



Youth As Researchers: exploring the impact of COVID-19

The eruption of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented health crisis, which is disrupting the lives of thousands of individuals, as well as their communities, societies, politics and economies. As this pandemic expands, young people have been amongst those mobilizing as civic agents to shape new forms of solidarity. More than ever, young people demonstrate solidarity, humanism and creativity.

At the same time, young people are amongst those impacted by the current crisis. In terms of mental and physical health, the current crisis, as well as the isolation and confinement measures to address it, may pose significant challenges to young people, particularly those who have preexisting conditions and/or those who cannot access healthcare. In terms of learning, employment and business, young people are facing massive disruptions and changes.

Firm in our commitment to engage meaningfully with young people, UNESCO and the UNESCO Chairs at the National University of Ireland Galway and Penn State University are adapting the “Youth as Researchers” global programme to explore, understand and analyze the impact of this crisis by partnering with young people to investigate how young people are being impacted by, and how they are responding to, the crisis.

Why Youth As Researchers?

This program trains youth and young adults to create and carry out youth-driven social justice research projects to enable and empower them to conduct their own research. *“It is important that young people are involved in researching issues that affect us because we understand and experience these issues ourselves. Conducting research also gives us valuable research skills and experience in doing research”.* Anna Golden, Ireland age 16

How will we do it?

In keeping with the need for social distance to ensure everyone participating stays safe, the training and research will take place online. The training programme will provide the skills needed to design research, collect and analyse data and use this to identify key policy advice. Researchers will be supported by local advisers with experience in social science research and a central team will collect and review the data from all projects. The research itself will use a range of methodologies from online survey tools, virtual focus groups and scanning of news articles. The training will start in June 2020.

Want to get Involved?

Contact yar@unesco.org to get involved.

Young people are also encouraged to share their experiences through video messages. If you would like to submit a message you can do so here [add link when launched]