

RedC Poll: Public Says Politicians Out of Touch with Youth Issues (<https://www.activelink.ie/node/111875>)



NYCI urges action on housing, cost of living, and youth work funding

New research conducted by RedC for the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) highlights a widespread public belief that politicians are out of touch with the challenges young people face today. The survey reveals significant concerns about issues such as the housing crisis, the rising cost of living, and the underfunding of youth work services. It also shows that many believe politicians are unaware of the crucial role youth work services play in supporting young people.

The poll found that **most people disagree** with the idea that life for young people in Ireland today is easier than it was in recent decades. The findings also show that **82% of respondents** believe the housing crisis in Ireland **disproportionately impacts young people**, placing significant strain on their ability to become independent.

In addition to housing, the poll uncovered gaps in **access to youth work services**. **Almost half of young people under 24** report that access to youth work services in their area is **poor**, while just over a third rate access as **good**. These findings point to the pressing need for increased investment in youth work services across Ireland.

There is also a strong perception that **current government funding and policies** aimed at supporting youth work do not go far enough. The public believes that politicians are out of touch with the needs of young people, with **72% of adults agreeing that politicians have a lack of awareness** about youth work services.

The poll sets the tone for the NYCI's campaign to drive meaningful policy change, starting with the **need for better structures for youth in government**. The data reveals that **81% of the public** believe there should be more **young people represented in the Dáil**, while **91% of young people under 24** want their voices heard in national policies that directly affect them.

The polling results further highlighted several **key issues facing young people** in Ireland today:

- **Housing Crisis:** 82% of people believe that the housing crisis in Ireland disproportionately impacts young people. The public overwhelmingly agrees that the government's housing policies are failing to address this issue, leaving young people unable to secure affordable accommodation.
- **Cost of Living:** The rising cost of living continues to hit young people the hardest, with **74% of adults** agreeing that young people face **disproportionate financial pressures**.
- **Employment Challenges:** Access to stable jobs remains a significant concern for young people, with many citing **inadequate employment supports**.
- **Mental Health Services:** The majority of adults (**58%**) believe that **mental health services for young people are insufficient**, with only a minority considering these services to be effective in addressing youth mental health issues.
- **Food Poverty:** Worryingly, food poverty continues to affect young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, as rising living costs make it harder for families to provide for their basic needs.

Kathryn Walsh, spokesperson for the NYCI, said:

"This polling clearly shows the disconnect between government policies and the real challenges young people face in Ireland today. Budget 2025 failed to address critical issues like the housing crisis, rising cost of living, and underfunded youth work services, leaving young people feeling unsupported and overlooked.

"The next Government must prioritise youth work and young people by establishing robust youth structures and policies to address the challenges faced by young people in Ireland. This way Government can ensure that the voices of young people

are heard and their needs are met, fostering a supportive environment for their development and future contributions to society.”

The NYCI is calling for immediate action to address these critical issues, starting with increased funding for youth work services and a commitment to strengthen youth representation in government decision-making. The findings from this poll will be used to inform NYCI’s upcoming manifesto, which will outline key policy changes aimed at creating a better future for young people in Ireland.

Region

Nationwide

[More information \(https://www.youth.ie/articles/redc-poll-public-says-politicians-out-of-touch-with-youth-issues/\)](https://www.youth.ie/articles/redc-poll-public-says-politicians-out-of-touch-with-youth-issues/)

Date Entered/Updated

31st Oct, 2024

Expiry Date

14th Dec, 2024

Source URL: <https://www.activelink.ie/community-exchange/news/111875-redc-poll-public-says-politicians-out-of-touch-with-youth-issues>