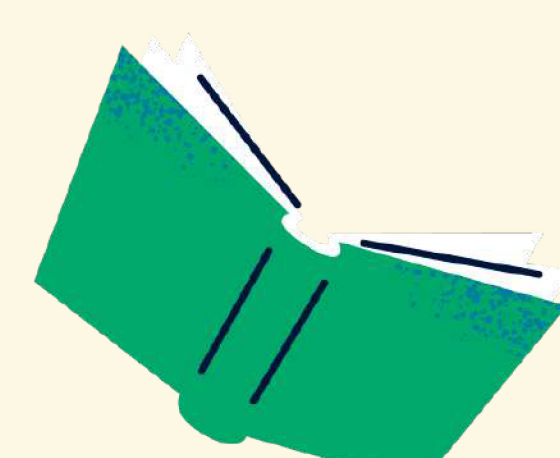
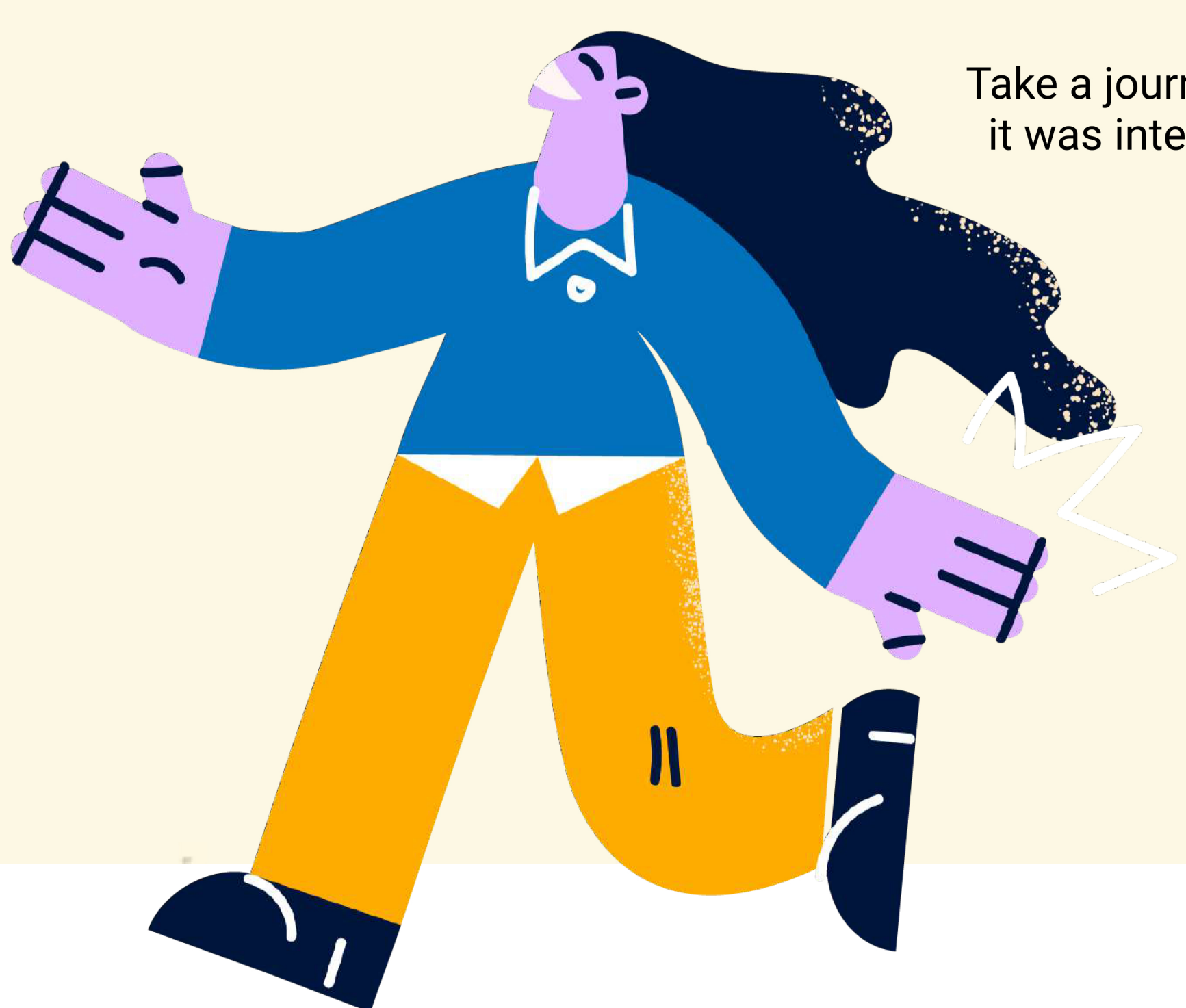


Empowering Youth for Climate Peace: The Youth COP Initiative in Wales

Wales witnessed a remarkable initiative that brought together young minds and educators to tackle two crucial issues: **peace and climate change**.

Take a journey through the Youth COP event in Wales, read about the theme it was intended to address, the actions taken, the main objectives, the key lessons learnt, and the incredible success achieved!



The theme

Climate change is more than an environmental crisis; it's a global threat to peace and security. As resources become scarcer and climate migration intensifies, tensions among nations rise. The future of our planet and the peace it holds dear are at stake.

Recognizing this challenge, learners aged 14-18 and teachers from across Wales came together to confront this dual problem: peace in the face of a climate crisis.



The action taken

The Youth COP initiative in Wales was a beacon of hope and action. It involved collaboration with Peace Ambassador groups, which provided a platform to reflect on the impact of climate migration and the growing tensions among countries due to resource scarcity. Before the event, learners from different schools were assigned countries to represent and had to research what environmental challenges these countries face.

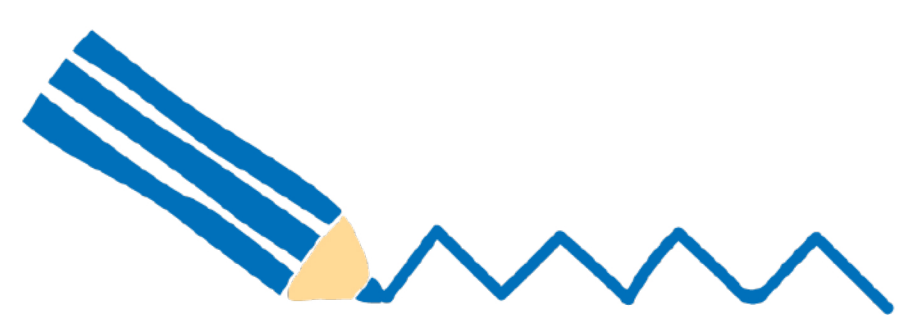
The Youth COP event took place at Cardiff City Hall, where young learners and teachers made opening statements, sharing the devastating impact of the climate crisis on the countries they represented, and presenting their visions for the conference's outcomes.

The heart of the initiative was the negotiation of solutions to the climate crisis and the proposal of international resolutions, mimicking the annual United Nations COP meetings. The participants also cooperated in real time to make pledges about actions they could take going forward in their own schools and communities to make a real change to the world around them.



Main goals

- Foster empathy and cooperation skills among youth.
- Address the intertwined issues of climate change and peace.
- Encourage intentional cooperation and diplomacy.
- Empower young learners to be proactive global citizens.



Key learnings

Bringing together students, teachers, and Peace Ambassadors from diverse regions of Wales provided a multi-faceted perspective on the threats posed by climate change to global peace. It illustrated the significance of international cooperation and diplomacy in addressing these challenges.

The event also offered valuable concrete proposals for local action, highlighting that a collection of voices, particularly from youth, can make a significant difference in shaping the future.



Success and impact

The Youth COP initiative in Wales sparked a wave of enthusiasm and activism among the youth, fostering a deep sense of responsibility towards our planet. Since the event, the Peace program has evolved, encompassing regular meetings, action plans to implement ideas in local communities, and events across schools and universities.

What's more, the initiative's 2023 event will feature the Minister for Climate, Julie James, as the keynote speaker, showcasing the growing importance and recognition of the program.

More information

This activity was organised by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, a member of the North-South Centre Global Education Network

[Website](#)

[Climate Simulation Event 2023](#)

