

UNICEF works in some of the world’s toughest places, to reach the world’s most disadvantaged children. To save their lives. To defend their rights. To help them fulfil their potential. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for everyone. UNICEF is the world’s largest children’s humanitarian organisation.

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| Job Title | Youth Engagement Officer  |
| Reporting To | Head of Child Rights Advocacy and Education  |
| Location | Dublin-based with hybrid working policy |
| Hours | 37.5 hours a week  |
| Salary Range | €35,000 |
| Duration | Fixed-term contract until June 2026  |

UNICEF Ireland’s Advocacy Programme is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Our mission is to advance the rights of children in Ireland and around the world through child rights education, youth participation, and policy-driven advocacy. We envision a world where every child, especially the most vulnerable, has the opportunity to survive, thrive, and actively participate in society.

We are seeking a **Youth Engagement Officer** to support and strengthen our work with children and young people. The successful candidate will be passionate about youth participation and committed to creating inclusive, empowering spaces where young voices are respected, valued, and amplified. Reporting to the Head of Child Rights Advocacy and Education, the Youth Engagement Officer will support delivery of youth engagement initiatives that equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to champion children’s rights and to engage meaningfully in public dialogue and decision-making at local, national, and global levels.

**Responsibilities**

**Youth Engagement and Participation:**

* Support the design and delivery of workshops and interactive learning sessions that strengthen young people’s understanding of children’s rights and develop their confidence, communication, and advocacy skills
* Facilitate opportunities for young people to connect, collaborate and share their views on issues that matter to them, including through structured programmes and youth-led initiatives.
* Help create and maintain safe, inclusive spaces — both online and in person — where young people can participate meaningfully in dialogue and decision-making.
* Help amplify youth voices across UNICEF Ireland’s platforms and broader public forums, ensuring their contributions are visible, valued and impactful.
* Assist in developing tools, resources, and opportunities that empower young people to participate meaningfully in public life and advocate for change.
* Support young people in developing their own messages, campaigns, and advocacy efforts — including where they aim to influence policy change — and help facilitate opportunities for engagement with decision-makers and relevant stakeholders.

**Programme Coordination and Support**

* Support the development of communications and advocacy materials that reflect youth priorities and perspectives.
* Provide administrative and operational support to ensure the smooth running of participation programmes.
* Monitor and document activities, gathering feedback from young participants to inform continuous improvement.

**Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement**

* Support relationship-building with schools, youth organisations, and other partners to broaden participation and reach.
* Represent UNICEF Ireland in youth-focused networks, events and working groups.

**Operational and Team Support**

* Contribute to reporting processes including inputs for UNICEF’s Joint Strategic Plan (JSP).
* Uphold UNICEF Ireland’s safeguarding policy and participate in regular safeguarding training and updates.
* Contribute to team meetings, board updates, and UNICEF’s international youth participation network activities.

**Person Specification**

**Relevant Experience:**

* Experience working directly with young people in a participatory, youth development, or education setting.
* Experience designing or delivering programmes that promote youth voice, rights, or civic engagement.
* Experience applying safeguarding practices and child protection principles in a youth or education context (training desirable)

**Specific Knowledge**

* Strong understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of meaningful youth participation.
* Awareness of the political, social and policy contexts affecting children and young people in Ireland and globally.

**Specific Skills:**

* Excellent facilitation and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage respectfully and effectively with young people from diverse backgrounds.
* Highly organised, with excellent time management and attention to detail.
* Effective communication skills (written and verbal), including the ability to create accessible and youth-friendly materials.
* Confidence using digital tools and platforms to support programme delivery and communication (e.g. Microsoft Office, Sharepoint, Miro or similar).

**Disposition**

* Commitment to equity, inclusion, and youth-led approaches.
* Enthusiastic, flexible and proactive, with a strong commitment to empowering young people.
* Open to feedback and committed to ongoing learning and professional development.
* Shares and demonstrates the values and principles of UNICEF and the UNCRC.

**Terms of Employment**

This is a fixed term contract until 30 June 2026. UNICEF Ireland operates a hybrid work policy, with the office based in Dublin. Occasional travel within Ireland will be required to support events and youth engagement activities.

Start date: As soon as possible.

*UNICEF Ireland is committed to adhering to the highest standards of child protection and child safeguarding. UNICEF reserves the right not to employ staff or engage volunteers or other representatives who are deemed to pose or potentially pose a risk to the protection of children, to the full extent permitted by law. Additionally, all candidates must sign UNICEF Ireland’s Child Protection Policy & Procedures before commencing employment, engaging as a volunteer, intern, consultant or representative of UNICEF Ireland.*

**To apply please submit your CV & a cover letter via email to:**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the position will remain open until filled — early applications are strongly encouraged. To apply please email Aibhlín O’Leary at aibhlin@unicef.ie.