

Hi everyone,

I have been busy getting to work and pushing forward our manifesto and agenda to the Scottish Government and other organisations.

Last week I took part in the cross parliamentary group on children and young people where I made it clear that I would like the group to focus on the key issues identified by young people in our Manifesto. We agreed we will devote our time over the next few months working on youth unemployment and work experience. At our last sitting the campaign for a National Work Experience program was narrowly beaten by Equal Marriage equality, but that doesn't mean that it isn't a priority for SYP. Youth unemployment in Scotland is a national scandal and we all need to work together to help change that. This group is just one of many different channels I will use to push forward our agenda to the Government and Scottish Political Parties.

As you all know we have just moved offices to Gordon Lamb House and I have to admit it's a good feeling being in our own offices. Hamira and I have been working in the direction that you as MSYPs have set out for us, as well as working on our National Campaign for Marriage Equality. The office space is much more suitable for us as an organisation and it really shows that we are on the up. We have an amazing new membership, a new board that represents that membership, new offices, brilliant staff and the mandate to represent the hundreds of thousands of young people that live in Scotland today!

But obviously we won't just be working in Scotland, we have the ability and the opportunity to influence the British Government through our improving relationships with the British Youth Council and the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Your Vice Chair, Rae Cahill, and I will be going down to Leeds with two other MSYPs to represent the Scottish Youth Parliament at the UKYP's national sitting and we hope to be able to come back here with a great new relationship between our organisations and a new platform to stand up and raise the young people of Scotland's voices higher than ever before.

The past 2 weeks have been amazing serving as your new Chair. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as your chair. I hope this first blog has given you a little bit of an insight into what I have been doing recently and I will be doing these regularly to keep you all updated. Thanks everyone and I can't wait to start working with you all to make this year our year.