

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GUC-19 PROJECT

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE...

#1

To recognise and value their right to be heard and to achieve meaningful social change, whether individually through volunteering, or collectively through membership of online and offline youth networks and movements, or creatives and cooperatives focussed on issues of importance to young people.

FOR GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

#2

To ensure the representation of young people on central decision-making forums and committees overseeing the management of the pandemic at a government level, and engaging young people directly in evidence gathering, analysis, dialogue, planning, and formulation of National Recovery Plans.

#3

To review the representation of young people on established national or regional youth democratic participatory structures, to ensure that they actively reflect the diversity of the populations that they aim to serve, and to take action to draw a membership from grassroots organisations and groups, including those that work with vulnerable or marginalised young people.

#4

To establish national minimum standards, setting out and ensuring effective communication of young people's educational entitlements following the COVID-19 pandemic; to establish monitoring mechanisms, and to consider instituting new policies or legislative measures where necessary to ensure that standards are met.

#5

To independently evaluate schools' responses to the COVID-19 crisis, establishing the range of measures taken and their sufficiency; to appraise the relative effectiveness of educational, welfare and safeguarding measures adopted during the crisis, and publish and disseminate the findings.

FOR SCHOOLS, YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

#6

To review the availability and access to mental health and wellbeing services for young people in a post-COVID context, to include consideration of the role and capacity of school-based counselling and therapeutic services and support and to share good practices regarding online support for mental health and wellbeing.

#7

To make a step change in how digital technologies are used within education, looking beyond the immediate crisis to tackle issues of connectivity, access to tech in schools and households, and to invest in digital skills for teachers and young people, being bold and creative to get the best out of tech for learning, wellbeing and inclusion.

#8

To create a school environment which values 'everyday' opportunities for dialogue between professionals and students about their needs and rights for their education and wellbeing during the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, while ensuring that decisions are taken with young people, and that follow-up actions are transparent.

#9

To facilitate young people to create and oversee peer support and self-help forums with regard to coping and thriving during and beyond the pandemic, including support for study groups, wellbeing, and service-user forums.

FOR BROADCASTERS AND THE MEDIA

#10

To redress imbalances in the portrayal of young people during the pandemic, with more young people in journalistic and reporting roles, greater visibility of young people from diverse ages and backgrounds, and a celebration of young people's civic and social actions during the pandemic through personal stories.