

## ADVOCACY POINTS

### Volunteering

- Volunteering should be adequately resourced in order to provide an enabling infrastructure for volunteering
- Volunteering should be recognised as a valuable pathway to stable and meaningful employment
- Volunteering should not have any adverse effects on benefits or welfare
- Cross-border and international volunteering should be accessible for all
- Cross-border and international volunteering should promote global solidarity between people
- Volunteering should not replace statutory services and instead should be seen as complementary to publically-provided services.
- Considering the demographic changes in Europe, we must invest in inclusive volunteering opportunities for young people
- Volunteering is a vital element of achieving social justice and common good for all people
- Volunteering is a “glue” that brings diverse people together and ensures social cohesion in communities across Europe and in the world
- The social impact of volunteering should be valued and measured, and given as much importance as the economic value of volunteering
- Volunteering should have positive recognition
- We promote the development of expertise on volunteering

### Active Citizenship

- Active citizenship should be taught at all ages within educational settings
- Communities should be well resourced in order for active citizenship to occur
- Active citizenship should not be restricted to a national view but take a global perspective
- Active citizenship should not be used by government to further their own agenda
- The social, individual and political elements of active citizenship should all be recognised
- Active citizenship is both a right and responsibility of all people
- Active citizens are not just people with passports – they are active contributors to the common good of their communities
- To ensure meaningful engagement of all people in the life of their communities – at local, regional, national and European level – their active participation must be ensured through accessible, understandable and meaningful civil dialogue
- Civil dialogue must not only be top-bottom – it must include bottom-up approaches to ensure people’s voices are heard at all levels
- Young people, particularly those coming from challenging backgrounds, should be given accessible, inclusive and supportive opportunities to become active citizens and ambassadors for their communities

- Barriers to active citizenship should be identified, challenged and removed.
- Voting, even if it means spoiling or returning the ballot paper, should be encouraged

### **Social Justice**

- Economic models of growth in Europe and elsewhere must include and respect social rights of people
- To achieve common good for all, there can be no inclusive and smart growth without social justice
- Volunteering and active citizenship are essential mechanisms which uphold European values and help achieve meaningful social justice for all people
- Solidarity with those within and outside of Europe must take into consideration the migration patterns and migration realities of Europe and the world
- Integration of migrants means including them in the building of communities which become stronger economically and socially and culturally inclusive.
- All Council of Europe members should adhere to the European Convention of Human Rights and all EU members should adhere to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- People should not be discriminated against, nor their welfare and well-being constrained or prejudiced on the bases of gender, sexuality, religion and belief, political affiliations age, race, disability, location, social class, socio economic circumstances, or other characteristic of background or group membership.
- Balanced and democratic European Integration and fair globalisation should be promoted
- Social justice is promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity