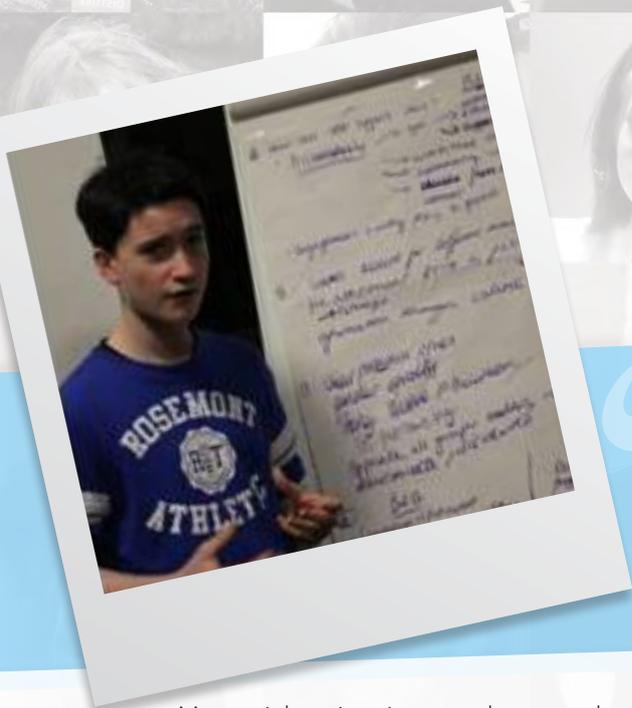


MICHAEL BRYAN

Name: **Michael Bryan**

Age: **13**

Where I Live: **Bournemouth**



“Social action is a brilliant way to help others and build your own character at the same time. I’m proud to say I’ve learnt to be more cooperative and empathetic as a result of taking action, and I’ve seen the positive difference I can make to those less fortunate.”

My social action journey began when I read in the news about the terrible consequences of gender inequality across the world. I believe in a just and tolerant society, and reading about girls who had suffered from FGM and child marriage shocked me into taking action. I felt I couldn’t just sit back and let these things happen, so I decided to do something about it. I got involved with Plan UK, and have since helped them campaign for girls’ rights. I think it’s so important that we stand up to gender equality and fight on behalf of those who are silenced.

I’m also keen to get more young people interested in politics, as I think one of the best ways to campaign for what we believe in is through our democratic system. What’s more, I’ve used my skills to raise money for Cancer Research, and to campaign for the British Youth Council’s ‘Make Your Mark’ campaign.

Social action has allowed me to meet like-minded young people who share my ambitions and hopes for a better world. People who, like me, want to make a difference, and be the change they want to see. I’ve benefitted greatly from the skills I have learnt and I hope I can inspire others to speak out against the unfairness and inequality that’s around us.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Plan UK
- International Youth Council
- British Youth Council
- Cancer Research
- Department for International Development



#iwill encourage others to take part in social action by visiting schools and talking to pupils about the difference they can make. I will also lobby the government to put social action further up on the agenda.