

Ireland, I Have a Dream

**A Project by the
Unity in the Community
Youth Group**

IRELAND, I HAVE A DREAM

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Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to Mary Gavin, Mary Holohan and all those fighting to find their voice.

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And most importantly, thank you to all the groups and young people from Dublin and further afield who took part in this project and shared their dreams with us.

“The curse of poverty has no justification in our age... The time has come for us to civilise ourselves by the total, direct and immediate abolishment of poverty”

Martin Luther King, 1967

Our Story

Howya!

My name is Senan and I'm a project officer at All Together in Dignity (ATD) Ireland. This is the story of the Unity in the Community Youth Group.

Where to start? First, some context: ATD Ireland has been fully operational since 2009, working locally in Dublin's North Inner City and Ballymun, while also running several National and European level projects. ATD Ireland is one of many teams that form ATD International. ATD International are a human rights and anti-poverty organisation present in over 40 countries worldwide. ATD work to give voice to those with experience of poverty and social inequality. ATD Ireland follows the model of ATD International and develops creative projects designed to empower and encourage active participation from members of disadvantaged communities. These projects can be seen in various forms including; arts, singing, writing, informal education or by simply providing a safe space for open and honest discussion.



And so where do the young people come into this story? Well, within ATD International there is a well-established European youth network comprised of youth groups from countries such as France, Poland, Belgium, Switzerland, and many more. Although ATD Ireland has worked with many young people over the years, never before had the organisation been in a position to formally set up an active youth group.

Fast forward to early 2017, we got word that there would be an ATD European youth gathering taking place in August in Wijhe, the Netherlands. We identified this gathering as a huge opportunity for us to invite various young people from our network to travel to the Netherlands and form an Irish delegation. Our dream (pun intended) was that our group of inspirational young people, who were already leaders in their own communities, would travel and bond together through a shared experience and hopefully be exposed to established youth groups from other countries. We thought that this exposure to other youth groups might encourage our young people to learn from their peers and encourage them to run similar projects in Ireland. Ultimately we hoped they would want to form their own group once they returned to Dublin. This outcome was in no way guaranteed and something we understood would have to happen organically.



The European gathering was structured in such a way that each country would facilitate two workshops. This would provide young people with an opportunity to gain experience in facilitating workshops, working as a team, and sharing their culture, all while highlighting their work and the context of that work. For our group we decided to facilitate a workshop on the GAA and the important cultural role it plays in Ireland. Sport has always been a great tool to use to make connections with people and we wanted to show how proud we were to have our own national sports. For our second workshop we decided to create a discussion forum to really encourage people to think about what it means to 'leave no one behind'. Both workshops were really successful and most importantly, a lot of fun!

The gathering was an amazing experience for all involved. We camped out in the Dutch countryside for four days, making amazing connections with over 200 people from all over Europe while overcoming language and cultural barriers along the way. Make no mistake however, this was not glamping! It was a real camping experience and



the memories of the long nights spent sitting around the fire (as our only source of warmth!) will stay with us all for a very long time. I certainly will never forget one memorable evening, when our Calvin led 40 young Europeans in a rendition of the Macarena!

A few weeks after returning to Dublin, and after some much needed sleep for the ATD team, we invited our delegation of young people to meet and discuss their experiences. Thankfully, the atmosphere in the room that day was fantastic. The craic, the messing and the slagging were still in full effect, essential elements to any youth group. The dynamic of the group hadn't changed at all since our adventure and it was fascinating to listen to everyone illustrate their experiences and how the four days influenced them in their own unique and individual ways. Like any great trip, the stories shared all had different versions depending on who told them. One tall tale, about an unnamed staff member (me!), being woken up by some water being thrown on their tent was, and forever will be, greatly embellished. Never let the truth get in the way of a good story! That's one thing I have to say about this group, every single time I meet with them I laugh, I smile and I'm always in better form for seeing them.

Towards the end of the meeting that day we asked the group a simple question 'do you want to formally start a youth group?' Without missing a beat the answer was unanimously, "yes!" Or, more accurately, 'Of course we do you muppet!' The next question was what to call this group? And so, in September 2017, the Unity in the Community Youth Group was founded.

What happened next was beyond our wildest dreams (second use of same pun intended). We were successful in our very first funding application to the Coca Cola Thank You Fund for the "Ireland, I Have A Dream" project. It marked the start of a mad adventure.

All six members of our youth group inspire me. **Chloe, Gavin, Kayleigh, Maggie, Andrew and Calvin** are all leaders and role models in their communities. What they have individually accomplished at such a young age is remarkable. I don't think they really understand how impressive they are. The sky is the limit for this group and I just want to thank them for all their hard work, for all the smiles and all the laughs. Most importantly, I want to thank them for being true to themselves and for never remaining silent about the things that matter most in their lives and in their communities.

I have a dream that this group recognise that they are role models. I have a dream that this group will always believe in themselves. I have a dream that this group will continue this wonderful adventure and live life to the fullest. I can't wait to see this dream become a reality.



Project Overview

The Unity in the Community Youth Group (UCYG) explored the legacy of Martin Luther King (MLK) and was inspired to start a creative project, a project designed to create a new space in Ireland for young people under 25 to find their voice as leaders and to explore social inequalities and poverty in the context of their own lives and experiences.

Through this creative writing process we wanted community members to find strength in sharing their experiences. We hoped they would find their individual and collective voice with the ultimate aim of empowering participants and inspiring others to keep fighting to end poverty and social inequalities. The project culminates with this publication; a collection of 'Dreams' written creatively in a variety of styles by young people in Ireland and abroad.

From February to May 2018 we organised 8 workshops in various locations in Dublin. The workshops were facilitated in various creative styles, but were all designed to highlight the spirit of the original "I Have a Dream" speech, and make connections between the issues MLK spoke about and the lived experience of participants, all framed



in the context of life today. We wanted participants to discuss collectively the dreams they have for a better future.

Workshops were also designed to provide an opportunity for participants to discuss their ideas with both their peers and our workshop facilitators. Workshop facilitators were always on hand for any questions, concerns or reassurance needed.



Our UCYG members goal for the project was to ultimately facilitate their own workshops. As the project began, they themselves were participants in the first two workshops, adopting a 'learn by doing' approach. For the next four workshops our guest facilitator John Cummins partnered with members of the youth group, creating an opportunity for them to introduce the project and the group while also sharing their own experiences and stories. We noticed the significant impact this had on participants. This really created a peer to peer atmosphere with participants instantly respecting the voice of people of a similar age and with similar backgrounds. This culminated in our youth group successfully facilitating two workshops completely independently.

MLK

Why Martin Luther King?

Martin Luther King (MLK) was a role model and leader to millions. His speeches empowered people to find their voice and come together to take action. His “I Have a Dream” speech, delivered in Washington DC on 28th August 1963, is one of the most famous speeches in modern American history, and marked a corner stone for the Civil Rights movement in the USA, by placing a greater emphasis on the movement nationwide, but also across the rest of the world. The speech impacted people deeply because of its timeless call to respect the values of democracy; justice and non-violence.

Although MLK is most famous for his work fighting for civil rights, he was also an anti-poverty activist. In December 1967, he started to work on the ‘Poor People’s Campaign’ that was focussing on the concept of minimum income, with a view of raising all Americans into the middle class through a guaranteed income. In his last speech, just four days before his assassination, he highlighted the challenges eradicating poverty posed, both abroad and in the USA, saying “We are





coming to demand that the government address itself to the problem of poverty.... if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists".

The 4th of April 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of MLK's passing. The UCYG highlighted his legacy during a public event organised by ATD in Dublin by sharing how King's words and actions are still an inspiration for young people today, giving them strength to move forward and help others. **Maggy Jansen** spoke at the event saying "He didn't use any violence. He protested in peace. He brought people together to protest in peace. 50 years ago Martin Luther King got murdered. But his dream survived. His dream of social justice is still alive". **Andrew Holohan** highlighted one of MLKs most powerful messages "Martin Luther King said our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter. I say dream to live and live to dream."

Today, there are far too many young people living in persistent poverty in Ireland and around the world. Living in poverty is an early death sentence. The goal of this project was to help young people to learn about MLK and use the legacy and spirit of his famous speech as a source of inspiration and empowerment.

Martin Luther King: "I Have A Dream"
— extract 1963 —

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children

We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice...

But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force...

We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

We cannot turn back...

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" – one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

Workshops

Fighting Words

The Fighting Words project is located in the north inner city. They are actually our neighbours here in ATD. When in times of need all good communities can turn to their neighbours for help. When we were starting this project we needed to gain experience in how best to facilitate creative writing workshops. We reached out to our neighbours to ask if they would facilitate a workshop for us that our own youth group and project staff could participate in. We were so lucky and incredibly grateful that Fighting Words said yes. If you are going to learn something, you might as well learn from the best.

Fighting Words aim is to help children and young people, and adults who did not have this opportunity as children, to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. At its core, Fighting Words is also about something much broader and more inclusive. It is about using the creative practice of writing and storytelling to strengthen our children and teenagers – from a wide range of backgrounds – to be resilient, creative and successful shapers of their own lives.

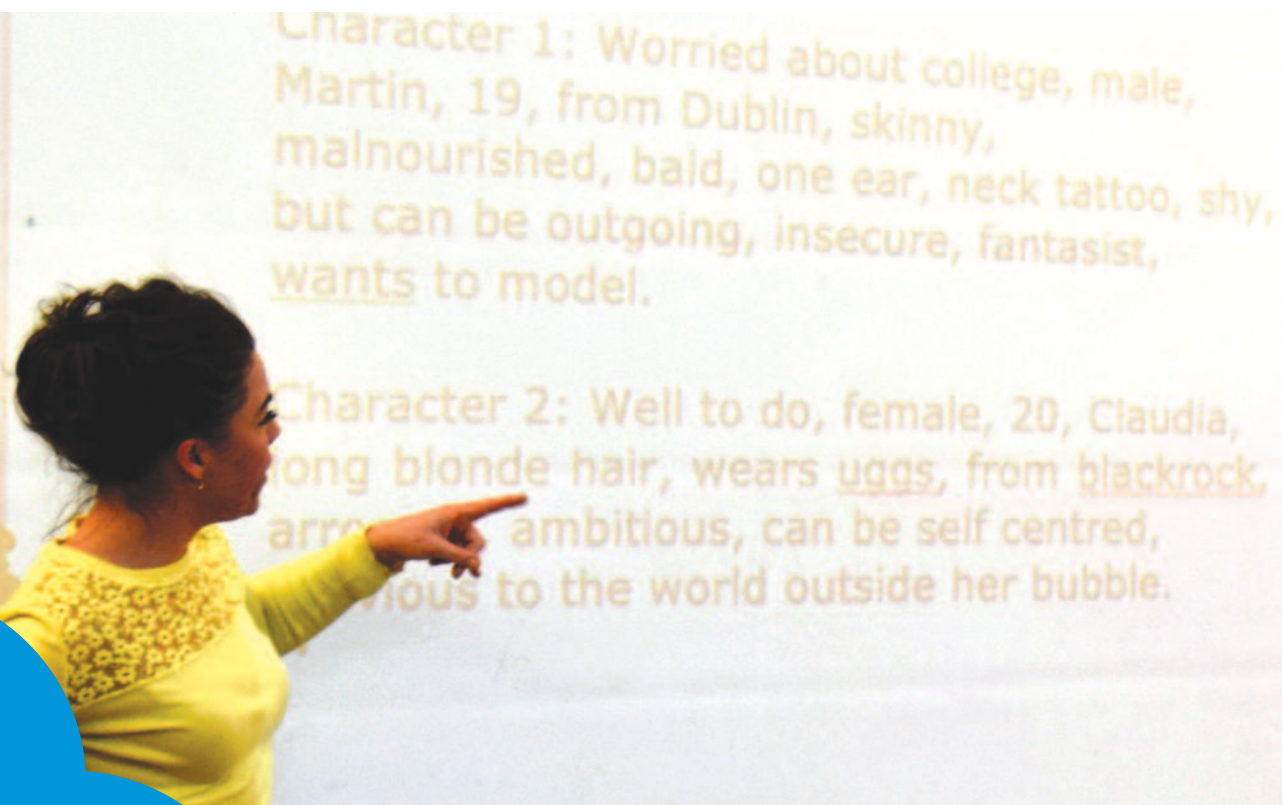


ATD team member **Paul Uzell** wrote about his experience that evening in Fighting Words and why all the projects we visited are so important.

What I discovered in Fighting Words was a warm, welcoming environment with kind and friendly staff and volunteers. The Fighting Words style of workshop facilitation created a 'space' for the impossible to happen; freedom in the mind.

This experience got me thinking about the importance of creative spaces within the community. It got me thinking about my own journey and the impact spaces have in liberating the mind. These spaces are the key to unlocking the cell that is the mind, the prison. The harsh realities of life hit me most when I was at my lowest point, when I was in the prison of the mind.

Spaces have to be organic and allow for individuality. It has to be experimental. We as people are naturally experimental in thought. When we think about stuff a lot of it is experimental and we don't know where a train of thought is going when it



starts. People can let these thoughts overwhelm them. Why not just fling them out there on a piece of paper. When you have the freedom to express yourself something happens within you. Once that happens there is room for more. That's the space, it allows for more space.



It's a space not a box. Most services in the community are boxes. In my opinion boxes are dangerous. Spaces have no doors and no walls. You can go from A to B to C but also go back to A. You can succeed and fail, and so it's fluid. The fact that there is a space means somebody gives a shit to create it, that's the whole idea. It is somewhere where you can learn to understand and love yourself.

Spaces like Fighting Words are all about some form of expression, any form. When people are in an environment where they can take some risks and not worry about it they are free. Whatever they pick up and use as a way of expressing themselves is hugely positive.



When people find these spaces they can think beyond themselves. That's the big change. I see people who are bigger in life now. People are bigger than they ever were internally. They can handle themselves now. They can be challenged and challenge others. Previously they wouldn't have had the strength for that. It can be like a ripple effect. Those who find the space can influence many, many others. That's the real power. Now we are creating positive cycles.

Thank you to Jean and everyone at Fighting Words. You gave us the start and inspiration we needed for this project. You really are great neighbours!

Public Service Announcement –

Mind the Gap

You do the maths – the sums are a joke

Figures askew – who is pulling a stroke?

Eloquent words the elected have spoke

Minus action, equals clouds of smoke

Politicians promise an inclusive society

My community, divided by categories of poverty

Where sirens of police cars are the nightly soundtrack

A constant reminder, little hope, plenty of crack

In the 80s we were talking, fighting the smack

Deliberate policies are still holding us back

The early school leaver – the teenage drug dealer

All he knows to be is another hamster wheeler

A cycle of pain can you understand the feeling?

Or do you slight, my sight leaves you reeling

Does it offend your rose tinted eye

I ask why, you do not cry

No longer can you sit observing with refrain
Unless your happy for the blight to remain
Shake your head, this ain't a simple game
Politicians, do you know – they speak in your name
I won't say who, but someone is to blame
Don't drop your head, taste our shame

You do the maths – the sums are a joke
Figures askew – who is pulling a stroke?
Eloquent words the elected have spoke
Minus action equals clouds of smoke

Paul 'Gutter Snipes' Uzell

Age: Ageless

ATD Office Workshop

Our second workshop was our first time collaborating with John Cummins. John has been writing for over 30 years. He has been facilitating creative workshops about spoken word and rap for over three years. Having grown up in Darndale, John's talent on the soccer pitch took him to the UK for trials with Arsenal. Eventually John settled in Germany for the best part of a decade, playing and coaching football professionally. Throughout this time the tools of the trade, pen and paper, were never far from John. Since returning to Ireland John has been a pioneer for spoken word. Going by the name 'The Poetician', John is a social activist and his well-crafted words have a way of connecting people and addressing difficult topics through humour and severity in equal measure.



Chloe Gavin, a co-founder of the UCYG, participated in our first workshop with John and wrote about her experience afterwards.

Jack Sparrow and Brennans bread, it is not often you will see these in one sentence, but these are the first things that I can remember from when I was first shown a YouTube clip of the poet John Cummins. John facilitated our second creative writing workshop at the ATD office on Thursday the 22nd of March, and was really passionate and enthusiastic in his delivery. In total there were about 15 participants in the workshop, and before starting we were told very little about it, only that by the end we were all going to be able to rap. By 8.00pm that evening



every person in the workshop had contributed some small part to our Martin Luther King rap, and it was almost as if you could see the creativity just flow in the room. It was fantastic to be in a space and be inspired and motivated to write creatively by someone as talented as John. His approach, although passionate and motivating, was also laid back with regards to structure, which allowed for people to ask any questions which they may have had without feeling like they were interrupting.

Some of the material that was written in the workshop was outstanding, and although rap may not be everybody's cup of tea I would definitely recommend to anyone who says that they can't rap to take a workshop with John Cummins. It was a pleasure, and so much fun, and I think I pretty much laughed the whole way through the workshop.



All Together in Dignity

all together in dignity...

i hawvadream dott aye ee...

community – what's that whennitts hashtag at home?

a social media app on your mobile phone?

a travelling clan in a mobile home?

obedient dopes witta docile tone?

izzitt people pulling in the one direction?

is community a physical connection?

tell me – i'm curious – i wanna hear you -

izzitt far-off fantasy or in your face near you?

izzitt a place where naybers have your back?

duzz yours thrive or duzzitt suffer for the lack

of funds to fix a vandalised swing?

is your area an awful scandalised thing?

are you ashamed or proud of where you live?

do you just take frommitt or do you actually give?...

John Cummins

Ballymun Youthreach

Ballymun Youthreach aims to support and encourage students to make decisions about their lives through a programme of personal development, education and training.

Ballymun Youthreach, which is part of the City of Dublin Education and Training Board, is a community based second chance centre of education, situated in Ballymun. The Centre includes a library, computer suite, woodwork room, kitchen, cosmetics studio, framing enterprise centre, art room, gym, canteen, recording studio and media studies workspace.

The Centre is open to 16 – 20 year olds, offering a full QQI level 3 and level 4 programme as well as some subjects at level 5, including cosmetics studies. The Centre has access to a student counsellor once a week and, in addition to its academic programme also offers boxing, outdoor pursuits and football throughout the year and a full summer project for the month of July. There has also been an annual history trip to Europe every June since 2009.

The Unity in the Community Youth group was honoured to be invited to facilitate a creative writing workshop in the Ballymun Youthreach project. The facilitation of the workshop was led by the spoken word maestro John Cummins. John had the group of 12 young people between the ages of 16-18 rapping, rhyming and having a laugh. The group discussed community and dreams and what that means to them.

Gavin Uzell from the UC youth group leadership team spoke to the group as part of the workshop and he had this to say about the experience;

The experience reminded me a lot of myself. It reminded me of what I was like at that age. I found education very hard as a kid. I struggled a lot because of ADHD. I could never focus and found it hard to sit still for long periods of time.

Sharing my story with the young people is very important to me. To tell them the importance of education and self-education and to explain the mistakes I have made in the hopes of influencing them to stay on the right path and to go back to their communities to play a part in making positive change.

Creative writing and taking part in projects like this can be so important for young people. It's good for opening their minds. It's a great way for a person to formally express themselves. Some people have difficulty with openly expressing themselves verbally, so writing is another way of doing that and also improves reading and writing skills which are important in everyday life.

We would like to thank John Coughlan and all the team at BYR for having us!



Sphere 17

Kilbarrack

We were very lucky to be invited to Sphere 17 Kilbarrack on two occasions. The project is a welcoming colourful building that mirrors the personalities of the staff and participants.

Youth worker Lee Cummins outlined how their project works:

Sphere 17 Kilbarrack (formerly KYP) is a community-based youth project which has played a very important role in the locality for nearly 2 decades. The service works with young people, applying the core principles of youth work and good practice. We are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of all of the young people who come through the service and we facilitate educational, developmental and fun opportunities and programmes with the aim to support positive physical and mental growth and progression.

Young people who attend our service can be sure they are coming in to a safe, welcoming space where their important voices and opinions are both heard and respected and where they will, through collaboration and voluntary participation, have invaluable life experiences and forge strong and positive relationships with both their peers and the dedicated staff who run the service.

Getting to meet a great group of young people from the community and a passionate and dedicated team of youth workers was a real honour for us. We are delighted to be able to highlight and publish the voice of young people from Kilbarrack, a great community.

Darndale

Darndale Sphere 17 provides a high-quality youth service to young people between the ages of 10 to 24. It is part of a regional Sphere 17 youth network operating in Dublin 17 and Dublin 5. Services include drop-ins, educational and issue based group work programmes, one-to-one support, detached youth work (including outreach), outings, residential activities and summer programmes. We were so lucky to be invited out to this project. John Cummins who grew up in the area ran one of his trademark workshops which produced one of the best collaborative community raps we have seen. We would like to thank Tara and the whole team for being so welcoming.



North Wall Community Training Centre

North Wall Community Training Centre provides second chance education and training for early school leavers aged between 16 and 21 years old. Located beside St Laurence O'Toole's church in Dublin 1, the Centre provides a range of full-time training courses at QQI Levels 3 and 4.

In April 2018, the North Wall Community Training Centre welcomed the UCYG for two "Ireland, I Have A Dream" workshops. These two workshops represented a seminal moment for the youth group as they fully facilitated both workshops themselves, which was one of the major goals the group outlined at the beginning of the project.

Maura and Bernie, who run one of the training programmes in North Wall together, had this to say about young people, spaces and inequalities.

What young people, in our experience, need the most is compassion and somebody who will listen to their voice. North Wall Community Training centre provides training and more for the young people who attend. The tutors' objective is to support young people as they learn and coach or mentor them as they find their place in the world of work or further training. The holistic approach creates relationships that are based on trust, human dignity and respect. The young people also build friendships, with other trainees and future employers and tutors thus building social skills and networks for the future.

Young people often leave school early because of challenges not necessarily relating to school life or curriculum. According to a 1996 UNESCO report authored by Jacques Delors (Learning the treasure within), there are four important elements we have



to learn: 1-Know; 2-Do; 3-Be; 4-Be together. Learning to be and to be together are the most important, also because they are essential in fulfilling the other two. Our job is to be there for them when they need our support most.

Society expects that young people should be ready for work, but most of them are not ready for it. Young people need to be motivated to work and we facilitate positive employment experiences as there is a very high unemployment rate in the area. In recent times we have seen a growth towards apprenticeships which offer opportunities for our young people. The future looks brighter in recent times and we welcomed the involvement we had with this project because it concentrated on setting positive goals.

A project like "Ireland, I Have A Dream" has a wonderful impact on the trainees. They really appreciated the fact that the workshops were facilitated by other young people like them, some of whom come from the same local area, providing role models. It is very important for young people to find their voice but many are afraid to do so because of a lack of confidence. A lot of trainees attending the Centre need positive examples like this to believe in themselves and their own potential.

We would like to thank Bernie, Maura and all the young people in North Wall for being so welcoming. They are a great group in a great community.

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*Ireland,
I have a Dream*

*Ireland,
I have a Dream*

*Ireland,
I have a Dream*

I Have a Dream

We need more money to make the place look nice
All you're feeding us is chips, curry and rice
While you sit there in your Canada Goose jacket
We're on minimum wage – you're earning a packet

This is wrong, I feel so small
Why are you looking down on us all?
We are a great community
All we need is a decent opportunity
I will not be defined by my address
I will not be denied access to success

I have the right to work and earn
I have the right to go to college and learn
Don't assume we're all moochers
We deserve a decent future
We're from Darndale and we will always shine
And rise above a life of crime

Collaborative Rap

Sphere 17, Darndale Youth Group

I Have a Dream

I grew up in Darndale. In Darndale young people do not have many opportunities and they don't get much support. When they are dealing with services and institutions they are supposed to act like everyone else, even if their life has been completely different from 'normal' people. The institutions don't want to hear about your sad story, they don't care. They just want your file and your papers. Personally I went through life the hard way but I have an abundance of knowledge from those experiences. I want to use those experiences to make change because I believe 'calm seas never make a great sailor'.

I believe that there comes a time in life where you have to make a choice; follow your own dreams, never look back and ignore others opinions of you, or pursue your own dreams, but help others as you do it. That's the path I have taken. I am living my dream right now. If you asked the ten year old version of me - what life do you dream of? I would have said at that time; to live in peace, to be safe, to be free of fears of someone breaking into my house, and to live a happy drug free life with a normal job. Most 10 year olds would say they want to be rich and famous, be a lawyer or drive a Ferrari. In life I feel like I started at minus 10 and all I've ever wanted to do is get back to 0.

Now I feel I'm at the start. It came with age and peace of mind. Peace of mind right now for me is worth more than any amount of money. Looking at drug dealers in the community who have all the money but they don't have that peace of mind. I wouldn't trade anything for the peace of mind I have now.

My dream now is to use my experiences to make Ireland a more equal society. From my experience I see things like this; we have two sides of a coin. One side are homeless, addicts, in clinics, dealing with mental health issues and living in poverty. These people are from deprived areas in Ireland. Then we have the other side of the coin. We have people working in the courts, Gardaí, GPs, Government officials etc. These people are usually from middle or upper class areas. Upper class people are assigned to positions that are supposed to support and help the poor.

For example in my neighbourhood, with the exception of a few, all the Gardaí were only interested in their stats and getting all their arrests. They target the youth because it's easy. They charge you with stupid basic offences like loitering. Then hatred builds towards the police from a young age which escalates as you get older. All those charges start to add up. These types of things just don't happen in rich areas. Their heart is not in it at all. They don't want to make that change in people's lives.

It makes me question things. If all these issues were fixed i.e. homelessness, addiction, crime etc. would you have to close most of the clinics, need a lot less Gardaí, and solicitors? So is it in the best interest of the upper class to solve these issues permanently? To me it feels like the poor are small cogs in the wheel, constantly spinning to simply power the bigger cogs.

In my experience, the only thing the government will give a single homeless man is a sleeping bag. I know people will say that social welfare payments and benefits like medical cards, rent allowance, and free legal aid are made available to people but these payments

are going straight back into the services that keep the current system going. They aren't designed to actually help people improve their lives. The power supply to the system is the tax payer's money. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer.

I have had good experiences with some people in services. So I don't want to label everyone the same. That did prove to me that people can use their positions to make change. However, for the most part, the people that are getting put into positions where they could make significant change aren't really concerned about that. These people are only interested in their steady income, supporting their own lives, their career path, owning a home, driving nice cars and going on holidays. They also aren't under any pressure to make changes.

For those on the rich side of the coin it's so much easier to get jobs. Generationally they have better access to opportunities compared to someone from a deprived background. We live in a world where your address and accent can either get you a job or cost you a job. I will say that it isn't people's fault that they are born into a better situation. I don't blame them for taking advantage of the opportunities afforded to them. But I do urge that they ask, 'why' first, and judge later. That they recognise the responsibility they have. When they get into positions of power, positions to make positive change, then they need to understand the context of people's lives. They have the power to create an equal society. That's my Dream, it is achievable.

Gavin Uzell

Age: 25

Co-founder, Unity in the Community Youth Group

I Have a Dream

I am not from Dublin and not even from Ireland, I am from Germany and I came here to live and work in a different country. One year ago everything in my life was about to change as I finished school and moved here. It was difficult but I am happy I did it. Because it showed me how much a friendly and welcoming attitude can mean to someone.

Now I am about to leave Ireland and everything is going to change again. But I have confidence that somehow everything is going to be alright. It will work out somehow, just as it did the last time.

At the moment I am young, I am inspired and I am full of ideas.
And I have a dream!

In fact, I have many little dreams, that all lead into one: Make the world a better place.

I dream about having a job that changes the world that is meaningful. I am not talking about being the one person to change everything, but about changing little things to make the world a happier, more peaceful place that will not be destroyed by humanity. I hope to give other people chances for their lives and inspire them, just as I get inspired by other people. I think if we share thoughts on how things could work, we will find much better solutions than everybody doing their own thing. Communication and compromising are the keys of living together in a shared world.

I dream that people care about each other, give some love and treat each other with respect. No matter if it is friends or family or totally strange people. That is just a little kind of changing the attitude. Why not smile to people on the street? Why not ask people why they did something, try to understand instead of judging straight away? I hope I get more open minded in this case and I hope everybody else does.

I dream about a world, where everybody has equal rights and equal chances.

I dream about gender equality. In daily life I often hear phrases like "ladies first", "I let you win, cause you are a girl" or "never hit a girl" and they are driving me mad. If somebody lets other people go first or opens the door for them or gives chances in games I welcome that. And it is obvious, that hurting other people is not a nice thing to do. But it doesn't matter if girl or boy, genderqueer, we should always treat each other with respect, be friendly and peaceful. In my dream people are seen as a person and not as a gender.

I dream about equal chances, no matter where someone is from. I see people having different chances for education, because of what their family background is and how much money is available. I hope more projects and services to support those people will be set up. That counts for Ireland as well as for Germany as well as for every other country in the world.

I dream about a world, which is still worth living in, in 100 years. That isn't polluted by that time. Why not use the car less often, do recycling, reuse plastics or leave out meat once a week? If many people do many little things to help stop pollution, we can reach so much.

I dream about a society where everybody is aware of these problems and willing to change it. No matter if rich or poor, healthy or sick, if they are effected themselves or not. Only small actions could help and we can make the world a better place.

Magdalena Jansen

Age: 19

Student from Germany

Co-founder Unity in the Community Youth Group

I Have a Dream

My dream is to go to America; the only thing that's stopping me right now is I'm too young. My community is Kilbarrack. The good is all the people, and the bad is there just isn't anything to do. My dream for Kilbarrack is there is much more things to do!

Anonymous

Sphere Killbarrack

My dream is to live in the Netherlands and work as a painter decorator and be a graffiti artist over there. What is stopping me is money and what type of accommodation I will need, and how I would settle there.

My dream for Ireland is to resolve the homeless problem, legalise weed and a more efficient transport system.

R. K.

North Wall Community Training Centre

I have a dream that I work in beauty and skin care and hopefully progress further in this line of work. Hopefully I'll be out of Ireland and living somewhere nice and working in a good job.

K.

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream

When I rest my head and prepare to go sleep
I close my eyes and count some sheep
Not a sound can be heard
Not even a peep
I begin to dream of far off lands I seek
But when I wake from this slumber
The things I've dreamt make me wonder
If anything is possible inside your dream
What's standing in your way of making them real?

A dream of being happy for no reason at all
Everyone's dream counts no matter how small
To dream of being famous or a football star
To dream of being successful, providing a good life
I want to achieve more than just being someone's wife
To dream that everyone in this world always has a choice
That nobody is silent, they always have a voice
These things ain't as hard to reach as they seem
They all begin with the words "I Have A Dream".

Sarah Gavin

Age: 20

ATD Ireland

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that one day the people of Croatia will wake up and realize what kind of country we created.

We took this beautiful world for granted too many times and I think it's time that we stand up for what we believe in and say enough is enough! Unfortunately today, there are too many politicians who promise everything, but the situation in the country is everyday worse and worse.

People are leaving the country because they can't find normal jobs, that means, they can't build a normal future.

I am one of those people who left the country for this reason.

Only people who left the country know what it is to leave your family, old grandparents, friends, and go alone to an unknown country.

In our country, people buy things they don't need, with money they don't have, to impress people they don't know.

I have to admit, I have the same character, but I am fighting with this Croatian symptom.

I hope I will live to see the day when politicians will do what they promise to all people who are currently taking food from the trash, and to all those who finished University and College and can't find a job. I hope I will live to see the day when everyone will have normal life conditions.

In the end, I am praying for the situation to improve, so that our people don't have to leave our country.

Also, I have a dream that one day Croatia and its neighbor state, Srbija, will come together as one and fix the mess that we made 28 years ago. That they will leave problems in the past and start to build a better future.

Worrying about what happened in the past causes stress and worries.

Focusing on the present allows us to plan out our future.

If we have time to plan out our future, we can expect great things out of our nation later.

Petra Svrzic

Croatian living in Ireland

My Dream is to be a singer or a footballer. There is nothing in the world to stop me from living my dream. My community is Kilbarrack. The good thing about my community is that the people are friendly. It is a good community there is a local train station, school, and a church. The bad thing about my community is there is lot of rubbish at the end of the roads.

Caoimhe Kellett

Kilbarrack Sphere 17

I Have a Dream

Before we embark upon the narration of my journey towards learning, I am Niveta Ramakrishnan, a 2nd-year medical student at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. I came to Ireland 5 years ago by myself at the early age of 16 to pursue my big dreams; my dream to be a paediatric cardiothoracic surgeon upon an offer extended to consider global education, in particular, Ireland from the Irish Chamber of Commerce President, Mr. Maurice Buckley.

Why Ireland? It is the incredible learning opportunities being a delegate representing India, to the NASA Johnson Space Centre, to Foróige's Albert Schweitzer Leadership for life program which has paved the path towards the right direction by being at the right time meeting the right people who have truly had an immense impact on me.

I chose Ireland, not just because of its unique culture or the hospitality extended to me, but for the positivity resonating between each and every individual, and from within that I felt it through a heartbeat. It felt like a place that I was going to call home. You might wonder how is this relevant to addressing the social injustice across Ireland, and across the world? Despite the indifference, the battles that we all fight each and every day, our own or others, I do not have one single thing bad that I would like to point out about Ireland, why?

I truly believe that Ireland can lead the world by example, where we work together, every single 4.775 million of us, towards preventing the creation of future suffering with comprehensive primordial prevention strategies and not just managing the current, by using quick fixes like band-aids, if not, we will always be one step behind.

Ireland is the 10th most peaceful country by global peace index. Ideally, we aspire to a world where 195 countries are ranked number

1, imagining a world where there is no suffering. Ireland is a non-belligerent country having peace and justice as the 2 pillars that have been growing taller throughout the history of human civilization. The Irish Defence Forces strive to fulfil the roles and responsibilities in their peacekeeping missions to Lebanon, Congo, Chad and so on with the United Nations. Having said that, we don't require patrols or high vigilance in order for the protection of civilians, so you may ask how goals like the UN Global Goal 16 is relevant to us?

In 2018, peace and justice seem like a far-fetched dream for which numerous local, regional and national leaders are striving towards. The answer lies in preventing the creation of future suffering, instead of trying to manage the current suffering, as we will always be one step behind. Finding the root cause of the problem stops history repeating itself. Ideally, we would listen to one another to understand, not just to respond.

What's the role of a young person in Ireland to contribute towards this holistic and futuristic goal? Sharing the same passion and enthusiasm to learn with an open mind, we are willing to take on challenges if given the opportunity. I would like to request on behalf of the 1,583,004 youth of Ireland, to delegate complex governmental duties under the various departments composed of elementary doable assignments, targeting different strata in attaining peace and justice.

Why? Youth are the leaders of today and tomorrow, as a leader of tomorrow, don't we all need to inculcate the essential leadership training and competent knowledge from the very best? It will enable a comprehensive approach towards attaining fundamental human rights, disregarding age as the limiting factor in one's journey. There have been prior youth representations at the EU, UN and National levels respectively in programs such as UN Youth Delegate with NYCI, Youth Envoy to the UN Secretary-General, US Embassy Youth Council and more.

Quintessentially, we are tackling at the grassroots level something which has a direct impact on the community catering to the varied needs of the vulnerable and easing their suffering. The governmental decision-making posts would further enable to conjoin the work of civil societies and governmental institutions, not only allowing access to information but to implement SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) programs based on raw data targeting the end user at a national, regional and a local level. I fully understand that training a competent young person with no prior experience would be time-consuming but will be worthwhile in the longer term, as time is the essence of life.

These few minutes of your attention now are the most valuable gift to me, a young leader of tomorrow.

As a surgeon who is about to make the first incision, a pilot moments before their first landing, a scientist working closely with hyperactive nuclear reactor, these are examples of a few moments in life where we rely upon a leap of faith, not anticipating for the worst to happen but to lean forward despite the odds.

To reiterate, it is not only important to attend to the current needs but to work towards primordial prevention. It might seem like a daunting and far-fetched dream today but let us work together in turning this dream into a reality, our reality.

Ireland, I have a dream; where we are not just fighting our own battles in the dark but fighting together as one [team] from dusk to dawn.

Ireland, I have a dream; that we listen to one another to understand, not just to respond or reply.

Ireland, I have a dream; that we work towards the prevention of future suffering, instead of trying to manage the current, otherwise we will always be one step behind.

How do we address this futuristic, holistic goal? As much as it seems far-fetched, we need to unite on a hope for a better tomorrow, leading by example. "Change is the only constant, in order to be a better version of oneself, we need to make that change, starting from within" ~Ramakrishnan D.

A moment of inspiration will manifest itself as a vision, then a dream, into a reality, our reality. I am not afraid of dreaming big, are you?

Niveta Ramakrishnan

Age: 21

National Youth Council of Ireland, Irish Red Cross Youth, Foróige

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that one day people will see that human trafficking is happening all around them. I hope one day there are enough people to save these young women from that experience. There could be men and children too.

My dream is to go on to work with people to help stop human trafficking and get people to see how it really is and all of the people it has affected in all the years. People may not see it, but it's happening every minute of the day.

The only thing to stop me would be if I couldn't get the support to help me get there. I hope one day to come back to Ireland after doing my best job to save all people and children from being victims of human trafficking. I will come back to make Ireland a better place because human trafficking could even be happening in Ireland right under our noses every minute of the day.

I hope to make a better life for myself and move on from the past. I'm going to go on to be who I want to be. I have a dream that I'll move away somewhere and get the job that I want. I wish to have a very happy life with no problems just happiness and to have my Porsche, travel, and swim with dolphins.

I just dream of being genuinely happy in life.

N.D.

Age: 20

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream

I have a dream. I have many dreams. It's what keeps me going and it's also what keeps me focused and grounded at all times. I have personal dreams, political dreams, I have realistic dreams and unrealistic ones too, then again who's to say what's what. Throughout the course of life, expectations, obstacles and pressures have been present at all times, and I believe in the quote by Frederick Douglas that "there is no progress without struggle". I assume everyone can relate.

In school, teachers graded my ability to count, solve problems, cognition, memory, reaction and response to authority. However, I've always relied on and prided myself in my one ability which requires no effort, no calculation, no logic, no right or wrong answers, no restriction, no physical action. The one ability I speak of, which we all possess, is the ability to dream. How small or how big, people can decide for themselves.

This community has seen dark days and dark nights. What divides the line individually in people's stability, peace, hope, happiness and love? From my perspective I'll choose two out of many issues; choices and coping mechanisms. I dream that there are healthy options for people to make healthy decisions instead of finding their escape in traps such as drugs, violence, aggression and hatred. The choices we make today are what determine the future of our people and whether or not our youth get to realize their full potential. Resilience flows in the veins of our daily warriors. Some fighting addiction, some fighting for love, some fighting against it, some fighting for justice, some finding it in ways not given, some fighting for freedom, some fighting for those impoverished. It goes on and on.

I dream of a time where we can place our values in love, happiness, peace, gratitude and joy. I dream of a world without chaos and wars,

I dream of an ear given to every stomach's cry. I dream of lights in everyone's home, and I'm not talking about just electricity. I dream of a time and day where dreams and ambition are fulfilled. I dream of a world without paid sex and pornography where people can truly love and be loved. Hashtag Bob Marley.

Last but not least, when hard-times come and darkness falls upon us, I dream that we all stand together, empowering one another to rise and face the adversity. Head on, no matter what the negativity says, whether it's a 'love you' or a 'fuck you', we shall prevail, all of us.

Melvin

Age: 24

NYP2

I have a dream that one day I will volunteer in an African country, because it really matters to me to be useful and to act instead of always saying, "I'll do it someday".

The most difficult point to reach is to make our beliefs come true, and thereby to experience new adventures. The aim of that volunteering dream would be to provide something I can easily get to someone who can't access such resources. It could be for instance providing school stuff and educational support for children who need them.

Also another example could be to teach my passion for rugby and its values to little boys and girls who feel interested about this sport. It would give them more than just a physical activity; it would give them values that they'd be able to enlist during their life.

Besides, handover between generations is the goal of that kind of approach so that things can get better in the future, hopefully...

Loik Provost

Age: 22

French student in Loughborough (UK)

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that I'll be working a good job making good money. I want to look after me ma and da and sisters with the money. I want to travel the world with my partner and work on getting my own house in a nice area with a nice car. I hope to have my own baby when I hit my late 20's. I want to be able to go away every year with my little family and live a happy life.

I have a dream that my community will get better, get a good name and put more public spaces into the area for children when they're growing up. I want to see less drugs that create bad backgrounds so the next generation isn't growing up seeing the same stuff we did in this generation. We need more jobs to set people up for life and give people good careers.

What could stop all that is money and people not bothered by what is going on around them. For new houses the rent needs to go down to a decent price. We need plenty of space for more new public places for the next generation. We need more sports and activities becoming available.

My dream for Ireland is just to get better and improve and not become worse. I dream that there are more people becoming successful and living their dream happily.

L.L.

Age: 16

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream

Growing up I didn't get much education on mental health. I live in a small community called Kilbarrack. Throughout primary school I got bullied, since junior infants, because I was 'too posh' or 'weird' or that I just couldn't fit in with a crowd. I got slagged daily and sometimes it had gotten physical. I closed off to everyone, never really left my house, didn't have many friends, walked to school and came straight home because I was afraid to be around anyone. But I still got called names on the street. It got so bad that I didn't trust anyone. I left primary school at the age of twelve not knowing what would happen to me in secondary school. That August I attended Manor House School in Raheny. I made a few friends, but I was very shy and wouldn't speak in class and rarely ever spoke at break and lunch. The guidance counsellor noticed after a few months that I had started to sit on my own. They put me on a table with 5 other girls in my year to try to get me talking to people and to make friends, but it didn't work, I became even more shy.

All throughout my first year of secondary school, I got bullied. I didn't talk to anyone that whole year but then came second year. I still got bullied every day, but it wasn't as bad as it used to be. I then started third year and the bullying calmed down a lot because we were all stressed about the Junior Certificate. But in Transition Year it all started again. But I defended myself and told them to stop and I told as many teachers and staff as possible. I became more confident and I got involved in so many things to keep myself positive and happy instead of being negative and upset all the time.

Throughout the year from March 2017 to April 2018, I created a mental health awareness board in my youth project. I created a walk-way of hands with a darker shade of paint and slowly from corner to

corner I faded it into a lighter colour of paint, so it represents the darkness into light walk people participate in every year. It also represents the journey people take from their challenging times to the days of the better times. I also attend a Young Community Leader course and we've to do a community action project. For my topic I put together a PowerPoint presentation on 'Young People and Mental Health'. I went to secondary schools and gave talks to raise awareness about it. My dream for me is that people know about mental health and for people to know about the services that are out there for them.

My community is called Kilbarrack. The good things about it is that there is a youth project, a football club, a GAA and hurling club, a boxing club and a load of green spaces. The bad things are that the young people don't know about some of the facilities that are there for them. My dream for the community is that they know about mental health and that there are services they can ring or visit if they ever need help.

Lauren

Age: 18

Kilbarrack Sphere 17

I Have a Dream

I have a dream to get a good job, a house, and a good car. I want to travel the world with my fiancé and see the world. Then I want to come back home, settle down, get a good job and have kids.

What could stop me? People and money could stop me. I couldn't leave my family for too long without getting home sick. When you want to travel the world you need to have loads of money to travel and to do route 66. I'd love to do that with my fiancé, the only problem is money.

My dream for Ireland is to stop the homelessness and get Ireland back to being a good country. I want there to be more jobs in Dublin for people who don't have work experience, help them become very good people, help homeless people get jobs and get more homes for people. Stop boarding up houses and start giving homes to people that need them. Dublin City Council should just open houses and put beds and heating, that's what all homeless people want, it would even just stop the crisis in Dublin. Dublin City Council should stop spending money they don't need to spend.

The money crisis in Dublin is ridiculous even the rent crisis is horrible. There should be help for people who want to rent houses. I have a dream to get a good job, a house, and a good car. I want to travel the world with my fiancé and see the world. Then I want to come back home, settle down, get a good job and have kids.

K.H.

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream

My personal dream is to get a good job when I finish Youthreach. I would love to be a manager in a sports shop. I know the only way of achieving that is to do very well in Youthreach. If I get my qualifications here I can get a job and work my way up the ladder. I want to be able to get a nice house and have more kids and provide for my family. I know that if I don't finish the Youthreach programme this could stop me from achieving my dream.

My community is Ballymun and there are so many good things about growing up here. I know so many people and I am in the middle with lots of family and friends around me. I love Ballymun. The negative side to it is that there is often conflict between people and you see fights happening a lot. I don't like this and my dream is that people can find peace and get on better with one another.

Katie Rooney

Age: 18

Ballymun Youthreach

I Have a Dream

My personal dream is to become a car mechanic and have a really good job with good people in a garage. I know that I am the only person who can stop me achieving my dream. I need to work hard and get my qualifications in Youthreach. If I do this and focus on my dream there is nothing that can stop me.

My community is Ballymun and I have lived here all my life. It's a great place with a great sense of community in it. I want to do really well with my life. I would love a nice girlfriend, a nice car, house and kids as well someday. I could see that future here in Ballymun but I know I have to work hard to make it happen. As my teacher always says, aim for the stars and if I only hit the moon I'm still not doing too bad.

Karl Quinn

Age: 16

Ballymun Youthreach

My dream is to inspire other people with the things that I do. My biggest passion in life is music (piano) and sports (basketball). I think it's important to have things that money can't buy. Being able to feel and connect with other people is what life is really about and I use what makes me happy to do that. The best feeling for me is when I see the hard work pays off. I love to see myself achieve my goals or someone else working hard, it motivates me to become better each day. I want to inspire others by performing music that could touch someone deep inside, bringing the audience a moment of joy, appreciation and memories to keep with them. Whatever I could do to make myself and someone else happy is what matters to me.

When playing basketball, I love the intensity of the game, when we play against each other, we get to know each other's skills and learn our

strengths and weakness. The communication on both teams makes us feel connected and not left out, but the most important thing is the atmosphere that everyone is having fun. This could mean just taking part or working on your skills to become better. It's always fun to win but it's the fair playing and your best effort that will make yourself and everyone else proud. I want to inspire myself and others to overcome their challenges in life by working hard and being grateful.

There is limitless knowledge in the world, being able to share mine with other people gives me happiness because I want to share my experience with them, hoping that they could possibly learn some knowledge from my experience. Everything has risks and at the end of the day I want to tell myself that I gave my best effort rather than regretting not doing it. Sometimes the smallest things in the world could make the biggest different in someone else's life. If doing what I feel is right could put a smile on someone who matters to me, that is priceless!

Kaiwen Yang

Age: 19

NYP2

My dream is to become an architect. My community is a good local community. The bad things about it are that it is an unclean environment. What would stop me from reaching my dream would be people that put other people down. My dream for my community is for it to be a clean community.

Jai

Kilbarrack Sphere 17

KB Characters

All you see in KB is junkies everywhere
No parks – no pitches – politicians do not care
There is nuttin around for us to do
Playing the fortnite until half past two
We jump onda dart straight to Howth
Have an ice cream and a glance at a boat

Crossing the trax for a chicken fillet roll
Don't want to spend my life being on the dole
We come to the 17 to be together
Especially in the ugly looking weather
We chill out – speak out – have fun as one
We skoff our wedges and a burger on a bun
If skool was like this there'd be better education
Dedication – meditation – proper motivation

We get a call from our parents – time to go home
Stews on the table – I'm done with this poem

Collaborative Rap
Kilbarrack Sphere 17

I Have a Dream

I am currently doing a 6-month internship in Hong Kong, as part of my business school studies. I've always wanted to discover Asia, and this was the best occasion to achieve this goal and to have a chance to leave Western culture for a few months. This allows widening my work experience, because business relationships and ways of working are completely different from the ones we have in Europe. This internship is also an opportunity to travel around South-East Asia, and to find new ways of living in Vietnam, Singapore, and perhaps Thailand or Malaysia.

The political environment is a bit special in Hong Kong. Due to the retrocession of the island to China in 1997, a conflict is taking place between the Chinese, who want to increase their control over the city to make it a great asset for China, and the original people living in Hong Kong, who are seeking independence and trying to avoid Chinese control. Approximately 30,000 Hong Kong people are leaving their homeland each year, to settle in places like Canada, for example. The contrast between the centre of the city and the rest of the land is very surprising, and the different standards of living between the inhabitants are striking. Many don't expect that, but many people living in the New Territories struggle to live, whereas the white collars of investment banks and the executives of worldwide companies get big amounts of money.

My dream is that Hong Kong gets a chance to increase its independence from China, and that the motto 'one country two systems', which defines Hong Kong since 1997, finally applies to the land. People need to choose their government, not only between candidates chosen by the Republic of China. They need to reclaim the executive power that made Hong Kong one of the best cities and countrys in

the world. This would be the first step to take in order to decrease inequalities. Hong Kong's government is aware of the difficulties that many people have in the land. They know how to redistribute the income better, because they already did it before. They should start there.

Baptiste Le Roux

Age: 21

French student in Hong Kong

I believe that everyone has the right to equality. I don't care about a person's skin color, what their nationality is, the amount of tattoos they have, their sexuality... the list goes on. There are so many people in this world and no two individuals are the same. Why should anyone be granted more opportunity than someone else? I do not believe in discrimination against anyone for any reason. I wish that we could embrace our differences and become more unified and whole. I believe that any good person would want to help others. The gratification that comes from helping others less fortunate than yourself can be one of the best feelings in life. I hope that more people can realize that to make the world a better place. Many positive changes would come from this realization if action began to take place. Let's stop discrimination and start accepting each other for who we are, no matter what that may be.

Hanna Schlenker

Age: 21

Student in the USA

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that I'll have an ok job that I would enjoy and travel around different countries with family and friends.

I have a dream, but the main problem for me would be that technology and the internet are too easily accessed. With all the good it's bringing I think younger generations can be easily manipulated. The laws and access should be changed. I think that would be a good start for change.

K.Q

North Wall Community Training Centre

I have a dream that I'll be a train driver in Amsterdam or in any country including my own. That's if the earth is still able to function in a few years time with the way we use our resources. I have a dream that I'll have a decent house and a lovely wife and kids. I would also love to be able to afford a nice Audi A5. I want to have two blue staffs with blue eyes. I have a dream that I'll visit Germany, Hollywood and Dubai before I die. My dream is to still be here because anything can happen at any given moment in time. We take life for granted.

G.M.

Age: 19

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream

I did my university exchange in Bogota in Colombia from July 2017 to May 2018. In this city, which is the capital of Colombia, I noticed a lot of poverty. What struck me the most is that the poverty that can be seen here is not the same as in France. In fact, in France some people live in the street because they lost their job, they had various problems (family, health...). For others as well, it is a choice. I once spoke with a homeless person in Brest (France) who told me that it was a choice on their part to live on the street.

In Bogota, most of the people live in the street for others reasons: the most important reason is the armed internal conflict that has lasted for decades in Colombia. The conflict with FARC (Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces) but also ELN (National Liberation Army) and Paramilitaries, which are illegal groups in Colombia, caused millions of displaced people. The majority from the campaign have been displaced to the cities (Bogota, Medellin, Cali etc.). The conflict caused more than 7 million people to be displaced. This is the most significant conflict in terms of the number of displaced people in the world.

These people were expelled from their homes and their peaceful lives arriving in big cities without anything.

I'm very sad when I see these people in the street.

My dream is that they can have some help to rebuild, and start a new life in the best conditions. But I am optimistic. In fact, in 2016, the Colombian government signed a peace agreement with the FARC. The armed conflict has calmed since this decision. I hope that the number of displaced people will decrease in the future.

The problem is that other armed groups are still present in Colombia and continue to spread terror and cause internal migration in the country.

I hope that the government will be able to sign peace agreements with the remaining groups to appease the country and reduce poverty and misery.

I have a lot of hope for the future. I hope that these people will be able to be housed in good conditions, and will be able to find jobs to help them earn a living. There are several cases that show us that it is possible: a Colombian couple who have been living in the street for several years because they were displaced due to the armed conflict in the country, succeeded to find a job and now live in a house. Today, both are much happier, they both work and no longer suffer from the hard conditions in which they had been living for years.

I hope that will be the case for many other people.

Fanny Cordoval

French student in Bogota

I have a dream that one day I could buy a nice house meet a nice girl and have a family. I would also love to move abroad to somewhere with a bit of sun. Money is always a problem though, I don't think I'll ever have the money to do any of that, but that won't stop me trying. My dream for Ireland would be to sort out the homeless crisis and to drop the price of housing and mortgages.

D.W.

Age: 18

North Wall Community Training Centre

I Have a Dream (RAP)

My personal dream is to be a world famous rapper,
The last thing I want is to be known as a tapper,
This is my life, my journey, my path
I'll walk it on my own if I have to, I don't give a rats.
I often get stick saying that I'm no good
But I don't listen to that, as they're not from my hood.
This is my dream and I'm going to achieve it,
Sit back and watch me, you better believe it.
To hell with the haters who try put me down,
They'll never turn my smile into a frown.
All that being said I love my community,
There's so much going on that shows we have unity.
Good people, good times, having a laugh with the lads
But there's young kids getting into drugs, which is very bad.
Kids wheeling and dealing, toting guns for fun,
But if you put it up to these muppets I'd bet they would run
So now it's time to cop on and make a change in their lives
Start focusing on their dreams and aim for the skies!

Dean Davies

Age: 17

Ballymun Youthreach

I Have a Dream

I arrived in Ireland five months ago. I didn't really know who I was going to meet and what to expect by joining the ATD team in Ireland. I didn't know if I would understand the Irish accent, because I was told that it was a difficult one. I didn't know if people would accept another young girl coming from France, again, to meet them. And I met really interesting, kind and strong people. I didn't expect this internship to be so rich on a "human" perspective. I met really welcoming people. People happy to share their stories, songs, a walk or some food. I was really surprised by the strength of the links that unite people, within the communities and also across communities. People come together, whatever their backgrounds, to talk, to share, and to find ways to fight difficulties in life.

Because yes, I also experience through the discussions, the people I met and the places I went to, what the difficulties in life can be.

I have a dream that the situation improves. I have a dream that no one is left behind. I have a dream that everyone has a home, everyone has a decent life. I wish that the Irish government will really wake up and realize the lack of state support in terms of housing, education, health and job opportunity among others.

I also have the dream that the young people from the youth group 'Unity in the Community' will inspire other young people to have the strength to say no to the cycle of poverty. I wish the young people I met in Darndale will have more various job opportunities. I wish the same opportunities could be offered to any student or young worker. In general, I wish the young Irish people of my generation will find their way through society. I wish they will be able to get the life they dream of and fulfil their dreams.

Coraline Guyot

Age: 21

ATD Ireland – Intern from France

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that the voice of young people in foster care will never be forgotten and will always be heard. No matter what form that is, their lives are hard and people do not understand what they're going through. I know from my experience. I'm fostered and one of my dreams was to travel. I was always told no. They would say because of the 'risks'. I did not believe in these 'risks'. I dream that there will be a foundation to help young people in foster care to travel, or reach whatever their dreams are.

I have a dream that the undocumented young people that go through the Secondary School system in Ireland will automatically be allowed into Third Level Education. As they finished Secondary School they find themselves only doing PLC courses and nothing more after that. They should have access to the same opportunities as citizens of Ireland.

I have a dream that the young people in school will have lunches provided to them for free, that no young person has to go into school hungry. When I was in school, sometimes, I'd have no money for my lunch and I'd go hungry from time to time. As a young person, in the past, I would not have had the confidence to tell teachers and adults that I had no money to buy my lunch. My dream is that Secondary Schools provide lunches with no expense.

Calvin D'Arcy Kanda

18

Co-founder Unity in the Community Youth Group

Legacy

Community is looking after each other
Coming together sisters and brothers
Stand as one, we face our struggles
Poverty teaches mother to juggle
Thursdays feast leads to four days famine
Something TDs you need to examine
This is not a place for you to divide
Come on Minister, it's time you get wide

Martin, you were always a king
Your words still sting
The people sing
I have a dream, I have a dream

One day humanity lost, a national treasure
One we could never re-measure
Little did he know he was against the clock
Tick Tock - his body dropped
Martin Luther King- who might he have been
He got startin on stoppin the partin
Now we all have that dream

Martin, you were always a king
Your words still sting
The people sing
I have a dream, I have a dream

Collaborative Rap
UCYG and VSI

I Have a Dream

I have a dream that one day I will be able to walk through Dublin or anywhere in Ireland and to not see people sleeping on the streets; that the housing crisis will be no more. That my daughter and any other kids that I have can grow up without the fear of becoming homeless. It is a human right to have a home not to raise two kids in a hotel that's madness they need stability and to have their own space. It is my dream by 2030 that the youth of today will grow up and not stay quiet, that they will raise their voices and come together in unity and speak up about the stuff that we are passionate about. The other thing that I hope will happen is that our dreams for today will be a reality tomorrow. That's my dream.

Andrew Holohan

Age: 25

Co-founder: Unity in the Community Youth Group

I Have a Dream

Upon starting the Ireland I Have a Dream project I thought I knew what my dreams were, I thought I had it all figured out and that my dreams for myself and my community were quite simple. Now nearly a year later I have come to realise through participating in this project that they are not as simple as I first thought, let me explain. At the beginning my dream was to have a simple normal life with a relatively nice community where I could work and raise a family in the future, quite a generic dream for a lot of people and it seemed to be a common theme across a lot of the workshops that we ran for young people. However once I really sat and thought about this I felt it was quite simple and no it's not my dream it's actually far from it, I don't want a simple normal life I want an adventurous, courageous fun-filled life; one that I can look back at someday and think I've done everything that I hoped to do.

I have a dream that I will travel to a country and really help to change at least one person's life that is less fortunate than me.

I have a dream to have a career that fulfils my values and passions and not just be in it for the money.

I have a dream that Dublin's North Inner city will be a less stigmatised area in the future.

I have a dream that one day mental health and addiction will be more accepted in society.

The list could go on but I think this one explains my point, dreams shouldn't be put into a box because you think they're too big or not achievable, all dreams are achievable with a little determination and a lot of hard work. It took me a while to realise that and once I did my list of dreams changed dramatically. So if you're reading this and

you're not quite sure what your dreams are, I'd give this piece of advice; Don't limit how big your dreams can be, if you want to own a unicorn someday make that dream a reality. Who is going to stop you? I mean a unicorn is just a horse with a piece of plastic stuck to its head. Who is to say that you don't own a unicorn? Keep dreaming big and never let society or other people make your dreams smaller.

Chloe Gavin

Age: 21

Co-founder, Unity in the Community Youth Group

A Message from the Unity in the Community Youth Group

We hope this project inspires and motivates not only other young people, but also people of all ages to realise and give voice to their own dreams. We dream that it gives them the belief that no matter how big or small those dreams may be that they are always possible to achieve.





ATD
IRELAND



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The **Unity in the Community Youth Group** in partnership with **ATD Ireland** presents the Ireland I Have a Dream project. The project captured the voices of young people through the facilitation of a variety of creative writing workshops. The voices are represented through rap, spoken word, poems and speeches, all shaping this collection of 'Dreams'.

This creative writing project used Martin Luther King's famous I Have a Dream speech as a source of inspiration and hopes to encourage all those that participated to dream big, never be silent about the thing that matter most to them and ultimately become leaders in their communities.

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