

## The Youth Changemaker Network Mission Statement

### *Foreword*

In a world where young voices often go unheard, Ashoka's Youth Changemaker Network envisions a world in which every young person in the UK feels hopeful about their future as changemakers. We believe passionately that youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the changemakers of today.

Our mission is clear: to harness the expertise and lived experiences of young people to drive meaningful change across sectors. Together with government, civil society, education, media, corporations, and grassroots communities, we want to build a movement where youth voices and experiences play a role in driving systemic change.

***Purpose: This part states why the network exists and what it aims to achieve.***

We recognise and acknowledge that young people are experts when it comes to things that affect them. The Youth Changemaker Network exists to affect and influence change by creating opportunities for young people to collaborate with:

- Government; local authorities, mayors, policymakers
- Civil sector organisations & local grassroots communities; social entrepreneurs
- Education; teachers, school leaders, teachers' unions, universities
- Funders; existing funders and prospective funders
- Media & Culture; creators, journalists,
- Corporates; changemaker companies, corporate partners

### ***Who is the network for?***

- Young changemakers aged between 18-26
- With lived experience growing up in the UK

### ***Values and Principles***

The Youth Changemaker Network is guided by our CORE Framework:

- Collaboration & Co-Creation
- Openness
- Respect
- Equity

### ***Our Unique Position***

The Youth Changemaker Network is powered by Ashoka and supported by the Edge Foundation. We work to engage all relevant stakeholders in solving pressing global issues through unconventional partnerships to solve conventional problems. Our work is guided by the principle of co-creation, which we believe enables the creation of truly collaborative solutions. At the heart of our mission lies the drive to form unconventional partnerships to solve conventional problems, engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing systemic challenges. Our unique methodology of co-creation fosters the development of collaborative solutions, emphasizing the importance of listening to the wisdom of young people and recognizing their critical voice. We believe in individual and social transformation, understanding that the journey begins within ourselves and our systems. Leveraging Ashoka's convening power, we provide access to opportunities and nurture the changemaker within everyone, encouraging learning from and with each other. Our flexible tiers of engagement allow members to participate according to the rhythms of their other commitments, ensuring a dynamic and inclusive community.

### ***Scope of Operations: This outlines the boundaries or areas where the network operates***

The Youth Voice Network is based in the UK and our offering includes:

- 4 in-person convenings per year
- 1 community building activity
- At least 10 public speaking and facilitation opportunities
- 2 networking opportunities with other changemakers (peer-to-peer)
- 1 opportunity for collaborating with other youth networks

### ***Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion***

Ashoka envisions a world free of systemic oppression in which everyone has access to resources, voice, power, and safety, but achieving this vision depends on addressing the structural, institutional, and historical barriers that have marginalised various communities, including women, Black people, Indigenous people and People of Color, religious minorities, people with disabilities, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, young people, people from financially disadvantaged and working-class backgrounds. Our unique position, global reach, and systemic impact give us the opportunity and responsibility to ensure that all our efforts are rooted in consciousness and awareness, reflecting the values and the world we promote at Ashoka, and committed to making these barriers visible.