



**UNA YOUTH**

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Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Education  
Castle View House  
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cc. Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 2AA

19 August 2013

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing on behalf of the United Nations Association Youth (UNA Youth) movement with regard to the proposed programmes of study for Citizenship under the National Curriculum.

UNA Youth is a UK-wide network of 18-26-year-olds who are passionate about global affairs. We believe it is of the utmost importance that young people in Britain today are equipped to navigate our interconnected world, and play an active role in building a safer, fairer and more sustainable future. It is our generation, and those who follow us, who will need to tackle the deep challenges facing the world – economic, environmental, developmental and security-related, dubbed 'generational challenges' by the UN Secretary-General. To overcome these challenges, we will need coordinated global decision-making and initiatives, which only the UN can facilitate.

We therefore urge you to retain references to the UN in the Citizenship curriculum. Not enough young people in this country understand this vital institution, let alone know how to engage with it. We know how important it is for British youth to appreciate how the UK operates internationally, and the impact that international issues and decisions have on their lives. Above all, we know that young people must be empowered to take meaningful action not just in their own communities, but as the global citizens we all now are.

As recent school leavers, we wish that we had been given the chance to learn more about the issues and institutions that really matter to our future. This is why UNA Youth members around the country support the work of our parent organisation, UNA-UK, in providing opportunities for school students to learn about the UN and build key skills like public speaking, negotiation and drafting through Model UN events. But there are only so many schools we can reach, which is why the National Curriculum is so vital.

A copy of UNA-UK's submission to the consultation on the curriculum is attached for information. We hope to receive a positive response!

Yours sincerely,

Apurv Gupta  
President, UNA Youth Council 2013-14