

It's Our City To- Our Voice and Rights Matter to

Multiple, youth-led movements, making a major difference across our world

A student-led demonstration, battling climate-change now being globally unfurled

Tighter weapon-controls, increasing campaigns to stop knife-crime are also constant drives

Two million young people marched against violence, to preserve theirs and other's lives

Democratic participation, a matter of Human Rights, should always to be a major political priority

With we young people, being considered equal members of our UK democratic society?

Adults act as barriers, to stop children and young people from realising their equal rights

Seeing children as their property, a group not to be trusted, these are ongoing slights

Speaking the right words in meetings while taking action to restrict us in their civic space

Planning, leading and directing chosen outcomes, false inclusion, its nothing but a disgrace

Democratic participation, a fundamental Right for all, is given to a selected minority

Why aren't we as young people, allowed to be equal members of the democratic society?

To stop our contributions, they patronise, us saying - 'All Rights come with Responsibilities'

As they feign acting for our good, holding and wielding power, whilst suppressing our capabilities

These adults, make wars, damage our earth and democracy, yet their rights are still preserved

Their democratic and human rights, are automatic, no matter how ill deserved

For those of 18 plus, democratic voting, is a hard-won Human Right, given under UK legal authority

Yet a change in the law, to 16, will help young people be equal members of democratic society?

No society can be considered truly democratic and participatory without meaningful inclusion

As citizens, young people need this real proper civic platform, not some mock-up, false, illusion

Give us respectful engagement to effect change and to influence social and political places

Let us be peers and partners in civil society, aiding improving democracy and democratic spaces

As a multicultural City, we respect and value all, let participation be our collective priority

Young people to deserve more inclusion in the shaping of Sheffield's democratic society

Molly Meleady-Hanley Age 16

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