

RURAI DH STEWART

Name: Ruraidh Stewart

Age: 16

Where I Live: Skye & Lochalsh Scotland



“As young people we are in a unique position: we are the generation best-placed to identify and drive our government’s agenda about issues such as education, fair pay, the environment and discrimination. We should all be doing more to ensure that our opinions are helping to inform and influence political debate.”

I am passionate about the environment, local food production, reducing food miles and at least having a choice about whether we eat GMO. My aim in social action has always been to raise awareness of the myriad of issues affecting our future and to contribute to our society.

I first got involved with social action, in 2012, through the Junior Climate Challenge Fund (JCCF) grant panel. As a grant panel member I have helped allocate almost £1m of Scottish Government funding to like-minded young people to mitigate climate change. As a group, the JCCF panel were keen to encourage as many young people as possible to contribute to a greener Scotland. We designed and ran a series of workshops in schools throughout Scotland, demonstrating the benefits of adopting a low-carbon lifestyle.

I was the Highland Youth Legacy Ambassador for the 2014 Commonwealth Games promoting the Games legacy throughout Highland. As a qualified assistant instructor, I train young people and adults at my local sailing club. I work with Highland 3 as a member of the Saltire Award panel and am a member of the local Generations Working Together network. I represent the young people of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament. Through social action I’m now confident speaking in public, making decisions and planning and running events.

Organisations I’ve Participated With

- Young Scot - Main Highland 3
- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club
- Scottish Youth Parliament
- Junior Climate Challenge Fund



#iwill encourage my peers to participate in social action by promoting the benefits of volunteering while visiting schools throughout my local area. As MSYP I will also be encouraging young people to engage in the electoral process.