



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
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Dear Party Leader,

We are the Youth Ambassadors for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) – the youth voice for the charity to help represent almost half a million young people taking part each year – writing to you today on the issues that not only affect our everyday lives, but determine our future. We are happy to have DofE's support in giving us a platform with our political leaders.

The last few years have been challenging for everyone. But let's be clear – for a growing number of young people in the UK, it's more difficult than ever to find opportunities to fulfil their potential and succeed. The next election can help to change this. It provides a real opportunity to be ambitious for all young people in the UK, and we're calling on you to listen to young people as you plan your manifestos.

Can we have an education system that fuels the economy of tomorrow?

Moving from education into work is daunting at the best of times – but, beyond Covid, widening social and economic inequalities are hindering what could be a skilled workforce for the future.

We want to see non-formal learning that equips us with the life skills and motivation that employers need, established as central to a rounded education for all young people. This means giving young people the self-belief and skill set that goes beyond the classroom. For this to happen, you need to continue with work underway to properly invest in schools and colleges to deliver the broader skills employers need for today.

Can we have a say on the issues that matter to us?

Young people want to play our part. At sixteen, many of us are actively working to support the economy. Which makes it all the more disappointing when we hear from our research that young people feel unheard and undervalued by our political leaders. If you want to change this:

- Introduce a 'future generations law' to ensure the government takes into account the impact of proposed laws on future generations.
- Make political system and human rights education compulsory within schools.
- Put in place stronger laws, rules and ways of working to address prejudice, discrimination and inequalities.

Climate change is our reality, can you act now to protect our future?

We want to reuse what we can, but also see an end to single-use plastics with sustainable solutions to reduce plastic waste. We also want to see more extensive recycling systems with a wider variety of categories and compost bins – everywhere. But most of all, we want our future leaders to take urgent action to meet climate goals and achieve net zero by 2050.

Climate change is with us – young people need your support to make sure that the planet and the opportunities available to past generations are there for us too. Please listen to us and work with us on the issues that matter most. Your manifestos can start the groundwork to give young people skills for life and employment, agency in the politics that shape our future, and real action on the environment. A youth summit to discuss the issues and give substance to our voice is something we'd love to see happen and be part of.

Our future is in your hands – we hope you'll listen.

THANK YOU!

Youth Ambassadors, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award