

# SOCIAL INTEGRATION

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Social integration is about how we live together. When communities are integrated, people from diverse backgrounds, and of different genders and ages can build positive relationships. Social integration is important because it helps to create safer, healthier and fairer communities, in which people participate on an equal footing. But, as communities across London continue to change, they can become divided, which leads to discrimination between different social groupings.

### WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

Millions of people live in London, from a wide range of backgrounds. Whilst our diversity makes our city great, it can also cause division. High levels of inequality across London mean that people's daily experiences are often separate from each other, making it difficult for individuals and communities to understand one another.



### HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?

As a young Londoner, you play a key role in helping to build strong communities, where everyone respects one another. When you make an effort to understand people unlike yourself, you'll be challenging issues like racism, sexism and ageism and showing that there is more that unites us than divides us.

## KNOW THE FACTS

Data shows that...

- ◆ 21% of Londoners report that all their friends are of the same ethnicity as themselves.<sup>27</sup>
- ◆ Londoners are more likely to experience loneliness than people in other parts of the UK.<sup>27</sup>
- ◆ Estimates from the 2018 local elections, show voter turnout was just 36%.<sup>28</sup>

### The good news...

Through initiatives like Team London Young Ambassadors, the Mayor of London is working to bring people together. As a young ambassador, you can make a positive impact on the issues that affect you!

## GET TALKING

Use the discussion questions below to start a powerful conversation.

- 1 We are all different. Why is this a positive benefit?
- 2 Why is it important that everyone feels they have a role to play in our society?
- 3 What sort of community would you like to live in? What support would you need to create your dream community?
- 4 What actions can you take to build a more integrated community?

## EXPLORE THE ISSUE FURTHER...

### Search for:

- ◆ Citizenship and Integration Initiative
- ◆ London Family Fund
- ◆ Sport Unites
- ◆ Workforce Integration Network
- ◆ ESOL Plus

## WHAT CAN I DO?

To learn more about how you can take social action, go to the Student Guide and turn to page 7 for primary, or page 10 for secondary.

