

Fatima Elzahra: Bio and CV

Hello there! My name is Fatima Elzahra Ismail and I am a youth advocate and peer researcher at University College Dublin. I have advocated for many issues including but not limited to addressing poverty and combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to promoting gender equality, advocating for quality education, and raising awareness about mental health. I collaborated with organizations such as UNICEF, the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), the Health Service Executive, the National Youth Council of Ireland, spunout, and The Shona Project. Additionally, I have experience in policy development on both a national level and international level.

September 2021 – Present:

National Youth Council of Ireland, Dublin

- ***Member, Young Voices EU Youth Dialogue Core Group:***
- *Nominated to attend the “Your Europe, Your Say” event by the European Economic and Social Committee.*
- *Led national consultations.*
- *Facilitated workshops at Youth Skills Fest, Making Our Skills Count, Shaping Inclusive Societies.*

- ***Member, Young People’s Committee:***
- *Contributed to the “Dear Poverty” resource on SDG 1, exploring poverty through an intersectional lens and panel speaker during the launch event.*
- *Invited to attend the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin-Duncan Stewart & Greta Thunberg.*
- *Nominated to attend the “Debate Your Decision Makers” event by the Irish Second Level Students Union.*
- *Member of the Global Youth Work Learners Network.*

September 2022 – Present:

Secretary and Senior Ambassador for the Shona Project, Waterford

- *Nominated as a Junior Ambassador in 2022 at Bishopstown Community School.*
- *Graduated to Senior Ambassador, one of three individuals to achieve this distinction for the first time.*

- Spoke on national radio station (TodayFM), addressing women's issues, particularly focusing on anxiety.
- Serve as the Secretary, managing attendance and taking notes/minutes during Junior Ambassador meetings.
- Mentorship programme focus group.

September 2023– Present:

Spunout, Dublin

- Nominated to the National Action Panel and actively contributing to Spunout's mission to support and empower all young people in Ireland.
 - Member of the BAME (Black, Asian, Minority, and Ethnic) Panel, bringing diverse perspectives to the forefront.
 - Nominated for People, Quality, Safety Board Subcommittee to monitor child protection policies and ensure the highest standards are maintained.
 - Took part in a COP28 campaign, focusing on the impacts of the climate crisis on the Global South through an article and a video. Achieved 826,000 views for the video.
 - Participated in a HIV catchup focus group with the Health Service Executive, providing free vaccination opportunities for specific groups of people.
 - Engaged in a collaborative focus group with the Department of Justice, exploring public perspectives on fireworks for comprehensive insights.
- Other campaigns: addressing microaggressions and tackling the housing crisis.

Human rights training :

UNICEF Community Engagement for Behaviour and Social Change in Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) In Humanitarian Action.

- *UNICEF Foundation of Gender-Transformative Approaches.*
- *FAO Building Equitable and Inclusive Agrifood Systems.*
- *FAO Addressing Gender Equality In Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation In Agriculture.*
- *Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Recognising and Preventing FGM by Virtual College.*
- *Safeguarding Children by the CPD Certification Service.*

Skills:

Leadership: *led and coordinated initiatives within committees and panels at a local, national, and international level.*

Media and Content Creation: *utilized creative skills, producing impactful articles, and videos, and hosting workshops.*

IT and Computer Science Proficiency: *completed a 2-year study in Computer Science, demonstrating proficiency in Python, Embedded Systems, HTML, and MS Office tools including Excel and PowerPoint.*