



News release: 8 February 2010

Young people grill leading public figures on issues that concern them

Diana Award Question Time

Monday 8 February: TalkTalk HQ, West London, 1.30-5.30pm

Friday 12 February: Barclays, Canary Wharf, 1.30-5.30pm

Up to 100 of the country's most committed and engaged young people will gather in London, on 8 and 12 February, to question leading public figures to find practical solutions to burning youth issues in the run-up to the general election.

Diana Award holders are constantly seeking to change their communities for the better. The results from the Question Time sessions will be published as a "solutions manifesto" to influence Government policy towards young people.

Issues up for discussion include; the negative perception of young people in the media, barriers to young people volunteering, knife crime, binge-drinking and anti-social behaviour, the credit crunch and bullying.

The afternoon debates will include sessions hosted by Jo Confino Executive Editor and Head of Sustainable Development at The Guardian and John Stonborough, Partner, Project Associates.

Panellists include;

Paul Armstrong - Social Media Director, Kindred (Integrated Agency)

Sue Berelowitz - Deputy Children's Commissioner

Dr Tony Breslin – CEO, The Citizenship Foundation

Chris Cloke - Head of Child Protection Awareness, NSPCC

Sir Paul Ennals – Chief Executive, National Children's Bureau

Catherine French – Director of Consumer & Corporate Affairs, Barclays

Georgina Marks – Alumni Manager, The Challenge Network

Helen Walker – CEO, Timebank

Other guests contributing to the Question Time debates include experts concerned with youth issues.

Diana Award Holder, Grace Weaver, says:

"This is our chance to question leading figures on key issues that concern young people. It's not party political. This is about why it matters that young people get involved in coming up with solutions for issues that affect their daily life. All too often you hear about the negative aspect to youth - we want to get our voices heard so we can influence Government and decision makers".

The Diana Award recognises young people – from all circumstances and sections of society - who get off their backsides to change the lives of others. Many disregard their own difficulties to do this. They challenge negative stereotypes of young people and are compassionate and determined to change society for the better. What is more, they have fun doing it!

Underpinning all the Diana Award's work is the alumni programme which supports award holders on their journey into adulthood, helping them fulfill their potential through a tailored programme of mentoring, training and work experience opportunities.

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To attend the Question Time sessions or interviews with award holders, please contact Emma Pelling on: 0207 624 7533 / 07958 558172, epelling@diana-award.org.uk www.diana-award.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The Diana Award was created in 1999 by the Diana Memorial Committee who felt that her belief in the power of young people to change the world, and her desire to reach out to people who might otherwise have been marginalized, should not be allowed to end with her tragic death.

There is an award for everyone; the main **Diana Award** for inspiring individuals, the **Diana Anti-Bullying Award** for young people who have tackled bullying and the **Diana Certificate of Excellence** for groups of young people who have made an exceptional contribution to their community.