Shifting Power: New Frontiers in Youth Participation

Conference Key Messages Statement

Message 1:

Tackle Adultism and Power Imbalances

"[F]or adults to share power and decision making with young people means they must be willing to give up some control about how the work will turn out"
(anon, Padlet input)

Actions for Policy and Practice:



1. Recognise adultism as a form of discrimination that undermines children's rights and participation.
2. Review organisational policies, procedures and decision-making structures to identify and address overt and hidden power imbalances.
3. Value diverse forms of knowledge and expertise, including lived experience.
4. Foster organisational cultures that embrace experimentation, reflection and continuous improvement in participation practice.
5. Embed participation requirements within funding, commissioning and service agreements.
6. Support participation champions at organisational and system levels to lead organisational cultural change.
7. Create mechanisms to share learning, challenges and good practice in youth participation.

"Get comfortable with discomfort"
(anon, Padlet input