WHAT ROLE CAN YOUTH PLAY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION? PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUTH

A publication about diversity and social change would not be complete without including youth perspectives. Youth possess the desire, energy, creativity and capacity to address pressing social issues. They also hold the right to participate in their communities and to have a voice in decisions that will affect their lives. In the field of anti-discrimination, where outcomes may emerge only in the long-term, supporting youth participation by building interest and skills that will translate into the future can ensure the sustainability of efforts. In an effort to highlight the important role that youth occupy in municipalities across the country, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO invited members of its Youth Advisory Group to reflect on the importance of involving youth in anti-discrimination work and what contributions they can most effectively make.

The Youth Advisory Group is composed of 25 young Canadians between the ages of 18 and 30 who are actively involved in their communities. They support the Commission's work by contributing their unique experiences, perspectives, and skills. Youth Advisory Group members originate from across the country and bring insightful perspectives to projects and consultations. The perspectives of six youth from across Canada are captured in this publication. The texts are intended to provide snapshots of the voices of youth who wanted to explore the subtleties of discrimination and share insights on promising initiatives. The texts frame a common aspiration from youth to be included as meaningful partners in efforts to fight discrimination and promote cultural diversity. As their contributions suggest, youth can play an integral role in enhancing the inclusivity of their communities and how best to accomplish this.

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