

help shape **YOUR** future



Youth Panel Self Nomination Guidance Notes



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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What is it?

The Northern Ireland Assembly is looking for 30 volunteers aged 16-18 to join a Youth Panel and work in partnership with us to bring together ideas on how a Northern Ireland youth assembly should work. The Youth Panel will be in place from March 2010 to April 2011 and will:

- Listen to people from across Northern Ireland including young people, youth workers, teachers and MLAs
- Get advice from experts
- Get training
- Visit other youth parliaments
- Discuss what the youth assembly should do and how it should work
- Work as part of a team to decide what proposals to make for a youth assembly
- Present their ideas to decision makers.

Who can be a member?

You can apply to join the Youth Panel if:

- You currently live in Northern Ireland
- You are aged 16-18 on 19 February 2010.

What's in it for me?

Joining the Youth Panel will offer all kinds of opportunities:

Meeting people from different backgrounds and cultures - residentials - travel - making new friends - having fun - telling decision makers what you think - helping to give a stronger voice to young people - getting training - developing lots of skills for the future.

The more you contribute – the more you will get out of it.

What do you want from me?

You will need to be ready and able to:

- Accept the commitments required for membership
- Attend meetings and do any preparation that might be needed
- Respect the human rights and dignity of others whether you agree with them or not
- Learn about yourself and others by listening to people with different views, giving your views and having them challenged
- Deal with sensitive and challenging issues
- Follow high standards of personal conduct by, for example, agreeing not to take alcohol or illegal substance during Youth Panel events
- Respect confidentiality in group discussions
- Act as a representative.



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How do I apply?

Read all the way through these notes and the self-nomination form.

If you are still interested in applying, fill in the self-nomination form, which is available in various formats.

You can:

- download the form and complete it by hand or electronically and post it to us at:

Northern Ireland Youth Assembly
Room 401f
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

- complete it electronically and email it to us at info@niyouthassembly.com
- complete it online at www.facebook.com/niyouthassembly

If you need extra help filling in this form you can contact us from 9-5, Monday - Friday.

phone: 028 9052 1833

email: info@niyouthassembly.com

textphone: 028 9052 1209

Completed self-nomination forms must reach us by 5pm on Friday 19 February 2010.

Late or incomplete forms will not be accepted.

Notes to help you fill in the Self Nomination Form

Your Details

We need this information to make sure that you can apply and so that we know how to contact you.

Your Commitment

In this section you are asked to agree:

- That you have read and understood the information in this document
- To be security checked if you are selected for Youth Panel membership. These checks are for reasons related to child protection only
- To the time commitment involved in panel membership.

You should only agree to these commitments if you genuinely think that you can live up to them.

About You

In this section you are asked:


- why you would like to become part of the youth panel
- what experience or skills you have that might help the work of the youth panel.

Your answers in this section will not be used as part of any selection process. They are simply to give you a chance to tell us about yourself and to help you decide if you really want to apply. Please use the space provided, and do not attach extra paper.



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You are asked if you consider yourself to have a disability. You do not have to tell us what the disability is at this stage. If you need any help with completing the form as a result of your disability contact us by phone or email and we will discuss what we can do to help.

You can contact us from 9-5, Monday - Friday

phone: 028 9052 1833

email: info@niyouthassembly.com

textphone: 028 9052 1209

If you go through to the next stage of selection you will be asked to go to a peer selection event on 12 March 2010. We need to know if you have any special access or support needs to attend that day. We will ask about any special dietary needs later.

Additional Information

The information you give here will help us to work out the best way to advertise opportunities like this one in future.

Declaration

Sign and date the form.

What happens next?

If more than 100 applications are received a shortlisting process will operate to identify up to 100 nominees who will go on to the next stage of selection.

Up to 100 nominees will be invited to a peer selection event in Belfast on 12 March 2010.

At the event nominees will learn about each other, what membership of the Youth Panel means; and will consider what qualities will be needed before electing 25 young people from within the group to join the panel.

After the event, the remaining five places on the panel will be filled in such a way as to help ensure that the panel will be as representative as possible. These 5 members will also be drawn from the group that attend the Peer Selection Event. As far as possible the selection will be based on the election results.

Those not selected for Youth Panel membership will still have opportunities to contribute to the development of the Youth Assembly. Some options will be discussed at the Peer Selection Event.

The first residential meeting of the new Youth Panel will be held on the weekend of 26 March. Further details will be provided once the selection process is complete.

The information collected will be held securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and will only be used for the purposes of recruitment for the Youth Panel and to update those individuals on the development of the Youth Assembly. If you wish for your details to be removed from our database or to update your details, please contact us at info@niyouthassembly.com



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