK

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