



Children
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Territorial Justice and Reconciliation Youth Forum

At an ecumenical walk of pilgrimage in April 2023, the then Territorial Commander Commissioner Anthony Cotterill prayed outside the Houses of Parliament that God would, “continue to raise up a generation of leaders in this and other nations with the courage to take responsibility for our rapidly changing climate and the part we have played in it.” This call for justice was not just about climate change, but a rallying cry for a new generation of leaders to speak up and partner with God in righting the wrongs of our world. Believing that prayer should be more than just words, we’re creating a new space and opportunity for young leaders to come together and make change through action.

The Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum will provide a platform for the voice of young people in The Salvation Army and enable young people to participate in seeking justice and reconciliation through The Salvation Army.

It will give young people a forum to highlight justice issues, propose strategies and take action; bringing the justice concerns of the emerging generation to the attention of the leadership of The Salvation Army and increase participation of young people in local, regional and national justice and reconciliation initiatives. The forum members will achieve this by setting a clear agenda, considering items proposed by territorial leadership and by making recommendations to territorial leadership.

Why?

The Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum will exist for the benefit of both its members and the wider organisation, creating space for challenge, growth and transformation. The forum will:

- Foster growth by:
 - Asking members to think about their identity, belonging and purpose when encountering other members.
 - Encouraging members to express their own views.
 - Challenging members to deepen their understanding of the mission of The Salvation Army.
 - Challenging members to be involved in seeking justice and reconciliation.
- Provide support by:
 - Building confidence of the members to take responsibility and action in their communities.
 - Providing training and resources.
- Share power by:
 - Including members in decisions that affect them.



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- Create opportunities for collaboration with other members and those in leadership in the territory.
- Creating opportunities for members to take action and lead.
- Expand possibilities by:
 - Broadening the horizons of the members by exposing them to new experiences, ideas and places.
 - Connecting them with people from different cultures.
 - Inspiring them to see possibilities for their own future and context.
 - Exploring connection with the International Children and Youth Advisory Group and International Social Justice Commission Girls' Group to gain international perspectives and take wider action.

Who

The Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum will be comprised of 12-15 representatives from across the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory. They will be:

- 14-25 years old
- Already passionate about social justice and reconciliation
- Part of a Salvation Army local expression
- Intentionally diverse
- Endorsed by Corps leaders and Divisional representatives
- Appointed for a minimum of 12 months

How?

The Territorial Youth Justice and Reconciliation Forum will meet three times a year; one of which will be in person with the others held virtually (with additional sub-group meetings as required) and will discuss an agenda with items that are set by its members alongside recommendations from Territorial leadership. The forum will lead on recommendations and action but work with others, including young people across the territory, to innovate and implement actions. They will also report to Cabinet when appropriate and any reports and recommendations will be responded to. The group will be supported by the Territorial Co-ordinator for Justice and Reconciliation and the Children and Youth Department.