

# **Written Evidence for the Senedd Standards of Conduct Committees enquiry into dignity and respect.**

**Question 1: Do you feel that your experience as a member of the WYP and being in a political environment has been mostly positive or negative?**

**My Answer to Question 1:**

Hello, my name is Georgia Miggins I want to start by saying thanks you to the Senedd team for giving me the opportunity to share my views and thoughts through written documentation as unfortunately I was unable to attend in person today. My experience has been Overwhelmingly positive, all the staff who works at the Senedd including the Welsh Youth Parliament team were always so friendly, kind, helpful and professional. The only negative side that I want to share my experience on was there were moments throughout my time as a Welsh Youth Parliament member and when interacting with the Senedd in general that the adequate support that I required wasn't provided and my reasonable adjustments including any support or accommodations wasn't always put in place for my disabilities and neurodivergence. Often it resulted in times where I had to explain my disabilities and my support needs which felt disappointing on my part for me to have to go through. I felt like at points I had to send emails or verbally ask or get in contact with WYP team to double check and arrange that I would receive support and it would be put in place for me. Which did cause some unnecessary stress and anxiety for me at certain moments. I felt maybe could have been prevented had the support been communicated properly and put in place for me sooner, Two other examples I can think of in regards to the support I needed for my neurodivergence that wasn't always provided was receiving information in an easy read format if it was sent to me, and the importance of me being informed and prepared on agendas briefings and meetings in advance etc, amongst the many other adjustments I needed etc. But I will say these problems I faced were always resolved and I was always given the support I needed once I did inform the Welsh Youth Parliament and Senedd team. So, it was always dealt with swiftly and appropriately. I will say I had more support on my WYP journey as time went on. I think it was a case of them needing to get to know me and my personality and learning about how my disabilities' affect me as an individual but that's just feedback and things that can be learnt and improved upon within the Senedd and WYP team for the next Welsh Youth Parliament Members. Aside from some of them small instances that I have mentioned, the whole team was and still are brilliant and I had some of the best times of my life being a WYP member.

**Question 2: What has your experience been in interacting and engaging with the Senedd?**

## **My Answer to Question 2:**

All my experiences in interacting and engaging in the Senedd has been fantastic apart from one time unfortunately, I was scheduled to attend a panel for a disability event last year, The event and speakers was brilliant for the most part but I did feel as if the event wasn't catered with neurodivergent people in mind, for example I turned up to the event not really knowing what the day would entail because I wasn't given much background information beforehand despite me getting in touch before the event, I also didn't feel confident or satisfied because I didn't really have the adequate support that I needed. When I was at the event that It wasn't till midway through the event half an hour before I was due to be on a panel was, I given the agenda and briefing about the panel and the questions that would be asked, after I kept asking all day which I felt was very unfortunate and left me feeling underprepared and extremely anxious. I didn't feel confident or satisfied as not much support was put in place for me during the day to enable and help make my experience on the panel easier. When I was on the panel it the MS went completely off script and didn't really ask any of the questions that was posed and given to me in the written briefing and agenda that day. It didn't feel like event was planned as well as it could have been. There wasn't any easy read information easily and readily available. It just felt quite unorganised during the whole event really, and the day felt rushed at times with barley any breaks during the day, it would have been nice to have had more breaks during the event, and the day broke up a bit to make it less chaotic and overwhelming for disabled people. I do understand that there were timeframes for the event schedule and that had to factored in. I felt like there were miscommunication on how the event day would be and look like and be formatted, which maybe I miss interpreted and. It was slightly disappointing that an event that was for disabled people couldn't fully accommodate in the way it maybe should have. I just felt that event didn't have the right execution, and the support wasn't fully provided and inclusive in my view. When the event is for disabled people, there should be more time and support given and provided in place and advance before the event takes place. I do feel like the event would have been better if it factored in disabled people better or had someone with lived experiencing hosting or organising the event to ensure it was up to standard's but that's something that I hope can be feedbacked and improved upon so things can be done better for future events that involve disabled people. Despite my underwhelming experience in that particular event last year. One thing I loved was, how after the event we were able to fill out a survey form on how the event and day was so I felt like I was able to share my honest views on the event, and it makes you as a person attending the event feel listened to and your views taken into account and consideration, so I felt like that was excellent. I feel on the whole the Senedd team do try their best to be accommodating helpful kind and supportive and they always listen to feedback and reply to any questions or queries we have and I always feel listened too and that I can ask any questions without judgment and they always try their best to provide you something if you need it which is brilliant. The whole team at the Senedd is fantastic.

## **Question 3: What do you think would encourage more positive and open culture in politics?**

### **My Answer to Question 3:**

More engagement from the Senedd to the communities across all parts of Wales their needs to be more of an active commitment and willingness to seek ways of diversifying all areas and aspects of the Senedd and political engagement for all especially those who have marginalized identities and especially people from socioeconomic backgrounds, working class backgrounds people who are disabled and neurodivergent, the LGBTQ+ communities and black Asian and ethnic minorities etc all these underrepresented groups need to feel represented in the Senedd so it's important to get feedback from the people of Wales especially those from different backgrounds, experiences and identities and using that information to integrate systemic changes of politics and changes to a political landscape in Wales. You must bridge that gap to truly make long lasting impactful changes for the present and the future.

**Question 4: Are there things that would prevent you from pursuing a career in politics?**

**My Answer to Question 4:**

Yes, I would say there are many things that I feel would impact my ability activity participate in politics with the first being as someone who is neurodivergent and has

disabilities I would worry if my support needs would be met the pressure from the job itself and if I would be understood by others also if the reasonable adjustments that I would need to be able to succeed to the best of my abilities would be put in place for me. With classism being deeply ingrained in the political landscape and with there being so very few people who come from my socioeconomic backgrounds and working class communities in politics I would feel like I wouldn't fit in or have the same opportunities or experiences as other people so this would be a big factor and cause apprehension for me to enter into politics, I would feel worried that there aren't enough people like me who I could relate to and I would feel a sense of not belonging in politics which I think would be difficult to navigate I think if I saw more of representation I would consider and put more thought into a career of politics. A lot of us would like to but aren't educated on politics and sometimes we don't have the resources or information or guidance that we need to be able to start getting into politics in any level or capacity That's why there must be commitment to long lasting impactful change, throughout Wales. So, people can feel seen valued and deserving to be able to enter political environments and spaces. I feel if there were opportunities and spaces for people like me who are all too often deprived and left out on accessing the same options to participate in politics. And a consistent cohesive collaborative effort to introduce and design new programmes and opportunities for people and groups of all ages that are marginalized and underrepresented. Which we could actively participate in then that would be fantastic. If these opportunities included lifelong skills like public speaking debating skills What is the Senedd and increasing awareness of how the Senedd works, how to use your voice in politics, information on where to start on your political journey making it more accessible inclusive and easier for people to get involved in politics in any capacity, where to go and who to speak to for advice and mentorships, internships and work experience installing and increasing confidence, finding and using your voice transparently etc that would be amazing and would encourage some deep driving force for change . It's also so important to see more flexibility inclusivity and alternative solutions given to people who want to get into politics but are facing barriers or obstacles in participating for whatever reason that may be. People's lives and circumstances should and needs to be factored into and considered and alternative solutions be readily available and offered so people can still feel encouraged and involved in political spaces. Some examples like written documents attending virtually etc can make all the difference. That's why I feel it's vital and important for inclusivity and diversity to be integrated ingrained and embedded in politics and throughout the Senedd when possible, too, for the present and future generations. Thanks, you for reading my thoughts and for letting me share my views through written documentation.