

COMMONWEALTH YOUNG CARERS URGE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE COMMONWEALTH YOUNG CARERS CHARTER

THE COMMONWEALTH CHARTER FOR YOUNG CARERS



Young carers from across the Commonwealth have developed this Charter, grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

18 young carers from eleven countries have contributed to a pan-Commonwealth video promoting the Commonwealth Charter for Young Carers. They call on Commonwealth Heads of Government to endorse the Charter at their forthcoming meeting in Samoa in October 2024.

The video illustrates - through the comments of young carers themselves - the similarities and differences in the experience of young carers in different Commonwealth countries and contexts. Whatever the differences, one powerful message is consistent: **'to support us, listen to us!'**

The video is a contribution to the Commonwealth Year of Youth, with funding promised by the Commonwealth Secretariat. It is the result of a multi-national partnership which included the UK Carers Trust, Hospice Toronto, the Noel & Thea Jones Fund, Little Dreamers (Australia), Carers Worldwide (India and Bangla Desh), Olive Community Development Initiative (OCDI, Nigeria), Camp Unity New Zealand, and social work associations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It was put together from conception to final editing in under one month, with music from poet, musician and Commonwealth Young Carer Champion Oritsé Williams and editing by Jo Leach: a remarkable testimony to pan-Commonwealth commitment and shared achievement!

The video was first shown at the inspiring international young carers conference at Manchester Metropolitan University in April 2024 [<https://eurocarers.org/iyc-2024/>].

Thank you to all the young carers who sent their videos in support of the Commonwealth Charter for Young Carers.

Young carers from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Tanzania, Uganda and New Zealand.

COSW Board member David N Jones explains what action can be taken to support the Young Carers Charter and campaign for its recognition by Commonwealth Heads of Government



NOTE FOR EDITORS: COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in supporting social work and social development. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth. It aims to promote and support communication and collaboration between social workers and social work associations of Commonwealth countries, and to uphold and promote the code of ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers. This statement can be found on the COSW website www.cosw.info/news

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