

This Memorandum of Understanding represents a statement of intent and willingness by a number of youth organisations to dramatically improve the opportunities of young people throughout the Commonwealth to access non-formal education and learning. As many of you know, my father, The late Duke of Edinburgh, was a great advocate of such opportunities and encouraged millions to experience personal achievement. Yet that was over many years, we need to provide those benefits and that effect to millions of young people every year, now.

While this alliance of youth organisations can help deliver world renown youth development programmes, they need the right environment in which to flourish; where the benefits of wider outcomes from education are encouraged and appreciated. It is only with the active support, partnership and influence of national governments, ministries and agencies that attitudes will change. I sincerely hope that we can all work together to prepare far more young people with the necessary skills and experiences to face the many difficulties of this unsettled and uncertain world with confidence.

In support of the young people of our Commonwealth, I very much hope that you, as Heads of Government, will match this intent with your willingness to act.

HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and Forfar, KG GCVO

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