



## **Become a Youth Advisor for Education For Choice!**

### **What is Education For Choice?**

Education For Choice (EFC) is a small educational charity based in Camden. We work with young people in schools, colleges and youth groups to make sure that they have the facts about unplanned pregnancy. We provide training and resources for professionals like nurses, social workers and teachers to make sure they know how to talk to young people about pregnancy options.

### **What do Youth Advisors do?**

EFC Youth Advisors will have a chance to guide the organisation by telling us what they think about the work we do, and crucially, how to make it even more relevant to young people. Joining a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is a way for young people to have their voices heard. The EFC YAG will advise us on important issues like sex education in schools and teenage pregnancy.

### **How does the YAG work?**

A group of young people will meet at the EFC office in London for two hours every month (5-7pm on a weeknight to be decided). The meetings will be facilitated by Laura Hurley, Young People's Worker at EFC, and will focus on topics relevant to the organisation but also of interest to the group. Each meeting will involve a mixture of training and information, brainstorming of ideas and interactive and fun exercises. As well as attending monthly meetings members of the YAG will be expected to keep in contact with EFC about ongoing projects. EFC is committed to offering all members the chance to become involved with ongoing campaigning and advocacy projects and to act as public ambassadors for our work. The YAG will start in January and come to a close in June, and those interested in remaining involved with EFC's work beyond this point will be given the opportunity to do so.

### **Why should I get involved?**

The UK has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in Western Europe yet a survey of over 20,000 young people by the UK Youth Parliament found that only half had been taught about pregnancy at school. We know that around half of young women who find themselves pregnant will choose to have an abortion yet there is often little information on where to get support and advice with this decision. We think that young people need the facts about pregnancy and abortion so that they can make their own informed choices. We're looking for young people who are interested in sexual health issues to give us their views on how sex education is taught and how we should be talking to young people about unplanned pregnancy and abortion through our projects, training and resources.

Members of the YAG will get:

- Training and information on sexual and reproductive health issues
- A great volunteering experience to add to their CV, and a reference if required
- Travel expenses reimbursed and refreshments provided
- Experience of volunteering for a national charity and the chance to develop work-related skills
- To have their voice heard and to make a difference to other young people's learning
- The option to attend and be involved with meetings and events of interest
- To meet other young people and have fun!

Earlier this year, EFC youth advisors created a short film giving other young people the facts about abortion – you can see it here:

<http://educationforchoice.blogspot.com/2011/05/abortion-facts-film-by-young-people-for.html>

The film is being hosted on True Tube, which gets over 1 million hits a month! Here's what professionals had to say about the resource:

***'The video is FAB. It is exactly what I am looking for to promote awareness of the issues around abortion' College Tutor***

***'Gosh this is good. Get the FACTS about abortion' Sex Educator***

And here's what the participants themselves had to say about the experience:

***'I feel like I have developed my confidence more especially since I was able to help create a video on the facts about abortion' Rachael, 17***

***'I enjoyed discussing issues that affect young people, sharing experiences & interviewing people' Kiki, 18***

***'I found that a lot of things I took as truths were not at all, and I have felt better within myself and feel that my autonomy has grown as a result.'* Rosa, 20**

If you're 16-21, live in London and can attend monthly meetings in Camden you're welcome to apply. Just fill out our simple application form and send it to [laura@efc.org.uk](mailto:laura@efc.org.uk). If you have any questions you can give Laura a call on 0207 284 6040.