



SIMRAN SANGHERRA

AGE: 18 years old FROM: England

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: SOCIAL JUSTICE | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION | COOPERATION | LEADERSHIP | COMMUNICATION

"I took up social action because I could see the benefits peer to peer learning had and the significant impact that youth voice has both in school and, beyond that, within the local community."

As a member of the NHS Youth Forum I campaign for better peer support networks and involving children and young people more in decision making. I am passionate about calling on healthcare providers to increase the opportunities for social action and youth volunteering. I am also a member of Youth for Change, a project that campaigns to tackle gender-based violence.

Inspired by friends who took part in social action, I started doing the same at school when I was 13, firstly as a PAL for upcoming Year 7 classes as a mentoring student, and then as a literacy mentor to younger students. Completing my Duke of Edinburgh Award, I really enjoyed the volunteering component through which I worked with Blaby District Council and went on to be their chair and then recruitment officer.

I took up social action because I could see the benefits peer-to-peer learning had and the significant impact that youth

voice has both in school and, beyond that, within the local community.

My social action took a more political turn as I joined County Youth Council Leicestershire and became an elected member representing Leicestershire in the UK Youth Parliament, campaigning to increase awareness of and tackle hate crime, support for victims and to encourage greater reporting.

I also developed a mental health campaign to increase education on emotional health and wellbeing and established a mental health ambassadors programme.

As a member of 50:50 Parliament I campaigned for a gender balance in UK Parliament.

I have developed confidence to make meaningful change through taking part in social action as well as better project management and communication skills, and I have encouraged other young people to campaign for issues they care about.

