An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

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Tori Trower AI Speech

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Hello, my name is Tori Trower, I am 18 years old and a representative of the Irish Youth Council. For me AI encompasses positives, negatives and uncertainty, or in other words the good, the bad and potentially, the ugly.

As young people, we experience 'the good' of AI in so many ways today. For many of us it plays a massively beneficial role in our education, only yesterday I was using it to help practice my French pronunciation! With information available at the push of a button, AI has the potential to educate young people no matter where they are, overcoming the necessity for in person interaction.

AI undoubtedly acts as a positive to supplement our learning but 'the bad' presents itself when it is used as a means of replacement. As a final year student in secondary school, I am doing my leaving certificate this year, our state entrance exams to university in Ireland. Many of our results come from project work and there is a fear that AI may replace students' own authentic work. Yes, AI is available to us, but surely that does not mean we should use it to replace our own intellectual capabilities? At present there is no control over how young people are using AI, which is particularly worrying as we hear reports of children turning to ChatGPT for friendship and emotional advice.

However, I believe 'the ugly' aspect of AI and possibly the most worrying part is its lack of transparency. AI is often difficult to detect for young people. How do we know if what we are seeing on our social media feeds is AI generated or real? We are all victims of our environment and AI is influencing all of us, often without our knowing.

In Ireland, we have had these discussions about AI and young people have made recommendations to government departments during a consultation in 2022. I hope to bring some of those recommendations into a European context and further these discussions today.

As we enter conversation, I believe we must consider educational access to AI for all young people and safeguards, potentially including age restrictions that protect young people from the dangers AI can pose. AI should not be a replacement for knowledge or a threat to our critical thinking, but an aid that will allow all young people to reach their full potential.