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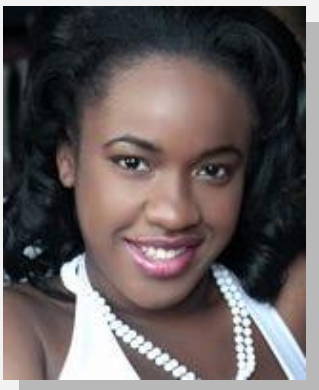
A word from the editor!

Hello readers!
Welcome to our special campaign edition of 'Showcase!'
Let me introduce myself, my name is Diana, and I have been appointed as the new editor to bring you the latest and most thought provoking topics relevant to young people!

I hope you all enjoy this issue!

Diana Nortey
Showcase Editor

A word from the co-editor!



Hello all and welcome once again to our latest edition of Showcase.
This edition is a particularly special as it ties in with our youth empowerment campaign which was launched last month.

For some months now Enpower have been working hard to generate a campaign that would give young people a voice. Our campaign- 'The Lost Youth'- focuses on the importance of giving young people a sense of self-worth and direction in today's current society.

We've been working hard to get young people talking about issues that affect them including unemployment, student fees and other general youth affairs.

This issue of Showcase has been put together and the majority of it written by our new Showcase editor Diana. This issue draws special focus to youth topics and encourages more young people to get involved with our campaign.

For more information on our campaign and how you can get involved please visit www.enpowerservice.co.uk/Campaign.html

We hope you thoroughly enjoy reading this issue!

Mayowa Anthea Adebisi
Enpower Founder, Managing Director
& Showcase Co-editor

Contact

For enquires, article submissions, or writing opportunities email Diana@enpowerservice.co.uk

Contents

The Lost Youth Campaign.....	Page 2
Behind the scenes.....	Page 3
The Lost Generation?.....	Page 4
Youth Protests: Made a Change?	Page 5
Friendship: Who are your true friends?	Page 6

The 'Lost Youth' Campaign!

By **Mayowa Adebisi**

Founder and Managing Director of Enpower- Mayowa Adebisi, gives her pledge for youth empowerment through the launch of the 'Lost Youth' campaign

After months of hard work by my ambassadors and me, the Enpower 'Lost Youth' campaign was officially launched last month.



In terms of the vision I have with Enpower as a service it was absolutely imperative that a generated a campaign that was run for the young by the young. The components of the campaign consisted of a photo shoot, a documentary and of course this special campaign edition of Showcase!

The photo shoot which was based on the theme of lost youth and nostalgia, compared the attitudes of adults towards their childhood with the attitudes of present day young people growing up in the UK. Each individual held up a placard with a statement expressing their mind-set. The statements showed that young people in the UK today perceive life in a different manner to an earlier generation. Whilst young people at present are currently feeling anxious about their future or held back, the older individuals had a more positive and carefree outlook on life as a child.



A video documentary which included footage of the photo shoot was also put together. Young budding creative's who were involved with the campaign were able to further express their opinions on life as a young person.



Ultimately our campaign is designed to highlight the importance of youth employment and positive youth self-esteem. It is clear from our research that young people need more encouragement and motivation in order to thrive and feel more fulfilled in later life.

We are also using this campaign as an opportunity to pledge our support to youth affairs and introduce our talent recruitment and event management services, which will bridge the gap between young talent and creative industry specialists.

As a social enterprise Enpower will be working alongside young people to provide them with guidance, development and opportunities when it comes to pursuing careers in the creative or performance sectors. Through our services we will also be working with businesses or professionals in these sectors to effectively shape and equip more ambitious young people with the skills required to enter such careers. The majority of the revenue generated from our services will be reinvested in projects or services involved with youth empowerment and employment.

If you are a young individual, creative specialist or a business looking to utilise our services or get involved with our pledge then please email mayowa@enpowerservice.co.uk for more details.

For more details on our campaign visit:

www.enpowerservice.co.uk/Campaign.html

The latest news updates and opportunities from the Enpower headquarters.

Writers wanted!

We are looking for writers and contributors for our showcase newsletter. We have set columns and topics relating to youth affairs and the creative/performance industries. Our newsletter is run on a quarterly basis and we are looking for passionate writers or individuals with a general interest in our topics to get involved with discussion. If you are interested please email showcase@enpowerservice.co.uk.

Marketing interns wanted!

We are currently looking for 1-2 marketing interns to join the Enpower team and work alongside our Marketing Officer. The ideal candidate will have interest in the creative & performance industries i.e. fashion, music, journalism etc. The role will be a flexible part-time role ideally suiting a student or a budding creative. Duties will include managing social networking platforms, assisting the team with admin/marketing tasks and attending high-profile industry related & networking events. As a team member you will also gain assistance with career planning & development. We are currently involved in a big project at the moment and have some networking events ahead so the chosen candidate will be expected to start straight away. To apply please email a C.V and cover letter to info@enpowerservice.co.uk



The Lost Generation?

by Diana Nortey

An insight into the current situation regarding young people and employment prospects



It's worrying to hear on the news and through the media that youth unemployment is at 'an all time high'. According to the BBC the amount is up to 2.5 million jobless youths who are doing anything to gain employment. There are now a lot more voluntary jobs being advertised so at least they will have the chance to gain experience rather than the countless visits to the Job Centre.

The age range to where unemployment has hit is 16 to 24, and speaking in terms of university graduates and graduates-to-be, a bachelor's degree is slowly heading down the specificity list. It has been highly recommended (by the BBC) to take a vocational course, seeing as it is most probably more valuable in the working world.



This issue has become a continuous problem and it's only increasing rather than decreasing. It doesn't help that the government has now taken away Education Maintenance Allowance, a fixed amount of £30 every week for students from 'poorer' backgrounds to aid them in their travel and personal needs. It's not that the youth don't want to find work, but it's rather there aren't enough jobs to place all of them into work. Along with the EMA being taken away, there are also a lot of job cuts happening around the UK, which is adding to

the turmoil with finding a permanent place of work.

The youth unemployment issue is not just a national problem but it's now becoming an international problem also affecting France, Tunisia, and Egypt. But why has it gotten so bad and what can be done for it to be rectified?



The unemployment 'pandemic' has been going on for over two years and there is a rising fear that the youth now will become a 'lost generation' unable to find work, even though the recession ended a year ago. The government are also planning apprenticeships for young people to help them get into work.

The main concern besides youths being unemployed is the fact that there is a delay in seeking for employment. It's always good to see youths striving to start in the working world but if there are no places, how are they supposed to broaden their wings and evolve to the next level? There is work experience, but can they be going through continuous bouts of work experience? They need to know the value of money and start learning that from when they are young.

Currently, unemployment is still on the rise, but what to be done, is what is still trying to be figured out.

Youth Protests: Made a Change?

by Diana Norley

Diana gains youth opinion on recent government cuts and the protests over increasing student fees



What's your opinion of the EMA being taken away?

I have mixed feelings. It's definitely helpful to have, but then again from a different perspective the only reason why a lot of people came to school was because of the EMA. Even though it's a good thing that they came, it's not good if you come to school, get the money and don't do anything productive in school. But overall I am disappointed because for a lot of people including myself that do need the money for travel and food, it makes things a little more difficult now.

Sarah, 18

Do you think the youth protests have made an effect on the government?

I agree that issues need to be addressed through protests, but really all of the media surrounding the protests seemed to make the young people look like they are good for nothing by showing them being arrested. It was all for a good cause, but it just got taken way out of proportion and made no effect on the government.

Natasha, 22

Have you changed your mind about attending university because of the raise of student fees?

Not really no; but in terms of people going to university, there are so many alternative choices: apprenticeships, vocational courses, work experience... I guess it just depends on what you want to study. I don't know what the purpose is for the rise in student fees, but to be honest it was going to happen anyway with the recession and all of the job cuts, which is why there were so many tube strikes and such.

Steven, 16

Based on the opinions of these three people, it doesn't seem as if the youth protests have affected them much. I personally feel it all depends on you. According to someone who commented previously, the rise in student fees was bound to happen so it seems like we were already fighting a battle we had already lost. Why make the protests look negative? Just like how TFL can strike, why can't the youths protest about a cause that affects them? Why can't we make a change in the world that we live in?

Diana Norley

Friendship: Who are your true friends?

By Diana Nortey

At a young age of lot of time and importance is focussed on acquiring new friends and developing social relationships. While it is an important part of a young person's development, the development of friendships should be approached with care and diligence. It is important to make sure you are pursuing relationships for the right reasons and surrounding yourselves with the right people. In this article are some words of advice on how to define a true friend.



What is a friend? Because personally, I feel that word is thrown around entirely too much. When you first meet someone, you instinctively say 'Oh, that's just my friend'; let's be a little technical and look up the definition of a friend.

Friend: A person who gives assistance; a supporter.

Take a look at the group of friends that you have, and check who out of the entire group has helped you in anyway; that has been there to support you through your worst of times. Those are your friends. There's a saying that I believe is so true, "when you are going through problems, that is when you see who your true friends are"



Friends aren't people who are only there when they need something, they are people that are with you regardless of whatever problem or issue you maybe going through, they are not people who are only there because of the things you have.

Friendship is very important; some people depend on their friends more than their own family. Some people have friends that they can call 'sister' or 'brother' because they have gotten to a point where they've gotten that close. Friendship is a type of relationship and in order to make it work you need to build it and take care of it, just like any other relationship you have in life. It's one of the life skills we need to have and being able to sustain friends is vital. Not just to gain 'social statuses' but just to know that you are able to keep and build on a relationship. I believe friendship is that stepping stone to moving into a more serious type of relationship, in terms of having a boyfriend or girlfriend. Because by already having the knowledge that relationships are difficult and being able to sustain friendships, when going into a more advanced relationship you'll know what to expect (most of the time!).



Every friendship has its own set of problems and benefits. Every relationship no matter what it is will go through complications. I believe the only complication that can arise with a friendship is lack of communication. Every relationship will go through problems if there is no communication. For example, if you don't like something that your friend is doing, instead of going behind their back and telling other people, confront your friend, and tell them that what they are doing is wrong. Remember the definition of a friend is giving assistance; and that's exactly what is needed to be done when you can see that your friend is doing something wrong.

Possibly another complication is if you really do care about your friend but your friend seems to just take advantage of your generosity or all over kind nature. This is a difficult one for two reasons:

You don't want to hurt the feelings of your friend and you are in a dilemma if you say something as it might cause the friendship to encounter problems, and because you care you don't really want to cause any argument. That's the thing about any type of relationship; we have to encounter problems head on before they escalate into something completely different.



Besides complications, there are perks to friendship. Having a friend is beneficial especially if you want to talk about things you

can't usually talk with your siblings or your parents. Once become comfortable with someone, you can talk about anything. I always say talking is therapeutic; there are some people that don't have brothers or sisters so they turn to their friends for more or so everything. You can receive good advice, and vice versa. You see on television shows how friends are always there for each other and they always share each other's secrets and desires; it's the same as that. So there is no reason to keep anything bottled up or hidden because that's what friends are for.

The definition of 'friend' itself is a benefit. The fact that you have someone who is willing to assist and support you is more than a blessing in disguise. In this world we can't do anything alone, or it would take us forever to complete anything. If you have a friend that has the same interests as you, (not saying that you can't keep friends that don't have the same interests as you!) you both could back each other up and support each other to get to where you need to be.



But again, it all comes down to who or what you classify as a friend. One thing you can do is have a think about the people you speak to or socialise with, and narrow them down according to this:

Are they only there when they need something? Do they only talk to me to talk about other people? Have they helped me in anyway? Because I've spoken to numerous of people and they all have told me they can count their true friends on only one hand.

Who are your true friends?