



# Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers' Associations

The Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers' Associations (CAYWA) wants to firstly acknowledge the work of the Council of Europe in recognizing the value of Youth Work and the commitment of Youth Workers to the **human rights** of young people. We acknowledge the Committee of Ministers recommendation to member states

*Adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 31 May 2017 at the 1287<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies*

In acknowledging that work, CAYWA provides further endorsement from the 19 Commonwealth Youth Worker Associations and an endorsement from the Commonwealth Stakeholders Forum who attended the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in August 2017 in Uganda.

The following endorsement based on the declaration of the Council of Europe

- Acknowledging the work undertaken by the youth sector to support youth policies promoting human rights, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, gender equality and the active participation of young people, in particular through the Commonwealth Youth Program and its members. In particular to those young people who are marginalised through their sexuality, identity, citizenship status and ethnicity and/or their social exclusion;
- The sustainability of identity and the Commonwealth's core values (human rights, rule of law and democracy) relies on the creativity, competences, social commitment and contribution of young people and on their confidence in the future as well;
- Government policies should support young people in realising their full potential as autonomous members of society, enabling them to develop life plans and exercise their democratic citizenship;
- Youth work makes an important contribution to active citizenship by providing opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes for civic engagement and social action;
- Recognising the complexities and challenges of transition from childhood to adulthood and autonomy, as well as the decline in opportunities for young people as a result of increasing unemployment, poverty, discrimination and social exclusion;
- Acknowledging the positive contribution of youth workers in all member States to empowering and engaging young people in developing inclusive, democratic and peaceful societies;

CAYWA recommends that the governments of the member States, within their sphere of competence, renew their support for youth work by:

1. Respecting the human rights of all young people as outlined in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.
2. Endorsing the Commonwealth Code of Ethical Practice for Youth Work
3. Ensuring that the establishment or further development of quality youth work, is safeguarded and pro-actively supported within local, regional or national youth policies, as appropriate. Taking into account the diversity of youth work across and within member States, special attention should be paid to the need for strategies, frameworks, legislation, sustainable structures and resources, effective co-ordination with other sectors, as well as to related policies that promote equal access to youth work for all young people. Youth workers and young people should be actively engaged in any planned measures for implementation
4. Establishing a coherent and flexible competency-based framework for the education and training of paid and volunteer youth workers that takes into account, the human rights of young people, existing practice, new trends and arenas, as well as the diversity of youth work. Stakeholders, including youth workers and young people, should be involved in developing this framework
5. Further support the exchange of youth work practices, peer learning and the creation of sustainable networks and partnerships;
  - stimulate co-operation within the youth sector and among sectors and fields of expertise wherever youth work takes place in order to reinforce ties, in particular between formal education and youth work and between public authorities, the private sector and civil society;
  - strengthen the dialogue between youth work, youth policy and youth research;
  - strengthen the capacity of youth work to respond to the changes and trends in our society and the emerging challenges faced by young people;
6. Supporting the development of appropriate forms of review and evaluation of the impact and outcomes of youth work and by reinforcing the dissemination, recognition and impact of the Commonwealth Youth Program.