



INSIGHT

**During the COVID-19 lockdown,
86% of young people connected
with peers from communities they
would not normally meet.
(YouthAction NI, 2020).**

**60% of young people believed
that their friends and their
attitudes often hold them back
from meeting others.
(YouthAction NI, 2020)**

Financial security is a common concern among young people, who worry about supporting their families and maintaining their quality of life and livelihoods across many countries.

**(Next Generation
British Council 2022)**

**Gender-based discrimination
remains pervasive and impacts
educational options, career
choices and employment
prospects for women.**

**(Next Generation
British Council 2022)**

**Global terrorism was of great concern, with 69% of the total number of participants stating they were ‘quite concerned’ or ‘very concerned’ about the issue.
(Next Generation Report,
British Council, 2018)**

**61% of children and young people
were unsure if they would seek
help if affected by domestic abuse,
and did not know where they
would access this help.
(Women's Aid, 2023)**

**70% of young people aged 13-17
met real-world violence online in
the past year.
(Youth Endowment Fund, 2024)**

**There are currently over 130 active armed conflicts and regional wars globally, the highest since WWII, involving 60 countries and countless non-state actors in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas.
(Geneva Academy, 2025)**

**More than three-quarters (76%)
of young people think that religion
will always make a difference
in how people feel about
each other.**

(NI Life and Times Survey, 2025)

**Over 10% of STEM students noted
a desire to “help people” as a
driving factor in their career goals.
(Zhou and Shirazi, 2025)**

**About 60% of 15–19-year-olds
reported experience with heavily
drinking alcohol. (WHO, 2025)**

**Korea has the largest gender wage gap (31.2%) in the OECD world.
(OECD, 2024)**

**64% of young people expressed
concern or strong concern about
global security.
(World Economic Forum, 2025)**

When asked about the Northern Ireland peace process, children and young people believed they are actively influencing the process, but are often denied access at formal levels.
(Abidi, 2025)

**Two-thirds of U.S. adults don't
have a bachelor's degree.
At some large firms, however,
fewer than 1 in 700 new hires
came from that majority.
(U.S. Census 2020;
HBS Research, 2025)**

**Pivotal Research in NI (2021)
indicates that only 10.5% of young
people agreed that politicians in
Northern Ireland do a good job of
representing the issues that matter
to them.**

**Pivotal Research in NI shows
that most young people agreed
that that they would prefer young
people from different backgrounds
to be educated together (63.5%).**

**The portion of young people who agreed with the statement “I think it is our duty to provide protection to refugees who are escaping persecution in their home country”, decreased from 60% in 2017 to 51% in 2025.
(NI Executive Office)**

**Almost two thirds (64%) of
young people agreed that people's
perceptions of refugees and
asylum seekers are negatively
affected by the media.
(NI Executive Office, 2025)**

**In 2025, only 33% of young people
wanted more opportunities to
get to know asylum seekers or
refugees, down from 44% in 2023.
(NI Executive Office, 2025)**

Total outstanding USA student loan debt is \$1.86 trillion. Average student loan debt per borrower is \$37,400. The US has the highest level of educational debt; the UK is second. (Federal Student Aid Report, Dept of Education)

**The Children and Youth Services
Review indicates that LGBTQ+
16-year-olds consistently felt a
lesser sense of belonging
and influence than their
non-LGBTQ+ counterparts.
(Queens University, Belfast 2024)**

While 70% of young adults in South Korea have completed tertiary education, young, educated adults struggle to enter employment. (OECD, 2026)

**An estimated 80% of people
displaced by climate change
globally are women.
(UN women, 2025)**

