

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS**

7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**DAVID TORRANCE MSP IS SAYING #iwill FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NATIONAL VOLUNTEER’S WEEK**



Young people across the UK as young as 10 are doing inspirational things in their communities every day to help others, through social action activities such as campaigning, fundraising, or volunteering their time. This National Volunteer’s Week, we want to celebrate the role that young people can play and the difference that taking part in social action makes to themselves and others.

However, not every young person gets the opportunity to be involved and feel the benefits of taking part. That’s why the #iwill campaign is so important in helping to raise awareness of what organisations can do to encourage and enable more young people across the UK to take part in social action.

David Torrance MSP’s #iwill pledge is to champion Scotland’s inspirational young people and encourage others to take part and help make a real difference to our communities.

Commenting David Torrance MSP said;

“Effective youth social action not only benefits all of our communities, it helps young people to build character whilst developing new skills and increasing confidence.

“We all have a responsibility to encourage and support young people from every background wishing to participate in social action whilst recognizing, and addressing, the barriers that may be impacting on their becoming involved.”

Working with business, education and voluntary sector partners, the #iwill campaign aims to ensure that all young people can access social action opportunities, whatever their background. The recent Youth Social Action survey found current levels of participation by 10-20 year-olds stand at 42%. The #iwill goal is to raise this to 60% by 2020, which will mean an additional 1.5 million young people are active in their communities. However, as involvement in social action creates a double-benefit, strengthening communities and enhancing the skills of young participants, a further goal of the campaign is to ensure that all young people across the UK have access to opportunities.

Charlotte Hill, CEO of Step Up To Serve, the charity which coordinates the #iwill campaign says: “We are delighted that David Torrance MSP has pledged to support our work, and inspiring others to take part also.’

ENDS

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

The #iwill campaign

The campaign is an independent initiative that has cross-party support and backing from across a range of sectors, notably business, education and the voluntary sector. The campaign is working with those organisations to unlock more opportunities for young people to get involved in youth social action.

The campaign is coordinated by the charity Step Up To Serve.

#iwill was launched in November 2013 by HRH The Prince of Wales and the leaders of the three main political parties in Westminster at the time. HRH is Patron of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign, with organisations across UK society represented on an Advisory Board.

More information can be found at [www.iwill.org.uk](http://www.iwill.org.uk) and @iwill\_campaign.

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