
Y7 & Y20 SURVEY ANALYSIS

Purpose

The Y7 and Y20 delegates are the UK's official youth representatives at the G7 and G20 Youth Summits. As part of our role in representing youth from across the United Kingdom, all delegates are required to gather both quantitative and qualitative data on youth priorities. This ensures that our policy recommendations for the Summits are data-driven, informed by a wide range of diverse perspectives, and reflect the youth voice from across the UK.

This document sets out the primarily quantitative findings and conclusions drawn from the "Have Your Say" survey designed and conducted by the 2020 Y7 and Y20 delegations, and is an illustration of the UK youth's priorities on five topics:

- **Covid-19**
- **Future Generations**
- **Peace and Security**
- **Environment and Sustainability**
- **Connectivity, Globalisation and Trade**

These findings informed our multilateral negotiations at the Y7 and Y20 Summits and influenced the policy recommendations for G7 and G20 Heads of State, which are contained in the final Y7 and Y20 Communiqués. You may also use this report as an early guide to the themes and issues young people in the UK would like to see tackled going forwards, for example at the G7 and Y7 Summits in 2020.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent Profile

The Y7 and Y20 delegations are tasked with representing young adults aged 18–30, and our respondent profile reflected this, with nearly 80% of participants falling within that age range. The modal age range was 23–26, with 35.9% of respondents. We also captured the views of future young adults, with 16.5% of respondents aged under 18. There was a slight gender skew in our data set, with 59.3% of respondents identifying as female. At least 40% of respondents were from BAME backgrounds, above the representation in the population at large (c. 19% of youth aged 18-30 are from BAME backgrounds, according to the ONS). Around a third of respondents were students, and over 50% of those surveyed were in employment, with a largely even split between the public and private sector.

Notes on demographics

An understanding of the context and certain key demographic characteristics of respondents can help to explain the results. The majority of responses were submitted in April-June 2020 during a context for young people that included a long period of social distancing, a competitive job market for new entrants amidst short notice cancellations of graduate jobs and internships, the beginnings of an economic recession, and serious disruption to universities, schools, and key national exams like GCSE and A-levels. With many young people in education and not yet in employment, there was an understandable concern and uncertainty around the impact on jobs and education prospects for young people in future.

Most responses were received before the Black Lives Matter movement in June 2020, while some were submitted afterwards, which may differ in their priorities. Many early respondents also favoured strict social distancing measures for Covid-19, and they may have changed their views later in the pandemic.

The statistical over-representation of female and BAME respondents to our survey, in comparison to national statistics for this age range, should be noted when digesting the results. However we initially set out to reach historically under-represented groups and amplify these young people's voices, so it is a source of pride for us that we have been able to present the views of so many female and BAME young people.

COVID-19

At various points during the pandemic there has been much discussion on the role of youth, who are statistically less vulnerable to the virus than elderly people, but whose lives will be affected more by unemployment, economic recession and government austerity. While we don't believe it's helpful to pit different generations against each other, we do believe it's important to listen to the views of all, including the views of younger generations, in order to consider the impact of Covid-19 response decisions on their longer-term futures, as it will be the youth who will need to tackle the economic consequences of Covid-19, long after the virus itself is overcome.

NB. The majority of responses were received towards the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, between April-June 2020, so the views of young people on this topic may have changed as circumstances have evolved over the intervening months.

Young people's main worries about the consequences of Covid-19

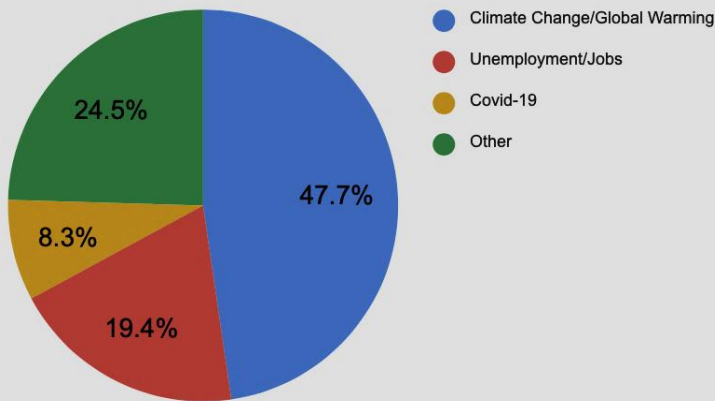
Regarding young people's three main concerns about the impact of Covid-19, 60% were worried about a future **Economic Recession**, 58% were concerned about the **risk to human life** of elderly/vulnerable people, followed by **mental/physical health concerns** after social isolation (40%) and **Government austerity** after the pandemic (39%). 29% were worried about high **youth unemployment**, with 21% worried about the impact on **education** (such as school exams and university degrees) and 21% concerned about long-term **restrictions on certain freedoms**.

Which measures should global leaders take to address the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic?

The most common response for measures global leaders should take to address the Covid-19 pandemic was '**Invest more in scientific research and prevention**' which was chosen by 68% of respondents and reflective of the time period in which most respondents completed the survey, in which cases and hospital admissions were rising at alarming rates. 61% of young people surveyed wanted to see leaders provide **more information to the public** whilst cracking down on misinformation, with misinformation and confusion being a widespread problem at that time. 54% wanted to see Governments provide **economic stimulus** specifically to the hardest-hit sectors. Whilst the vast majority of respondents were in favour of preventative or mitigation measures, marginally more young people were in favour of **open borders with health screenings** (21%) than fully closed borders (18%).

FUTURE GENERATIONS

What do you think is the biggest issue your generation will face in its lifetime?



Overwhelmingly, respondents believed that the biggest issue our generation will face in its lifetime is **Climate Change and Global Warming**, reflecting the long-term scale of the issue. A variety of miscellaneous answers and **rising unemployment** were the next most popular issues (19.4% of respondents). Covid-19 was generally not considered as a life-long

Which aspects of the working world will be most challenging for young people in future?

54% of respondents were primarily concerned with the realities of **breaking into the labour market**, with the most significant fear centring on **youth unemployment after Covid-19**. Following that, 41% were concerned about **barriers to entry into work originating from discrimination** and 41% were worried about longer-term issues regarding **retirement age and pension provision not being sufficient** to support a substantial quality of life in decades to come.

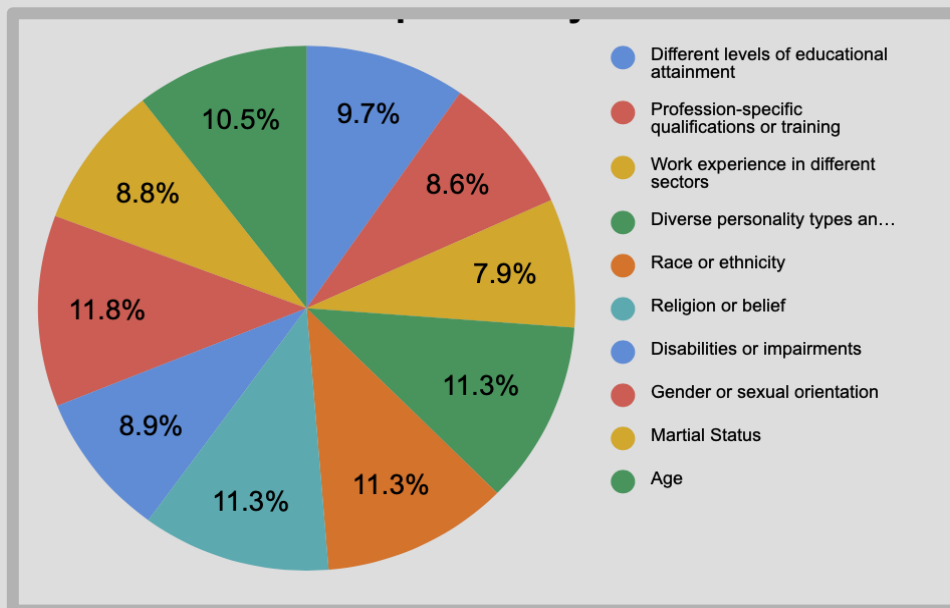
31% were concerned about employers not accommodating flexible working patterns, and 27% felt the **lack of support for childcare** within dual-career couples and inadequate shared parental leave were significant challenges. Fewest young people (only 15%) were concerned about the challenges in keeping their digital skills up to date, suggesting they feel confident in their ability to continue developing their skills as digital technologies evolve in future.

In your workplace or educational establishment, which of these options are well supported and included?

The answers to what young people felt was 'well supported and included' in their workplace or educational establishment were very evenly distributed. There was only a difference of 3.9% between the most common answer (Gender or sexual orientation at 11.8%) and the least common (Work experience in different sectors at 7.9%). Religion / belief, race / ethnicity and diverse personality types and skill sets all had the same percentage of votes (11.3%).

From this data, we can perceive that there is slightly more work to be done in improving support and inclusion for diverse educational and professional experiences, and for disabilities or impairments. However, on the whole this data suggests that young people feel somewhat well-supported.

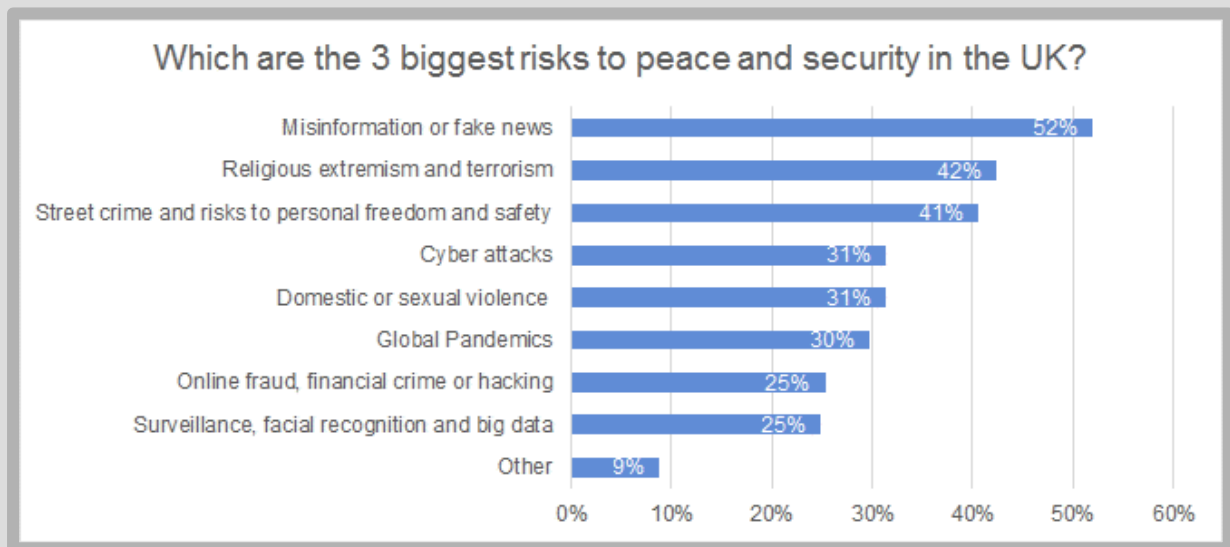
NB. The majority of responses were submitted prior to the Black Lives Movement in June 2020, and so the subsequent increase in national awareness of structural racism and racial discrimination may not be reflected in these results, if non-BAME respondents had lower levels of awareness before the attention on the BLM movement. It is not possible to meaningfully understand from the data how respondents would answer this question now, following the BLM movement.



PEACE & SECURITY

We surveyed young people on their views in relation to two different regions: the UK; and the wider world.

Peace & security risks in the UK:

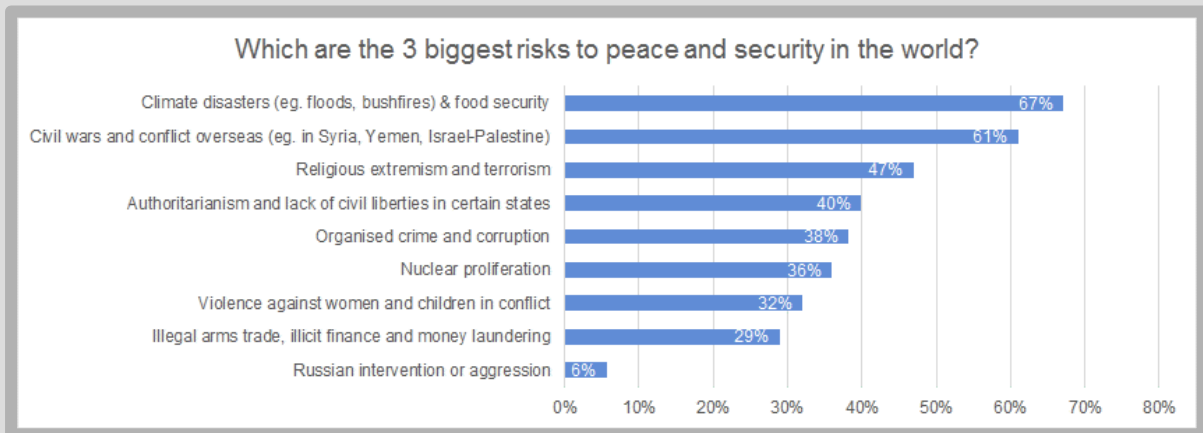


The greatest single perceived risk to peace and security in the UK was **misinformation and fake news, which was selected by 52% of respondents**, and is potentially related to the ‘infodemic’ of false or misleading Covid-19 related information in circulation at the time of the survey, although it could also be related to previous election and referendum-related surges in misinformation in recent years.

This was followed by physical threats such as **religious extremism and terrorism** (selected by 42%); **street crime and risks to personal freedom and safety** (41%); or **domestic or sexual violence** (31%), which interestingly exceeded the number of respondents identifying global pandemics as a peace and security risk.

Several respondents also identified significant **digital threats**, such as cyber attacks (31%); online fraud, financial crime and hacking (25%); and surveillance, facial recognition and big data (25%).

Peace & security risks in the world:



Regarding the biggest risks to peace and security in the world, **climate disasters and food security** was the most popular response (chosen by 67% of respondents), in line with prominent concerns expressed elsewhere in the survey about climate change. This was followed closely by **civil wars and overseas conflicts (61%)**. Similar to the previous question about the UK, just under half of respondents identified religious extremism and terrorism as a significant risk (47%).

40% felt that authoritarianism and lack of civil liberties posed a risk; 38% were concerned about organised crime and corruption; and 36% perceived nuclear proliferation a key risk. Respondents were least worried about Russian intervention or aggression (only 6%).

The actions that global leaders should take to tackle peace & security issues:

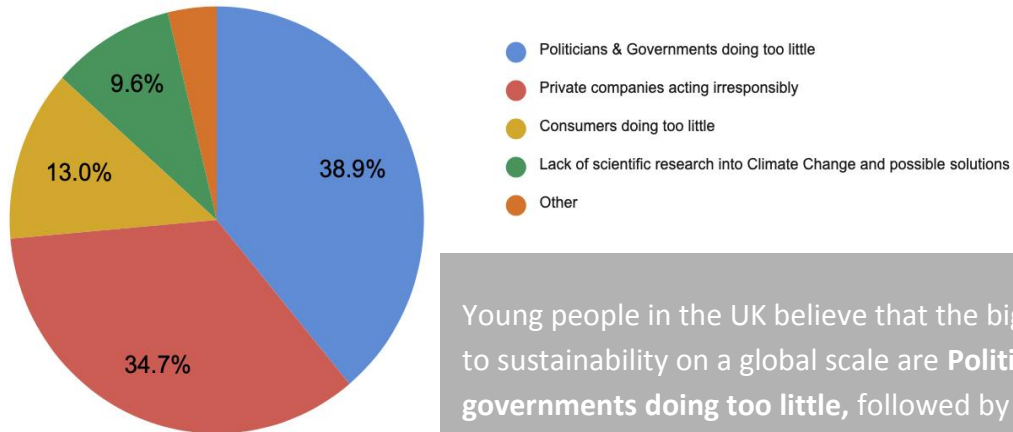
- 74% of young people want to see **more multilateral cooperation via international organisations and forums**, including the UN, G7, G20. The multilateral approach was significantly more popular than the traditional bilateral diplomatic approach, which just 40% chose.
- Almost half of the young people surveyed want leaders to **commit more money and resources to international task forces targeting specific security and conflict issues**. The least popular solution was to impose financial and trade sanctions, with just 30% of young people favouring this option.

The solutions that global leaders should adopt to tackle peace & security issues:

- Respondents had many detailed and creative ideas for how to solve the biggest issues they identified. There was a strong call for G7 and G20 leaders to be **inclusive of less-economically developed countries** in any dialogue regarding global issues, through inviting the leaders of such countries to the table and to contribute to decision-making.
- There was a strong emphasis on **investing in global education and literacy for all**, as the best route to tackle inequalities, which would in turn lower the cases of radicalisation, extremism, crime, extreme poverty and violent conflict.
- Another set strongly desired to see more **disarmament** and an **end to the arms trade**, over and above the economic benefits it may bring to certain manufacturing states (the G7 and G20 among those that derive income from the arms trade).
- Young people also believe that more **diverse representation in politics** (including younger politicians and Ministers for Youth) will lead to better policy-making and that freedom of speech should be protected but that social media companies should be more intensely regulated to **prevent misinformation and fake news** that lead to division and social unrest.

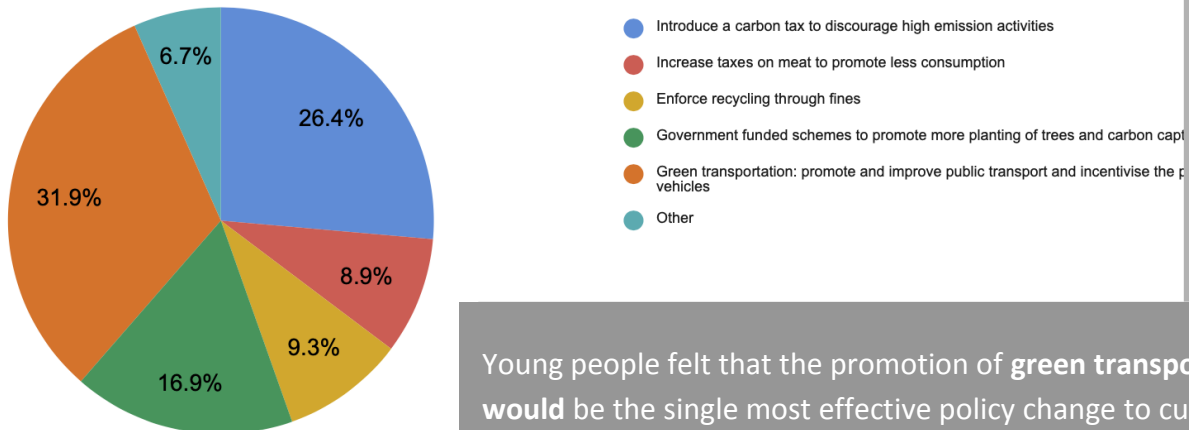
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

What do you think are the biggest barriers to sustainability on a global scale?



Young people in the UK believe that the biggest barriers to sustainability on a global scale are **Politicians and governments doing too little**, followed by **private companies acting irresponsibly**. Young people generally do not think a lack of scientific research into climate change and possible solutions is preventing progress.

Which of the following policy changes do you think would be most effective at curbing global emissions?



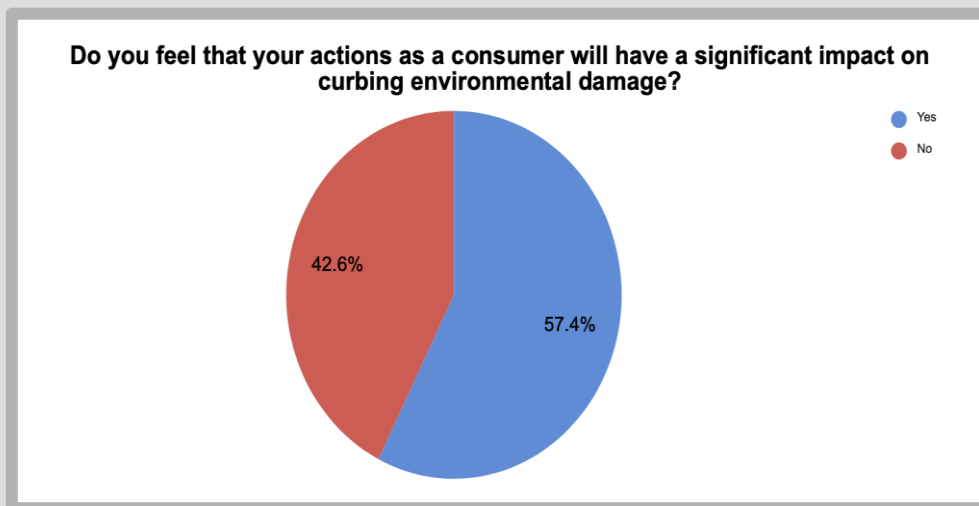
Young people felt that the promotion of **green transportation** would be the single most effective policy change to curb global emissions. Cumulatively, **fiscal policies** were the most popular solutions, with an **introduction of a carbon tax** and, alternatively a **meat tax**, garnering 26.4% and 8.9% of votes respectively, totaling 35.3%.

Promotional schemes got 48.8 % of votes and schemes based on penalties (taxes or fines) received 44.6% of votes, largely similar in popularity.

How would you describe your feeling towards the future of the planet?

'We are not acting quickly enough and if this does not change it will soon be too late' was the overwhelming answer (88%), when asked about leaders' approach to sustainability.

The second most popular outlook, albeit expressed by only 6% of respondents, was that 'the current rate of change is fast enough to help curb the effects of climate change'. Despite this minority view, the vast majority of young people believe more decisive action is required.

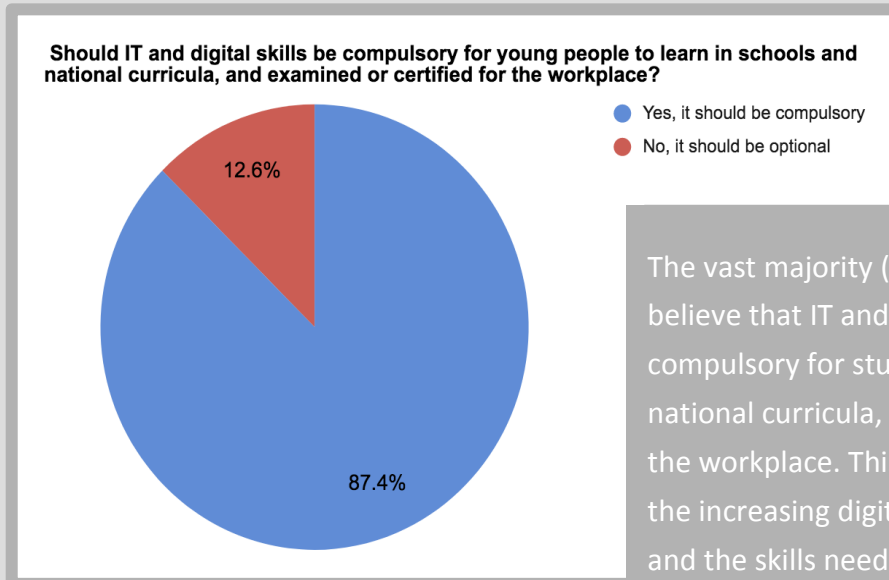


Most respondents (57.4%) think that their actions as a consumer will have a significant impact on environmental damage, however more surprisingly, this suggests that 42.6% of young people do not feel their individual actions will have an impact.

What should leaders do to tackle climate change and approach sustainability?

Young people want Governments to take a greater role in forcing the worst-offending industries (in particular large corporations) to introduce more low carbon and green practices, through taxes, fines and legislation, and to accelerate work towards the climate commitments already made. Their suggestions are at the more radical end of the spectrum, and they would like to see world leaders prioritise long-term sustainability over the economy and profits of big businesses.

CONNECTIVITY, GLOBALISATION AND TRADE



The vast majority (87.4%) of young people believe that IT and digital skills should be compulsory for students to learn in schools and national curricula, and examined or certified for the workplace. This reflects their awareness of the increasing digitalisation of work in future and the skills needed to remain employable in an age of increasing Artificial Intelligence.

What would be the main benefits of encouraging more remote-working for future generations?

The ranking of benefits of remote working to future generations was:

1. Greater flexibility to travel and live outside of major cities (76%)
2. The ability to save money and reduce carbon emissions through fewer commuter journeys (75%)
3. More career paths that are accessible to people with disabilities, impairments, or specific caring responsibilities (74%)
4. More time for personal projects, such as entrepreneurship (44%)

Generally, young people appreciated the additional flexibility and work-life balance afforded by remote work. The outlook on the benefits of remote work for future generations was overwhelmingly positive, and young people encourage political and business leaders to embrace flexibility this in the longer-term.

Y7 & Y20 Survey Analysis 2020

How will global border closures due to COVID-19 affect international trade patterns? (Please check one option)



The leading response (36.4%) to this question on the impact of Covid-19-related **border closures** on international trade was that countries will have to become **more self-sufficient**. 32.4% of young people acknowledged that border closures will negatively affect national economies worldwide. 22.2% of young people felt that the impact would be negligible, either because the closures are temporary or because human health is more important than the economy. Both reasons accounted for 11.1% of responses respectively.

What do you think is the biggest risk to or from globalisation?

A strong theme within respondent's suggestions was the risk posed by **bilateral trade wars**, increasing **protectionism** and trade deals that are based solely on the national interest, instead of open multilateral dialogue that considers the impact of trade decisions on the whole of the global supply chain. There's a call for leaders to ensure globalisation benefits all equitably and doesn't exacerbate existing **global inequalities between more- and less-economically developed countries**.

There is concern over the role of globalisation in facilitating **illicit trade**, the **arms trade**, the **abuse of personal data**, as well as '**brain drain**' and migration away from lesser economically developed countries. Young people recognise that there has been an **increase in populism** that rejects globalisation and looks inwards to more right-wing and national ideologies, and they fear the **instability** and other issues it could precipitate.

CONCLUSIONS

Of the five themes covered by our survey, young people were most interested in contributing their views on **Future Generations (74%)**, **Environment and Sustainability (73%)** and **Covid-19 (70%)**.

This reflects a triple set of issues that specifically affect younger generations more than the average population in the UK:

1. **Future Generations:** young people are asking for access to high quality and relevant education; adequate skills for the future alongside fast-evolving technologies; and solutions to tackle the challenging outlook for youth employment amidst an economic recession. There is also recognition of generational inequalities between young people and older cohorts, in terms of lower living standards, economic independence, and working lifespan, with concern over rising pension ages and the forecast for young people over a longer working life than previous generations.
2. **Environment and Sustainability:** climate change is, not surprisingly, one of the main concerns of young people in the UK, recognising that they will suffer the consequences more devastatingly and for decades longer than older generations will. There is rising anxiety about the consequences of inaction. Young people believe that responsibility lies with Governments to legislate, more than with individual consumers or businesses to voluntarily adopt more climate-friendly behaviours, and they demand that Governments take more substantial actions multilaterally to combat climate change globally.
3. **Covid-19:** while there is also anxiety over the virus itself, young people are very concerned about the economic consequences of the Covid-19 response on their lives and future prospects, with resulting disruption to education and fears over high youth unemployment (particularly as public-facing and service sectors commonly employing high numbers of young people are hardest hit).

Interestingly, the young people surveyed were slightly less interested in contributing their views on Peace and Security (66%) and Connectivity, Globalisation and Trade (57%). While there were universal concerns over international conflict, terrorism and trade wars, these did not have a generational angle, and instead young people's priorities in these areas focused on **threats from climate change and from digitalisation** (artificial intelligence, cyber-attacks, misinformation), echoing their awareness and prioritisation of **climate** and **digital** in other sections of the survey.