



Newsletter Issue No. 1, June 2010

London Youth Now (LYN):

Young people promoting **social cohesion** in London

About this newsletter

This newsletter is produced by Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS) as part of its five year Big Lottery funded project: London Youth Now (LYN). It aims to provide inspiration and guidance for involving young people in research and policy work surrounding community cohesion.

Launch of the London Youth Now Project

IARS' new project London Youth Now was officially launched at an event on 29th March 2010. 54 people attended from a range of organisations including the Home Office, Metropolitan Police Service, The Children's Commission and the Ministry of Justice. Participants reported feeling more able to engage young people in their policy and decision making processes as a result of their attendance. Delegates commented that they had learned a great deal from listening to the young people talk about their experiences of youth-led policy work. One individual commented that "The best aspect was seeing the young people's sense of empowerment and believing "Yes we can!"

What is London Youth Now (LYN)?

LYN seeks to develop the capacity of young people and that of organisations working with young people to tackle hate crime and promote community cohesion. By providing young people with opportunities to develop their research skills and deliver youth-led research projects, LYN will encourage young people to establish their own solutions to policy problems associated with hate crime and community cohesion at a local level. LYN strives to demonstrate that by promoting the youth

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IARS staff and volunteers at LYN launch event, March 2010

voice at the policy making table, decisions made to improve community cohesion and to address hate crime are far more likely to have positive outcomes since they reflect the needs and concerns of young people.

LYN is Recruiting for Interns

London Youth Now is currently recruiting young volunteers aged 16 – 25 to participate in this project. No prior experience in research and policy is required and there are no minimum requirements to get involved. For further information please contact Rachel Cass on 020 7960 0213 r.cass@iars.org.uk

Youth Voice Journal

Youth Voice is IARS' youth-led refereed Journal funded by the Big Lottery, London Councils and Matrix Chambers and contains original research carried out by young people. Youth Voice is circulated amongst policy makers, academics and organisations working with young people to highlight the youth perspective on social policy.



The next edition is due for publication at the end of the year with the deadline for submissions being the end of August 2010. If you are interested in contributing a youth-led research piece to the forthcoming edition of Youth Voice please contact Lewis Parle on 020 7902 1924 / L.parle@iars.org.uk. Bursaries may be available for young people making journal contributions. For further information please see www.iars.org.uk/youth-voice

London Youth-led Sector Policy Forum (LYPF)

IARS hosts the London Youth-led Sector Policy Forum, which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and London Councils. The LYPF is made up of London based youth-led organisations, funders, infrastructure organisations and representatives from other sectors and government who work together to raise the profile of youth led work. Current members include British Youth Council, v, Headliners, Y-Gen, London Civic Forum and Southwark Young Advisors (see www.iars.org.uk/policy-forum for more information).

Individuals from organisations both at the front line of youth led project delivery and from organisations promoting meaningful engagement of young people in community action are invited to become members. Forum members will have the opportunity to contribute to important discussions, consultations

and projects regarding young people's key role in the community and at the policy making table. The Forum's activities also focus on the promotion of young people's opportunities around the 2012 Olympics.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to receive further information about the LYPF please contact Alex Molano on 020 7902 1128 / a.molano@iars.org.uk. Alternatively further details are available on our website - www.iars.org.uk.

Important youth-led research report to be released: Young People's Hate Crime Project

July 2010 will see the release of an important youth-led research report exploring issues of race hate and the use of restorative justice in three different cities: London, Liverpool and Bradford. In 2008 IARS started the Young People's Hate Crime Project; a youth-led research project which aimed to explore the causes of race hate incidents in three British cities - Bradford, Liverpool and London - and the potential for restorative justice to be used to remedy such incidents. Restorative justice is an approach to dealing with crime which brings offenders, victims and the community together to repair the harm caused by a specific crime. A group of five young researchers led the project and a total of thirty seven young people participated in focus groups as well as interviews with restorative justice practitioners, Victim Support employees, race hate victims and police officers.



The findings from the research revealed that race hate manifests differently according to the demographics of specific areas. In general racial hatred, in the three cities, was targeted at new comers; particularly refugees and asylum seekers and newly arrived Eastern Europeans. Findings also indicated that when young people experience severe forms of race hate it

diminishes their sensitivity to more minor incidents, such as name calling. Most notably, the majority of young people responded positively to the suggestion that restorative justice could be used to address racial hatred, both within the criminal justice system as well as in the school environment. The youth-led research team also highlighted that the effectiveness of restorative justice would be maximised when integrated within the educational system from primary school age.

A full copy of the Young People's Hate Crime Project will shortly be available on the free online library on IARS' website - www.iars.org.uk.

Project Report: Mediation and Restorative Justice in Prison Settings



IARS has published a report on its European project - Mediation and Restorative Justice in Prison Settings. The report reflects on a study tour that took place between 9th and 11th November 2009. Thirteen Hungarian criminal justice experts attended the tour, the main aim of which was to give an overview of the legislative and policy framework for restorative justice in the UK. The tour also aimed to provide examples of restorative practices taking place both in and out of the formal criminal justice system setting. A full copy of the report is available on the free online library on IARS' website - www.iars.org.uk.

Subscribe to Youth Voice Journal today

IARS' youth-led Journal, Youth Voice, is published twice a year. Youth Voice aims to:

- provide a medium, especially for young researchers and young academics, to inform policy and academia about the youth perspective through evidence based research;
- provide a platform for the intellectual exchange of ideas around the globe with the aim of

influencing policies and practices that affect young people;

- actively encourage and aide those young people whose voice is rarely heard by policy makers to contribute to the journal or be heard through it.

Copies of the last two editions of the Youth Voice Journal can be purchased via the IARS website for £8 per copy. It is also possible to place an annual subscription for the journals for £15 per year. Full details and an order form can be downloaded from the IARS website - www.iars.org.uk/youth-voice

Become a member of IARS

Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS) is a youth-led, non-profit social policy think-tank that was set up in 2001 to give voice to young people to influence policies and practices that affect them. Through our work, IARS supports the Third Sector in achieving community cohesion and in promoting equality, human rights, restorative justice and alternative dispute resolution.

IARS is a membership organisation that relies on feedback and communication with our members to ensure accuracy and accountability in all of the work that we do. Becoming a member of IARS is free and entitles you to the following: (a) the opportunity to be part of high-profile social research, (b) copies of all of IARS' publications and (c) regular updates on all policies affecting the interests of young people (d) membership to the IARS website.

For further information or to request a membership form please contact IARS on contact@iars.org.uk

What's next?

If you would like to contribute case studies or information regarding relevant opportunities or forthcoming events to future London Youth Now newsletters please contact Rachel Cass at IARS. Should you wish for further information about anything featured in this newsletter please get in touch - 020 7960 0213 / r.cass@iars.org.uk. All feedback from the newsletter is welcome via email to the above address.

Disclaimer

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