

# THINK-TANK

Education, population, poverty, tax...getting views on topics like those in Jersey isn't the difficult part – but have you ever noticed how many people sound eminently credible when talking about them, even though they may actually be basing their views on conjecture, false facts and blind guesswork?

There is a real danger in making the 'facts' fit the opinion, rather than the other way around – which is exactly the point at which someone with an eye on the latest buzzwords will smugly insert the phrase 'post-truth' into the conversation, imagining its actually helpful.

So, we've asked the Jersey Policy Forum to add some robust material to those crucial local debates – the point is not to provoke agreement or acquiescence; it is to provide reliable material on which others can build their views.

By Gailina Liew, Executive Director, Jersey Policy Forum

## Wisdom and youth

As we continue to find our way in a rapidly changing world, the World Economic Forum's founder, Professor Klaus Schwab, posed a question to the Global Shapers Community, an international forum for young people between the ages 20 and 30 established 10 years ago, to kick off the Davos Lab initiative in January 2021:

*"what enduring changes do young people foresee after the pandemic and what would Millennials and Generation Z do differently if they were in charge?"*

Over a period of several months, 19,079 survey responses were received from 187 countries and more than 2.3 million young people from 146 cities in 66 countries engaged in 344 dialogues to address this question with a focus on 10 key pillar issues.

1. Conscious consumerism,
2. Digital access,
3. Digital literacy,
4. Future of politics,
5. Inclusive jobs,
6. Mental health,
7. Net zero,
8. Next generation ESG,
9. Public health, and
10. Public safety.

In August, the Millennial Manifesto was published along with a Youth Recovery Plan with 40 call-to-action points for society, government and businesses (see [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Davos\\_Lab\\_Youth\\_Recovery\\_Plan\\_2021.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Davos_Lab_Youth_Recovery_Plan_2021.pdf) for the full report). The Millennial Manifesto captures how our current generations would like to engage in shaping policy and is based on six timeless principles:

**1. We will create space for intergenerational dialogue.**

We will listen and learn from one another – past, present and future. We will respect the global context and that all parts of the world co-exist. We will share learnings to avoid replication. We will test, iterate and improve our approach to become better leaders and ancestors.

**2. We will ask big questions to advance bold solutions.**

We will take time to learn why structures are the way they are and to know our communities' histories, before we take action. We will recognize that co-creation begins with consultation to understand systems. We will make decision-making information accessible to be truly inclusive.

**3. We will pursue systems change and collective action.**

We will build bridges within and across communities to strengthen the structures that work and dismantle those that don't. We will set ambitious goals and move from talk to action. We will focus on local changes that can lead to global transformations and celebrate our progress.

**4. We will make space for diverse lived experiences.**

We will build authentic relationships with communities most impacted by inequities and injustices. We will acknowledge why we care about issues and who we are in relation to them. We will join forces, share power and make decisions in open and transparent ways.

**5. We will embrace uncomfortable conversations.**

We will surrender our privilege and give everyone a seat at the table. We will engage to listen, understand and co-create solutions. We will create brave spaces for ideas to be heard, questioned and challenged. We will recognize the complex intersectionality of social change.

**6. We will care for ourselves, others and our ecosystem.**

We will be kind and considerate. We will practise self- and community-care. We will safeguard mental health and well-being. We will find balance between patience and impatience. We will be authentic, vulnerable and radically inclusive. We will protect our planet and common future.

The Youth Recovery Plan sets out 40 action points to address the 10 key pillar areas of focus. The full report is well worth a read. As Prof. Schwab notes in his summary of the report:

"...transparency, accountability, trust and a focus on stakeholder capitalism will be key to meeting this generation's ambitions and expectations. Only by working together, across divides, can we build the more resilient, inclusive and sustainable society and economy we need in the post-COVID-19 world."

Although this initiative was intended to clarify the policy agenda for youth around the world, the principles and many of the action points can be applied locally - something to ponder as Jersey heads into a general election next year.

**Young people are demonstrating conscious consumerism and calling on others to do so too.**

Youth want:

1. Policy-makers to incentivize sustainable consumption and penalize production that's not
2. Corporate accountability and executive compensation following specific ESG targets
3. Investors to work with consumer groups to transform the way big business operates
4. All stakeholders to take urgent action to safeguard nature and future food production.

**Young people have an ambitious plan to connect half the world's unconnected by 2025.**

Youth want:

5. A US\$ 2 trillion Digital Access Plan to increase global internet connectivity to over 80%
6. Telecoms to provide affordable data priced at no more than 2% of monthly GNI per capita
7. Sanctions against institutions that resort to internet blackouts to suppress citizen freedoms
8. Activists to share connectivity indicators to put digital inequity higher on the global agenda.

**Young people are tired of misinformation and won't tolerate dangerous online views.**

Youth want:

9. Tech companies to be transparent about misinformation and its spread on their platforms
10. Governments to implement policies to protect individual citizens against harmful content
11. Media entities to appoint trusted flaggers and experts to identify misleading information
12. Capacity-building programmes and education to help citizens better identify fake news.

**Young people are fearful about the future of democracy and see politics worsening.**

Youth want:

13. Philanthropic donors to support young progressive voices into government
14. Strengthened laws against media monopolies to protect democratic freedoms
15. A Global Convention for Cybersecurity to uphold the integrity of political systems
16. Capacity-building and incubation programmes to ignite ambitious policy-making.

**Young people are calling for a global wealth tax and more resilient social safety nets.**

Youth want:

17. A global wealth tax on assets worth more than US\$ 50 million to fight growing inequality
18. Tax credits for companies and investors who spend revenue on reskilling employees
19. Universities to end the exorbitant tuition fees that stifle social mobility
20. Universities to reformed curricula for job acquisition in today's labour market.

**Young people are speaking up about mental health and ending the stigma associated with it.**

Youth want:

21. Governments to guarantee universal access to mental health services
22. Investors to support mental health awareness campaigns to reduce stigma
23. University curricula to tackle the mental health crisis growing on campuses
24. Media entities to shape positive perceptions and attitudes about mental health.

**Young people will do whatever it takes to limit global warming to 1.5°C.**

Youth want:

25. Governments to invest in communities most at risk from climate change
26. Financial institutions to stop bankrolling companies initiating fossil fuel exploration
27. Companies to significantly reduce the GHG emissions of their operations and supply chains to help keep global heating within 1.5°C
28. All stakeholders to ensure accountability for urgent green recovery plans.

**Young people are calling for transparency and a focus on stakeholder capitalism.**

Youth want:

29. Governments to implement fit-for-purpose policies and regulations on big tech
30. Universities to ensure ESG literacy is integrated into business and tech curriculums
31. Companies to integrate technology ethics into the design of their products and services
32. Incubators to provide ESG upskilling to early-stage founders to deliver long-term value.

**Young people are promoting equitable access to healthcare worldwide.**

Youth want:

33. World leaders to safeguard equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines
34. Governments to prioritize the immediate needs of healthcare workers and their families
35. Companies to drive digitalization in healthcare services to improve patient care
36. Increased support for community health workers to rebuild public trust in health systems.

**Young people demand an end to militarized policing against activists and people of colour.**

Youth want:

37. Governments to end qualified immunity in law enforcement for police officers
38. Increased action against gun violence, including bans on homemade firearms
39. All stakeholders to take a stand to end domestic sexual and physical violence
40. Criminal justice training reform to protect the safety of vulnerable communities.