

# HOT TOPICS – AUGUST 2021

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

**International Youth Day takes place each year on 12 August!!**

Before you read this month's Hot Topic, please stop and consider for a minute or two, what you think the purpose of International Youth Day is.

Now read on to see how your thoughts compare with the description below...

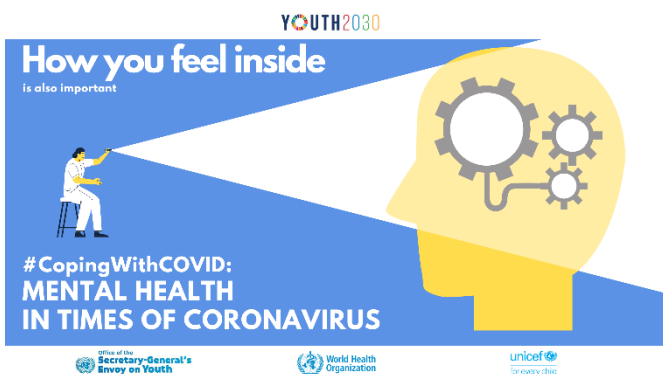
... International Youth Day "is celebrated annually on 12 August to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society" [Source: [Event: International Youth Day 2021 | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD](#)]

How does this affect your role as a police officer? In 2020, the Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner explained that it is the duty of the police service to "listen to and encourage all young people in our communities and work together to build a better and bright future" [Source: [Facebook](#)]

**THINK ABOUT!!**

So, what do you think might be some of the current issues that affect our youth? You may consider, for example, the impact of the global pandemic on employment.

According to the United Nations (UN), "recent estimates suggest that 600 million jobs would have to be created over the next 15 years to meet youth employment needs" [Source: [International Youth Day | United Nations](#)]. Or what about mental health? The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF, hosted a series of webinars to help young people manage COVID-19 and take care of their mental health.



You can access the previously recorded webinars here: [#CopingWithCOVID: A webinar series on young people and mental health – Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth](#)

Each year, International Youth Day has a theme. The theme for 2021 is "**Transforming Food Systems: Youth innovation for human and planetary health**". Why is this important? The UN state that the "world population is expected to increase by 2 billion people in the next 30 years. As a result, challenges other than just producing a larger volume of healthier food must be addressed. This includes confronting poverty, social inclusion, health care, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation". Now that you have a better understanding of some of the issues facing younger people at the moment, take a moment to reflect further how this may affect you both as an individual and as a police officer. For statistical purposes, the UN "defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years" [Source: [Frequently asked questions | United Nations For Youth](#)] (those under that age would be defined as children). It is acknowledged that these definitions may contradict with other legal definitions.

Whilst you consider the impact this might have on you, think also about how this issue fits in with equality and the protected characteristics. You should also think about how these issues and the opinions voiced by those that are affected sit with the British Values. You may have to deal, for example, with allegations of discrimination, or harassment or victimisation.

As a police officer, you will speak to young people, who may seek your advice and guidance. Think about the types of situations where this might happen?

You may wish to encourage them to join the volunteer police cadets (VPC) – these are young people aged 10 to 18, that come together with police officers to learn about policing. This can help to build trust and positive relationships with young people.



Remember, "Youth can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive. Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. By 2030 ... the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion" [Source: [International Youth Day | United Nations](#)]