

# Is volunteering the new political activism?

*"I'm Emily and I'm passionate about sport and volunteering. That's why I'm part of v, the youth volunteering charity. Come and join our debate"*



Why are young people more likely to volunteer than join political parties?

What do young people hope to achieve by volunteering?

Can political parties engage young people who want to make a difference in their communities?

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## Young volunteers quiz MPs at party conferences

Young volunteers from v, the youth volunteering charity will quiz MPs at the three political party conferences to debate *Is volunteering the new political activism?*

Starting with the Liberal Democrats party conference (Tuesday 18 September), members of v20, v's youth advisory board, will join a series of three fringe meetings on panels, which include senior representatives from all three political parties. They will discuss how young people can bring about change in their communities, why young people are more likely to volunteer than join a political party and whether political parties are relevant enough to engage with a new generation of activists.

Rajay Naik, from v20 says: "Youth volunteering and citizenship have been hotly debated recently by politicians but we need to ensure that young people lead this discussion and that their voices are heard by the MPs forming future policies.

"Our aim is to promote the benefits of youth volunteering in terms of young people's personal development and their contribution to society."

The fringe events are being organised with T-Mobile and TimeBank and are open to all conference delegates.

### **Liberal Democrat Party Conference with Annette Brooke MP**

Tuesday 18 September, 13:00 - 14:00  
Tudor Suite, Old Ship Hotel, Brighton

### **Labour Party Conference with Phil Hope MP, chaired by the journalist David Seymour**

Tuesday 25 September, 17:45 - 19:00  
Purbeck Suite, Bourne Hall Hotel, Priory Road West Cliff (outside secure zone), Bournemouth

### **Conservative Party Conference with Alistair Burt MP**

Tuesday 2 October, 13:00 - 14:00  
Aperitif Room, Imperial Hotel, Blackpool

## Ends

**Media enquiries: contact v PR manager Petra Coveney on 020 7960 7016 or 07824 562282**

### **Notes to Editor**

- v is the youth volunteering charity launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25. v is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

- The charity was set up to implement the recommendations of the Russell Commission outlining a new national framework for youth action and engagement, following a nationwide consultation which included 6000 young people.
- v is led by the cares, interests, passions and beliefs of young people. A Youth Advisory Board made up of twenty young people called v20 is involved in all aspects of the charity's work. Four members of v20 sit on v's Board of Trustees.
- v works with and builds upon the current voluntary sector infrastructure, funds the creation of volunteering opportunities through grants rounds and implements programmes to create awareness and positive understanding of volunteering for young people. For more information on v, visit [www.wearev.com](http://www.wearev.com)