



MHAIRI MCCANN

AGE: 19 years old FROM: Scotland

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: OPEN MINDEDNESS | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION | CONFIDENCE | COMPASSION | LEADERSHIP

“Looking to the future, so long as I’m making a wee bit of positive change, I think I will be happy with what I am doing.”

Initially, it was my love for animals that motivated me to start taking part in social action when I was ten, by fundraising for the Scottish SPCA through activities including climbing Ben Nevis. I was also part of my primary school’s Eco Committee, before joining the Fairtrade Steering Group at high school. At the time, I didn’t realise these activities were social action - I just got involved because these were issues I cared about and I wanted to do my bit to make a difference.

It was hard finding opportunities in my community. I became involved with the Rights Respecting School Group at school and later took on a leadership role with this group. Having left school, I remain involved to help other young people participate in social action and be human rights defenders.

Looking to the future, so long as I’m making a wee bit of positive change I think I will be happy with what I am

doing. On my gap-year now, I volunteer with several local and national organisations and projects. As part ReRoute: Scotland’s Youth Biodiversity Panel I helped engage young people with nature. I am trying to create opportunities for young people in my area and tackle stigma among older generations as an ambassador for Inverclyde for Scotland’s Year of Young People. I am also a board member on the Renfrewshire Local Area Team.

As one of Scotland’s 100 Disrupters, I will be using funding from the Hunter Foundation to bring young people opportunities in science, technology, mathematics and engineering through the InverSTEM project.

As a Young Adviser for the Children and Young People’s Commissioner for Scotland I helped gather young people’s views to influence his strategic plan.

I absolutely love volunteering - it’s something I get a lot out of, but the best thing about it is being able to help others.



... highlight that it doesn’t matter what your interests or background are, you can get involved with social action and make a positive difference.

